



# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

APRIL 2021 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION



CERTIFIED BY



The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization certified by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for this logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

The contents of the material we include in our newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of CWWC. We collect information from other organizations, the web, news feeds, and/or other sources. We choose articles that are in the related field of education and conservation.



TO SUBSCRIBE to our monthly newsletter, go to [wolfeducation.org](http://wolfeducation.org) and sign up on the newsletter page.

CONTACT US  
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## | SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

While we are all coping with our new way of life, you can still stay up to date with the animals here at CWWC. We are working to keep you involved in the work we are doing here, knowing how our animals are doing, and staying educated about wildlife news.

 **Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:**  
[ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter](#)

We post bi-weekly videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals. Our bi-weekly educational vlog about wolves—*Wolf Wisdom with Erika*—talks about the wolf reintroduction of wolves in Colorado, and other hot topics.

 **Follow us on Facebook:**  
[Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center](#)

Thursdays between 3-4pm we have a Ask a Keeper livestream where you can ask us all those questions you've been dying to know. Every Friday at 8pm we post a video of one of our keepers howling with

the wolves for the Go Outside and Howl at 8 movement. We also share current wildlife events and stories that are happening around the world to keep you informed.

 **Follow us on Instagram:**  
[cowolfcenter](#)

We post pictures of our beautiful animals, share stories of what we are doing around the center, and keep you up to date on everything wolf and wildlife related. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.

We will also be doing monthly and possibly weekly giveaways and sales. These will only be announced on our social media so make sure you follow us on every platform and turn on your notifications.

*We hope to give you something to look forward to every day!*

## Five Star Experiences

"This was one of the most magical, incredible experiences we've ever had (and that's a very high compliment, as we've visited seventeen countries, walked with snow monkeys in Japan, and swam with sea lions in Patagonia). The Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center is truly a sanctuary for the gorgeous animals who live there. The animals' body language makes it immediately clear that the wolves, foxes, and coyote-dog are all happy, healthy, and loved. We did a VIP experience with Na'vi and Tala, who are just the most beautiful, loviest puppies - they showered us with hugs and kisses that we'll never forget and looked right into our eyes like old friends. Celia took FANTASTIC photos of our time with the wolves, Erika helped us feed them treats, and Fish gave a hilarious and truly enriching feeding tour. Darlene and the whole team are doing deeply commendable work. It was a perfect adventure that we'll always cherish."



"If I could give this amazing place more stars I would! This was my second experience and I leave there feeling refreshed & so emotional that there are people doing right by these amazing animals!! This place is PURE MAGIC! I really enjoyed the educational part of the tour .... people need to know why it's so important to protect these beautiful souls! I was VIP today and got to be in an enclosure with a wolf named Kekoa & a coyote named Ringo. Being up close and personal with these souls is the stuff dreams are made of! It's an experience of a lifetime that wasn't taken for granted on my end! Thank you Darlene for the amazing work you do!! You are truly one amazing human! Thank you to the entire staff for taking us in and filling us with all the knowledge!! It's such important work! I am forever grateful for my experience!!"

## BUYER BEWARE LIST

### AVOID

These items are generally prohibited from being brought into the U.S.

- × All sea turtle and pangolin products
- × Ivory, raw and carved
- × Fur from tigers, most spotted cats, seals, polar bears and sea otters
- × Live monkeys or apes
- × Most live birds, including parrots, macaws, cockatoos and finches
- × Wild bird feathers and mounted birds
- × Medicinals made from rhino, tiger or Asiatic black bear

### ASK

These items may be prohibited from being brought into the U.S.

- ! Some live snakes, turtles, crocodilians and lizards
- ! Certain leather products, including some made from caiman, crocodiles, lizards and snakes
- ! Some corals, coral products and shells
- ! Certain plants—particularly orchids, cacti and cycads



# Going Abroad? Here is Your Guide to Shopping Overseas

## BUY INFORMED

Before you buy your travel souvenirs, make sure that the country you're visiting allows the export of its native species or other wildlife that you buy or acquire there. Remember: resource protection laws and treaties don't just cover live animals and plants but also mounted specimens, foods, parts and products made from or decorated with fur, hide, skin, feathers, scales, shell, antlers, horns, teeth, claws or bones.

These guidelines apply to wildlife items that you carry with you or bring back in your checked luggage for your personal use, all of which must be declared to wildlife (wildlife inspectors) or customs officers. Stricter prohibitions may apply if you mail or ship your purchases home.

