

# WOLF

TRACKS

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## PERIMETER FENCING AT LAST!

Wolf Haven  
goes to prison

Washington  
wolf meeting  
mania

Isle Royale  
wolves  
Shedding new light on  
inbreeding and genetics

WELCOME  
CAEDUS!

# Mealtime chez Wolf Haven

Kim Young,  
Communications Director

EVER WONDER WHAT the wolves typically eat at Wolf Haven? Mexican gray and red wolves in the federally regulated Species Survival Plan (SSP) program are typically fed a diet of high-quality kibble. They are not fed beef, poultry or other farm-raised animals, to ensure that they do not develop a familiarity with and preference for this kind of meat. The majority of the wolves at Wolf Haven are northern gray wolves, and their typical fare consists of poultry or beef (usually muscle meat and organs). Although each has a standard diet, there are some opportunities for variety, and on occasion they will receive other things like deer, elk, beaver, nutria, and sheep.

But just as humans have unique, ritual meals associated with different holidays, the wolves of Wolf Haven are indulged on special occasions.

## HALLOWEEN

They don't exactly carve the pumpkins, but the wolves do seem to enjoy putting their individual markings on them. When we receive donated pumpkins in late October, the animal care staff at Wolf Haven likes to make the pumpkins "wolf friendly" by stuffing them with liverwurst and other smelly products that a wolf would love. The wolves roll around on the pumpkin and eagerly eat the special innards.

It's not atypical to see pieces or sections of orange pumpkin in enclosures for the next couple of days. Then there's.....

## THANKSGIVING

That means turkey with all the fixin's! On the menu for the wolves each year:

- 12 lb. uncooked turkey (per wolf)
- stuffing
- mashed potatoes
- yams
- Brussels sprouts
- gravy
- cranberry sauce and apple pie


Animal Curator Wendy Spencer admits "I look forward to this all year... the wolves have such a great time with their turkeys. We stuff all the fixin's in the turkey and then lather it with gravy. They have a blast picking through for stuff they like. Usually they lick all the gravy first and then pull out the goods. Favorites seem to be stuffing and cranberry sauce. Least favorite is the Brussels sprout."

How do we know this? The day after Thanksgiving, we always find Brussels sprouts lying around the enclosure. **Wolf Haven is grateful to Home Meat Services in Shelton, Washington,** for their donation of the turkeys. **Special thanks also to Linda and Dave Lewis,** who donate a Costco gift card each quarter. Their gift bought the fixins' for the holiday feast.



## CHRISTMAS

This year, our wolves had the same kind of meal as the Cratchit family in Dicken's classic *A Christmas Carol*. Each wolf received his or her own goose, complete with feathers. And whereas you or I might have a bit of difficulty with all those quills, our residents seemed to have no problem at all finding the "good stuff" underneath the feathers. Washington State didn't experience a white Christmas this year, but a sanctuary visitor might be forgiven for momentarily confusing the scattering of white feathers in the enclosures with snowflakes.

All this talk about holiday food is making me hungry. Wendy, what's on the wolf menu for Easter? 

## WOLF HAVEN GOES TO PRISON continued from page 12

I left Stafford Creek with a greater appreciation of the type of community and offerings extended to inmates. These men are not just stuck in these institutions and left to rot; they are encouraged to gain skills and educate themselves while helping their local and state communities. I

was thrilled to play a small role in helping these men connect with nature and have a green outlook on their future. When asked what they had learned after the presentation they said the following:

*"That wolves and their reintroduction can make such a profound impact on the ecosystem's recovery."*

*"That there are a lot of effects on nature when you lose a key part to nature."*

*"I really never gave wolves much thought but after today's lecture its sad to know what a wolf has gone through and I'm pleased to know that we are really trying to make up for our mistakes."* 