

# Wild Kids



## Vocabulary

**Behavior** What an animal does—its reactions or actions under specific conditions

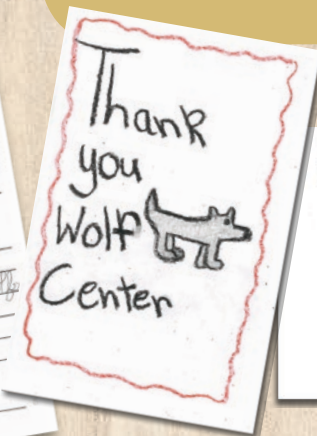
**Ethology** The study of animal behavior, usually focusing on behavior under natural conditions.

**Biologist** A scientist who studies living organisms, most often in the context of their environment.

**Ethogram** A catalogue or table of an animal's observed behaviors or actions.

## Learn With Wild Kids

When Jacob Tespa, age 12, visited the International Wolf Center for a Wolf Watch program this past summer, he had a chance to learn and practice what biologists do. Jacob learned about wolf behaviors and was able to practice observing the Exhibit Pack and recording the animals' behaviors. While watching wolves, he recorded some behaviors using photographs and the ethogram he worked from during class (see page 16). The International Wolf Center has many programs for kids to learn the ethology of wolves. Not only is the Wolf Watch program that Jacob participated in being offered, but there is also a program offered during the school year and again in summer called Junior Biologist Certificate Program. If you are interested in learning about wolves, check out these and other programs at [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org).



Fall weather means wolves are getting ready for winter. They do this in a variety of ways. One way is by growing

under hair (fur). This under fur is a dense hair that grows under the outer guard hairs. The insulating undercoat helps keep wolves warm and dry during winter in cold climates. Wolf pups that were born this spring, usually in late April or early May, grow rapidly in summer and fall. By winter, the pups need to be large enough to keep up with their pack. By this time of year, wolf pups can weigh between 35 and 70 pounds (15 and 31 kilograms).







International Wolf Center



**B**oltz is a Great Plains subspecies of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). Boltz joined the exhibit pack July 30, 2012. Now at 2.5 years of age, Boltz weighs approximately 112 pounds (50 kilograms). He continues to be the bottom-ranking male in the Exhibit Pack and will submit (roll over on his back) for more dominant wolves when things get tense. However, as a 2-year-old, Boltz will test the dominant wolves. One of the ways he does this is by doing a chin rest on a dominant wolf, testing to see if he can gain status in the pack. Watch the wolf logs this winter to see if Boltz continues to test for dominance. ■



## Word Find

Use the Word Bank below to find as many behaviors as possible in the Word Find puzzle. Words can run horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward and backward.

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Avertgaze   | Jawspar    |
| Cache       | Rest       |
| Chinrest    | Scentroll  |
| Dominance   | Scrape     |
| Facewipe    | Submission |
| Forelegstab | Tugofwar   |
| Growling    | Yawn       |
| Howling     |            |

A	V	E	R	T	G	A	Z	E	F	L	R
S	U	A	I	C	C	B	C	Z	O	L	A
C	G	I	X	H	T	N	L	C	R	O	W
R	N	K	M	I	A	S	A	H	E	R	F
A	I	A	W	N	U	C	E	Q	L	T	O
P	L	M	I	R	H	E	J	R	E	N	G
E	W	M	W	E	I	J	O	F	G	E	U
N	O	I	S	S	I	M	B	U	S	C	T
D	H	C	B	T	Z	Z	A	L	T	S	J
F	A	C	E	W	I	P	E	R	A	W	W
R	A	P	S	W	A	J	R	O	B	D	Y
G	N	I	L	W	O	R	G	N	W	A	Y