## YOUR CHOICES MATTER—BE INFORMED BEFORE YOU BUY

**SEA TURTLES:** International trade in sea turtle products is prohibited. Avoid jewelry and products made from "tortoiseshell"; sea turtle meat, soup, eggs, facial creams and shells; leathers, boots, handbags and other goods made from sea turtle skin.

**IVORY:** The U.S. generally prohibits the importation of elephant ivory. Don't bring home raw ivory or ivory jewelry, carvings or figurines made from elephant tusks. Avoid raw or carved ivory from the teeth or tusks of whales, walruses, narwhals and seals.

**FURS:** Most of the world's wild cats—including tigers, jaguars, leopards, ocelots, margays, cheetahs and leopard cats—are protected. You cannot import skins or items made using the fur or parts of these

animals. Furs and other parts from seals, polar bears and sea otters are also prohibited.

**BIRDS:** In most cases, you cannot buy a wild bird (such as a parrot, macaw, cockatoo or finch) in another country and bring it home with you. The U.S. prohibits the importation of the feathers and parts of most wild birds without a permit. This ban also includes mounted birds and bird nests.

**PRIMATES:** Don't buy a live monkey or ape overseas—these imports are prohibited by U.S. health laws. Most primate species are protected; avoid products, furs or meats from these animals.

**WILDLIFE WOOLS:** Avoid shahtoosh, an illegal superfine fabric made from the protected Tibetan antelope. Some clothing made from vicuña (a South American mammal) may be imported with proper permits. Check country laws as well as U.S. import restrictions.

**TRADITIONAL MEDICINES:** Check labels carefully. Don't bring home products that list tiger, rhinoceros, leopard, Asiatic black bear or musk deer as ingredients. Permits may be needed to take whole or sliced roots of American ginseng to another country.

**FISH & SHELLFISH:** You can usually bring home sport-caught or stuffed and mounted fish. Importing smoked salmon is not a problem, but you'll need a permit for sturgeon meat. Check country laws as well as possible U.S. import restrictions before trying to bring queen conch or giant clam meat back to the states.

**REPTILES:** Many leather manufacturers work with skins from sustainably harvested reptiles such as the American alligator. But some snake, turtle, tortoise, crocodilian and lizard species

are protected; their import as pets or in leather products or jewelry or hats with teeth or claws may be subject to trade restrictions. Check before buying reptiles or reptile products overseas or taking these items with you when you travel outside the U.S.

**PANGOLINS:** International trade in pangolins is prohibited. Avoid medicines, fashion accessories, and products made from pangolin scales; pangolin leather products and meats; stuffed or preserved pangolin specimens, and all other pangolin products.

**CORAL & SHELLS:** Many nations limit the collection, sale and export of live coral and coral products. Consult local authorities before buying coral souvenirs, jewelry or aquarium decorations. Take similar precautions with queen conch, giant clam and other shells. Import restrictions may also apply—for example, queen conch shells from some Caribbean countries cannot be imported into the U.S.

**CAVIAR:** The world's sturgeon species are increasingly at risk, and trade in caviar from these fish is now regulated. Without a permit, you may only import up to 125 grams (about 4 oz) of sturgeon caviar per person per trip. Know which species of sturgeon your caviar came from—the caviar of some species is completely prohibited.

**PLANTS:** Certain plants—particularly orchids, cacti and cycads—may require permits. You should also check with U.S. agriculture officials before importing any plant. Some species are banned as invasive; all imports must be pest-, soil- and disease-free.

*Continued on next page...*

# BE INFORMED. BUY INFORMED.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Around the world, you'll find wildlife and plant products for sale—as jewelry, clothes, pets, souvenirs and more. But just because something is for sale doesn't mean it's legal to take home. Some of these products may be made from protected animals or plants and may be illegal to export or import. Other wildlife products may require permits before you can bring them home to the United States. By making informed choices, you can avoid having your souvenir confiscated or paying a fine—and support wildlife conservation around the world.

Most countries, including the United States,

## ASK BEFORE YOU BUY

To make sure your purchase is legal and properly sourced, ask the seller:

- What is this product made of?
- Where did this product come from?
- Does the country I'm visiting allow the sale and export of this product?
- Do I need permits or other documents from this country or the United States to bring this item home?

protect their native animals and plants under national laws and through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Signed by more than 180 nations, this treaty supports sustainable trade in wildlife and plants while protecting endangered species.

In addition to international agreements, U.S. laws provide even stronger protections for such animals as marine mammals, elephants and wild birds. If the country you're visiting bans the sale or export of a species, you cannot legally import it here.

