



Tracking the Pack

Captive Wolf Management: Socialized versus Non-socialized

by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator,
International Wolf Center

The International Wolf Center's resident wolves are true ambassadors, enchanting visitors who view them in their spacious wooded habitat. A Web cam enables Web site (www.wolf.org) visitors to "track the pack" online.

The Center's management philosophy emphasizes socializing wolves at a young age to reduce anxiety and stress for the wolves that are "on exhibit" at the educational center, to maximize wolf handling and veterinary care opportunities and to enhance the visitor experience. Future *Tracking the Pack* articles will address the process of socializing pups as the Center prepares for new arrivals in spring 2008.

The Center's wolves represent two gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) subspecies that are not endangered in the wild. Thus, the Center's wolves would never be candidates for release in the wild. Born in captivity, they will stay in captivity. Their job is to support the Center's mission to give the public an understanding of the physiology and behavior of wild wolves and to further understanding of the issues facing wild wolves.

But it is important to understand that this social-

ized captive wolf management plan is just one style represented in a captive environment. In facilities with non-socialized captive wolf management, interaction with humans is strictly avoided. The primary purpose of these Species Survival Program (SSP) facilities is to breed and raise highly endangered gray wolves like the Mexican gray wolf and the red wolf for reintroduction into the wild.



Theresa Williams

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However, most red wolf SSP facilities do maintain exhibit wolves (see list).

Wolves bred and held for potential release in the wild are managed in a way to reduce wolf-human bonding or dependence on humans. If possible, handling tech-

niques are designed to reinforce interaction with humans as a negative experience. The more fear-avoidance reaction the SSP wolves have toward people, the higher will be the chance of survival when these wolves are released in the wild. ■

Red Wolf Captive Management Facilities

All the facilities listed here offer viewing of red wolves to visitors.

Chaffee Zoo,
Fresno, California

Beardsley Zoological
Gardens, Bridgeport,
Connecticut

Homosassa Springs
Wildlife Park,
Homosassa, Florida

Jacksonville Zoo,
Jacksonville, Florida

Brevard Zoo,
Melbourne, Florida

Tallahassee Museum
of Natural History,
Tallahassee, Florida

Lowry Park Zoo,
Tampa, Florida

Chehaw Wild Animal
Park, Albany, Georgia

Miller Park Zoo,
Bloomington, Illinois

Lincoln Park Zoo,
Chicago, Illinois

Niabi Zoo, Niabi, Illinois

Henson Robinson Zoo,
Springfield, Illinois

Land Between the Lakes,
Golden Pond, Kentucky

Alexandria Zoological
Park, Alexandria, Louisiana

Salisbury Zoological Park,
Salisbury, Maryland

Wildlife Science Center,
Forest Lake, Minnesota

Jackson Zoological Park,
Jackson, Mississippi

Wild Canid Survival
& Research Center,
Eureka, Missouri

Trevor Zoo,
Millbrook, New York

New York Wolf
Conservation Center,
South Salem, New York

Burnet Park Zoo,
Syracuse, New York

North Carolina Zoo,
Asheboro, North Carolina

Western North Carolina
Nature Center,
Asheville, North Carolina

North Carolina Life
& Science, Durham,
North Carolina

Dan Nichols Park
Nature Center,
Salisbury, North Carolina

Oklahoma City Zoo,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Roger Williams Park Zoo,
Providence, Rhode Island

Cape Romain NWR
(Sewee), Awenda,
South Carolina

Great Plains Zoo,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Chattanooga Nature
Center, Chattanooga,
Tennessee

Knoxville Zoo,
Knoxville, Tennessee

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center,
Glen Rose, Texas

Fort Worth Zoo,
Fort Worth, Texas

Texas Zoo, Victoria, Texas

Virginia Living Museum,
Newport News, Virginia

Mill Mountain Zoo,
Roanoke, Virginia

Point Defiance Zoo
& Aquarium,
Tacoma, Washington

Wolf Haven International,
Tenino, Washington

Oglebay's Good Zoo,
Wheeling, West Virginia

North Eastern Wisconsin
Zoo, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Check online for Web sites for these red wolf captive management facilities.