

Feature Wolves, Angel & M'ijo (continued)

While Angel sniffed around and touched noses with him through the fence. Once we determined there were no overt signs of aggression from either wolf, the big day of his release into her enclosure had come. The introduction went very smoothly, and to call Angel's reaction to her new companion ecstatic is quite an understatement.

While he concentrated on exploring his new surroundings and rolling on an old deer leg, she danced around him (and on top of him) in virtual paroxysms of joy.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Though they still have the occasional squabble over food (Angel is NOT used to sharing her food, and tries to

grab it all for herself), their companionship is demonstrated through play and quiet times lying in the bushes at the back of their enclosure. With the season of *l'amour* just around the corner, we are confident that their budding bond will reach full blossom, and Wolf Haven will have yet another blissfully mated wolf pair. 🐾

Our Beloved Gyrene - a Tribute

Wendy Spencer-Armestar, Volunteer Coordinator & Animal Care Assistant

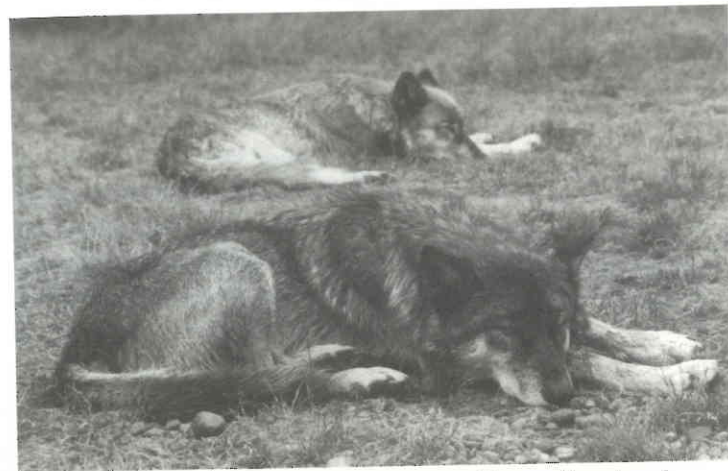
It is with a heavy heart that I write to tell you of the passing of our friend Gyrene.

Gyrene and his six siblings were born here at Wolf Haven in 1984 to Princess Lilypad and Benoni. Early on he had shown a distinct preference for his sister Gris-Gris, and the two formed a steadfast bond. Eventually they were housed together as it became very apparent to their caretakers that the two were well suited for one another. Gyrene matured into a friendly, easy going adult, a perfect match for Gris-Gris' gentle personality, thus making them favorites with our visitors.

In their later years both wolves developed cataracts so, for their comfort, it was decided to give the pair a well-earned retirement. Gris-Gris' eyesight had deteriorated more rapidly than Gyrene's, so it was only natural that he became her self-appointed guardian. He kept a watchful eye over her and made sure to let her know when staff

approached on their daily rounds to ensure that she'd receive her share of attention. Gyrene and Gris-Gris had settled into a peaceful routine, and the two seemed quite content to spend their days in quiet seclusion.

In recent years, Gyrene had developed inoperable cancer, and although we did all we could to see to his comfort, his condition deteriorated over time. Unfortunately the cancer had eventually progressed to a point that made mobility difficult. During the last week of December, Gyrene's condition had become much worse. Midway through the week he stopped eating completely, making it impossible to administer medication. During those last few days, though he had no interest in the food we brought him, Gyrene would still venture over and lean against the fence, allowing us to spend a few minutes with him. I choose to believe that this was his way of letting us know he would not be with us much longer, and that



Gyrene (front) and
Gris Gris

this was our time to say goodbye. On his last day, the effort to get up was just too great and rather than prolong his suffering, a very difficult decision was made. On January 2, Gyrene began his final journey home. Gris-Gris was by his side until the very end, and her devotion never wavered.

The loss of this gentle spirit will be felt by all who loved him, and we will be forever grateful for his gift of friendship. For myself, I consider it an honor and privilege to have made his acquaintance. 🐾