Questions about a purchase?

Contact local natural resource agencies, the country's CITES Management Authority, or check:

[www.FWS.gov/le/tips-for-travelers.html](http://www.FWS.gov/le/tips-for-travelers.html)

[www.FWS.gov/international/permits](http://www.FWS.gov/international/permits)

[www.CITES.org](http://www.CITES.org)



[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

[www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)



[www.USWTA.org](http://www.USWTA.org)



[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)



# Earth Day

# 2021



# ***In Montana, Bears and Wolves Become Part of the Culture Wars***

The politics of predators seem poised to enter a new chapter in the state, which now seems intent on reviving some of the practices of a century ago that virtually exterminated wolves from Montana.



Dennis Fast/VWPics/Universal Images Group, via Getty Images

The New York Times | By Jim Robbins | March 28, 2021

In addition to its spectacular landscape of mountains, rivers and prairie, Montana, the third least densely populated state in the country, has long been known for something else — wildlife policies that have protected animals of all sorts, including ones like grizzly bears and gray wolves that are often seen as threats to humans and to farming and ranching.

The state's abundance and variety of wildlife has been a selling point for tourism, a source of pride to many Montanans and something that has set it apart from its less ecologically minded neighbors in the Mountain West. Even as its neighboring states of Idaho and Wyoming have aggressively reduced their wolf population, for example, Montana has managed its numbers largely through hunting seasons and targeted lethal control actions by wildlife biologists.

Now, with its first Republican governor in 16 years, Greg Gianforte, and a solidly Republican legislature, the politics of predators seem poised to enter a new chapter. In the West these days, predators are very much part of the culture wars, and the state now seems intent on reviving some of the practices of a century ago that virtually exterminated wolves from Montana.

Several bills are headed to Mr. Gianforte's desk that would allow for more killing of wolves in the state to drive down their numbers. Practices that are being proposed include the use of spotlights at night, which is considered unethical because it temporarily blinds the animal; hunting animals by luring them with bait like wild game or commercial scents; night vision scopes and widening use of neck snares that catch and choke animals to death. Other controversial predator proposals allow hunting black bears with hounds, a practice outlawed a century ago, and placing limits on where wandering grizzlies can be moved, which conservationists say could lead to more bear deaths.

Proponents of the changes say the state is overwhelmed by the presence of too many predators, and their numbers urgently need to be reduced. At a hearing, State Senator Bob Brown, a Republican who introduced one of the bills, said many of his constituents felt they had "no voice," and that game, in particular elk and deer, that they depended on to fill their freezers was being eliminated by wolves instead.

"We can't sit by and allow our game — the thing that feeds so many families — to be taken off the table," he said.

Critics say the state is embarking on a wholesale war on wildlife that is based on little more than emotion and supposition, and rejecting decades worth of management lessons.

"It's bar talk replacing biology," said Ed Bangs, a wildlife biologist who is now retired and used to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wolf recovery project. He also led the effort in the mid-1990s to bring the first wolves to Yellowstone National Park after a half century's absence. "People are saying it seems like there are fewer elk and deer, so it must be the wolves," he said. "I believe in professionalism and vetting with science; this is based on bar talk."

Mr. Bangs is one of more than 50 wildlife biologists who have signed a letter calling on Republican officials to reject the legislation. The bills have passed, or are near passing, both houses of the Legislature and are awaiting a decision by the governor.

Experts say these changes, if they occur, probably would not cause a crash in the number of wolves and grizzlies to the point where their existence is seriously threatened. Instead, in their letter, the wildlife scientists say the bills "are harmful to wildlife, harmful to the image of hunters, contrary to science and wrong for Montana."

"This is an all-out war on wolves," said Nick Gevock, the conservation director for the Montana Wildlife Federation.

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“We support ethical fair chase hunting of wolves. This is going way overboard. It’s a 19th-century approach.”

The result is a dispute over wildlife management suffused with contemporary politics with Mr. Gianforte at the center of it. In February, he was the subject of controversy when he trapped and shot a black, radio-collared wolf known as 1155 that had come north onto a private ranch from nearby Yellowstone National Park. The wolf wore a collar as part of a study of wolves at Yellowstone.

While trapping and even shooting a collared wolf outside the park are legal in Montana, the governor had neglected to take a required three hour wolf trapping certification course that teaches hunters to trap and hunt wolves “ethically, humanely and lawfully.”

