



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2019 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION



**16.5 years old
and still
eating game!!**

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.

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This is Sadie. She saved her human mom from a copperhead.

U.S. WILL ALLOW TROPHY HUNTER TO IMPORT BODY OF RARE BLACK RHINO

Washington - The Trump administration says it will issue a permit to a Michigan trophy hunter to import the skin, skull and horns from a rare black rhinoceros he shot in Africa. Documents show Chris D. Peyerk of Shelby Township applied last year for the permit required by the Fish and Wildlife Service to import animals protected under the Endangered Species Act. Peyerk paid \$400,000 to an anti-poaching program to receive permission to hunt the male rhino bull inside a Namibian national park in May 2018. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists black rhinos as a critically endangered species, with about 5,500 remaining in the wild.

Beautiful JUVENILE BLUEBIRD

Kremmling, Colorado



Zaltana's needed surgery to remove a tumor. It went well yesterday as did the capture. It was a great learning experience. The tumor was removed and was sent in for biopsy, however we feel that it is the same type of tumor that her brother Kwahadi had. She is a bit sore today, but should heal nicely. She had 3 layers of stitches. Approximately 35-40 total.



Thank you

to those who participated;
Erika, Jessica, Sarah W.,
Sarah, Amanda, Dr. Volz,
Terry, Rick and Darlene.

California Defends Wolves, Argues Against Feds Removing Protections

by Alessandra DiCorato

OR-25, a male gray wolf in Oregon, in 2014. OR-25 was killed illegally in 2017. Environmentalists say that removing wolves from the Endangered Species Act could encourage more hunting. (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)



only started reappearing in the state in 2011, when one wandered over the Oregon border. Biologists say that California's future wolf population will depend on expanding from other states.

"It's good to see West Coast states that have an interest in wolf recovery speaking out about ... the proposal that would undermine wolf recovery in their states," said Brett Hartl, the government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "California is a good example of why their proposal doesn't make sense, because wolves are definitely not recovered in California."

Determining the success of wolf recovery hinges on a discussion of where the predator should roam. Some controversy does exist over wolves' historical range. In the proposal, the USFWS chooses to define 'historic range' as most of the continental United States except western California, southwestern Arizona, and the southeast United States.

Although 6,000 wolves now live in the continental United States, only one pack frequents California. Most people agree that populations have recovered in the northern Rocky Mountains and western Great Lakes, but the Commission points out that this range is only a tiny fraction of both the wolves' historic range and the habitat scientists consider suitable. It calls the proposal's definition of range "nonsensical."

"Discounting California and other vital, historic habitats ignores science and the law," the letter states.

Relying on Outdated Science

In the letter, Sklar says that much of the rule bases its analysis of the extent of recovery on "decades-old science." The Commission argues that the criteria the USFWS uses to measure recovery are based on outdated science.

Peer reviewers of the proposal echoed this sentiment, adding that the cited studies were chosen haphazardly. In many cases, the reviewer wrote, "results in the best journals (ranked independently on a worldwide scale of impact factors) were ignored or overlooked, in favor of non-peer-reviewed interpretations or

results from lower ranked journals." The same reviewer notes that "in a few cases, the stronger evidence was paid for by the USFWS or was co-authored by USFWS staff."

What's Next For Wolves?

There is, perhaps, no more polarizing endangered species than the gray wolf. Even as environmentalists celebrate the return of wolves, some ranchers view the predators as a threat to their livestock and livelihoods. The federal proposal chooses largely to ignore the threat anti-wolf communities may pose to wolf populations, stating that the motivations behind such attitudes are poorly understood. But the California Fish and Game Commission says that the ability of public opinion to impact wolf populations has been studied and should be considered more substantially in the delisting proposal.

"Since targeted extirpation of the species was one of the main factors that led to gray wolf's near extinction in the U.S.," the letter argues, "it behooves USFWS to conduct a thorough analysis to demonstrate that such attitudes will not become a detriment to the future of the species."