Mr. Gianforte said at a news conference he had been trapping since he was a “tot” and called his violation of the law an oversight. He said he was issued a warning letter and had since taken the course.

Mr. Gianforte, a hard-line Republican, first came to national prominence in 2017 when he body slammed a reporter for The Guardian after taking offense at answering questions about his race for Congress. He won the House seat and later pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge. But indications seem to point to him possibly gaining politically from a firm stance against predators in a state where anger over the perceived overabundance of wolves and bears runs deep, and one that overwhelmingly supported Donald J. Trump in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections.

The return of the wolf and grizzly bear to the northern Rockies are two success stories that came out of the Endangered Species Act. In 1975, when grizzly bears were listed as endangered species, there were from 800 to 1,000 of them, mostly in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Their numbers are now estimated at about 1,800 in the Lower 48 states.

The grizzlies were able to make that comeback largely because hunting was ended, trash was carefully managed and there was an effective crackdown on poachers.

Outside Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, grizzly bears roam mainly in wilderness areas of the state, though they are expanding into more populated areas where they are increasingly vulnerable to being hit by cars, shot by hunters, and killed or removed by biologists because of conflicts with humans. And bears and wolves pose a real threat to livestock and to humans. Every year, hikers or hunters are attacked by bears, and in many parts of the state anyone hiking is cautioned to be “bear aware” and carry a pepper-based spray for protection.

The debate over protecting endangered species, particularly predators, has long roiled Montana, pitting liberal urban areas in the state and across the country against rural ranchers who are increasingly concerned about their livestock being killed or hunters who think game animals are in decline. Until now, a measured approach — which includes some hunting of wolves and intervention by the state when grizzlies get into someone’s beehive or chicken coop — along with lots of protection have prevailed. But with wildlife management increasingly part of the culture wars, antagonism toward widening federal control and Republican control of the state, the balance has shifted, conservationists say.

The new bills approach management of bears and wolves in various ways. One of the new bills would pay wolf hunters their expenses — in effect, critics say, a bounty — to kill the animals. Another bill would allow for snaring animals with a metal aircraft cable fashioned into a noose that would hang over a trail. When the animal gets its head caught in one, it grows tighter as the animal tries to flee, until it is strangled to death. Snares can be used for coyotes in Montana but not wolves.

A major problem with snares is that they

also kill species that are not the target, such as moose, elk, deer and even pet dogs. “Snares are cheap,” Mr. Bangs said. “It isn’t unusual for a trapper to set out 100. And you catch all kinds of stuff.” Snares that were set for coyotes, for example, inadvertently killed 28 mountain lions from 2015 to 2020, Mr. Gevock said.

Another bill would extend the wolf trapping and snaring season. Wildlife experts say the extended season would overlap with the period that grizzly bears and black bears are out of their dens and could be inadvertently trapped. Another would reinstate hunting black bears with dogs and prevent Montana wildlife officials from relocating any grizzly bears captured outside recovery zones. Most recovery zone habitat are occupied, which means many grizzlies would most likely have to be euthanized.

In their letter, the wildlife professionals wrote that the bill would reverse 40 years of policy “and result in the unnecessary death of many grizzly bears.” They also said that the bill would prevent grizzly bears from being removed from their endangered species status.

Supporters of the bills say bringing down the wolf population is essential. State Representative Paul Fielder, a Republican and a retired wildlife biologist and trapper who introduced two of the bills, said there were about 1,200 wolves in the state, according to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Because of their recovery, wolves are no longer protected by the Endangered Species Act. Federal law requires that Montana has 15 breeding pairs, which, according to Mr. Fielder, is about 300 wolves.

“We have four times the number of wolves the Montana management plan requires,” he said when the bill was introduced.

The state already allows hunters to kill about 300 to 350 wolves a year.

Increasingly, the arguments are being couched in the language of national politics.

Steve Daines, the state’s junior U.S. senator and a Republican, this week became one of five senators who introduced legislation to take the grizzly bear off the endangered species list. “Wildlife management must be determined by science, not by activist judges,” he said. “Montana’s state leaders know what’s best for our communities, public safety, the ecosystem, wildlife and the bear itself.”

Mr. Gianforte has not yet said whether he will sign the bills. A spokeswoman for the governor would only say he “would carefully review any bill that the legislature sends to his desk.”

But Representative Tom France, a Democrat and retired regional executive director for the National Wildlife Federation, said whatever emerges in Montana would almost certainly echo the partisan split of national politics.

“The return of the grizzly bears and wolves were remarkable success stories in the state and federal partnerships — this is a rejection of that,” he said. “There’s a political sentiment here.”

The State Legislature is saying “We don’t live by federal laws and aren’t going to pay attention to them,” he added. “Montana is not excused from the polarization that typifies the nation.”



TAKE ACTION



<https://tinyurl.com/4938f7n8>

After the Trump administration removed federal Endangered Species Act protection from wolves across the country last year, states wasted no time scheduling hunts.

This winter, in Wisconsin, trappers set painful leghold traps and strangulation snares to snag their trophies. Hunters released packs of dogs to chase down wolves. More than 200 wolves — about 20% of the state's wolf population — died in just three days.

More brutal hunts are planned for this fall in Wisconsin and could happen in other states, too.

It's up to President Biden and his new leadership at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take action. Tell them to reinstate Endangered Species Act protection for wolves.

Happy  
Birthday,  
Kaci!



# MOTHER'S DAY *With the Wolves*

Sunday,  
May 9th  
9-11am

Wolf Tour,  
A Flower for Moms  
and Snacks



Adults \$40 (12+)

Kids \$20 (6-11)

PREPAY EVENT

RESERVATIONS

719.687.9742

Colorado Wolf  
and Wildlife Center

wolfeducation.org



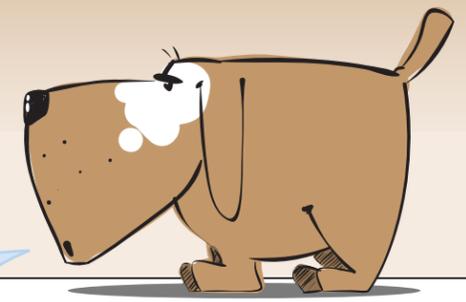
# Adoption corner

## TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter  
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

## SLVAWS

San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society  
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



**[ UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: - Our shelter is open BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - PLEASE CALL before coming to the shelter for any reason - 719-686-7707 ]**

### **REX »**

**AGE:** 1 year 8 months

**SEX:** Male/Neutered

**Australian Shepherd/Mix**

I'm new to Colorado and so far I'm loving the Rocky Mountains! I'm a very energetic guy however I can be picky about my doggie friends and I'm searching for an experienced owner who's willing to work with me in exchange for a best friend! I would prefer a home without younger children.



### **« VARDIS**

**AGE:** 1 year 7 months

**SEX:** Male/Neutered

**omestic Medium Hair/Mix**

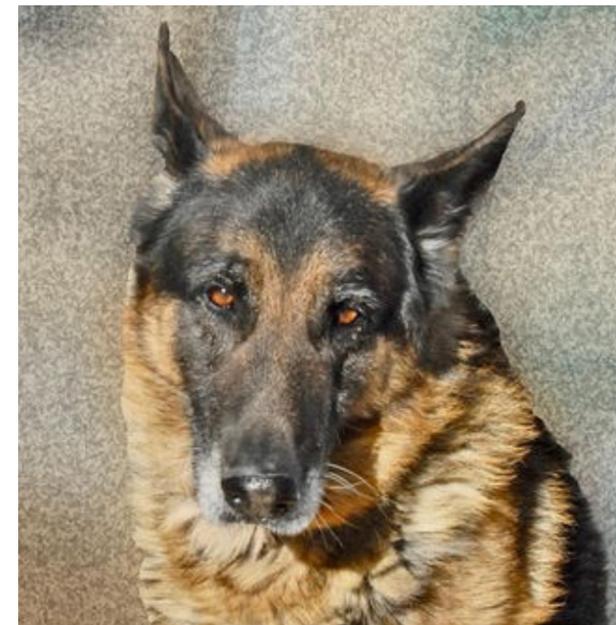
Hi there, I'm Vardis! I'm a little bit of a shy guy, but I can be easily persuaded by a good head scratch. So far at the shelter I've been a calm, cool, and collected cat.



**SLVAWS  
ADOPTION FAIR**  
Every Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm  
at the Petco in Colorado Springs  
5020 N. Nevada

### **« TAYLOR**

Ten year old Taylor is sweet, sweet, sweet and very affectionate. He has hip dysplasia and would like a forever home or a medical foster. He will need short walks every day. He is good with other dogs, but not too fond of cats. Neutered, all vaccinations, chipped.



### **MARLEY & ELLIOTT »**

2-year-old lab mix brothers would like a home together. Elliott is a "low rider" and can walk right under his brother upon whom he depends. Neutered, chipped, all vaccinations.