Hartl says he's seen this happen before, when wolves were delisted in the Great Lakes in 2011 and public tolerance for them declined. When wolves are prematurely delisted, Hartl warns, "it creates the perception, especially in rural areas, that it's okay to shoot a wolf."

USFWS will now review the public comments on its proposal. Some 750,000 comments are currently listed on the USFWS website. Some environmental groups believe the number may balloon to nearly 2 million once the mail-in comments are counted. Hartl expects the USFWS will take at least a year to review all substantive comments, and anticipates a final decision in fall 2020.

The Obama administration also proposed delisting the gray wolf in 2013, and faced a similarly extensive comment period. The ruling was largely abandoned, though people disagree why; USFWS cites logistics, and environmentalists say the proposal languished in the face of inescapable facts and public outrage.



Zaltana and her Pronghorn head prize. Thank you hunters who help support our animals.

Lawsuit Filed Over Prairie Dog Removal - Commerce City

by James Burky

A prairie dog protection group is asking a federal judge to block Commerce City's plan to exterminate an urban colony on property the city wants to use. The city agreed Aug. 19 to pay \$23,300 to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to kill off the colony as part of the city's urban rodent control agreement. The 13-page lawsuit filed by Prairie Protection Colorado claims that Commerce City will violate a federal law that prohibits killing rodents in urban areas if it goes through with the plan. "Commerce City is an urban area, and prairie dogs are rodents. We have that legal angle," said Deanna Meyer, Prairie Protection Colorado's executive director. "Wildlife Services is an agency whose sole job is to kill wildlife. Most of the time through harmful chemicals." The Commerce City council began discussing how to remove the prairie dog colony in April and delayed its decision to get public feedback. But it has decided to move forward with the plan, leading the Prairie Protection group to seek an injunction. The city has said the prairie dogs are overpopulated, carry disease and are destroying property, according to a City Council presentation from the April 8 meeting. Prairie Protection is concerned

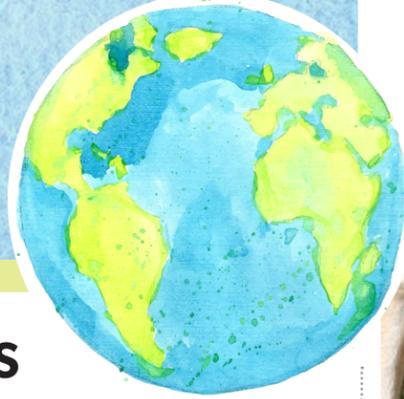
about the chemicals that will be used to kill the rodents and the lasting impact on the ecosystem. The USDA's Wildlife Services would be using aluminum and zinc phosphide pellets. A 2008 study published in the Journal of Clinical Toxicology found that aluminum and zinc phosphides can be poisonous if ingested or inhaled. A USDA spokesman declined to comment, citing pending litigation. Prairie dogs and their habitats are considered to be vital for 180 species, some of which are considered to be endangered, the injunction motion said. burrowing owls are known to use prairie dog colonies as nests when breeding, while the endangered black-footed ferret preys on prairie dogs in Commerce City. Commerce City's prairie dog population has made headlines this summer after plague-infested fleas were discovered in colonies that forced the closure of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and other open space areas around Dick's Sporting Goods Park. The infestation also impacted the labor Day concert series for Phish, a popular jam band. "These episodes happen; any animal can carry fleas that have the plague," she said. "Prairie dogs do not carry the plague. They are victims of it."

FISHER'S PEAK IS A BIG WIN FOR COLORADO

If you're not thrilled about the prospect of Colorado's 42nd state park, it's probably only because you still haven't visited its 41st. Gov. Jared Polis announced last week that the state -- through a partnership with lottery proceeds and two nonprofits -- had acquired 19,200 acres of land outside Trinidad including the iconic Fisher's Peak. the land, Polis announced, will be the state's next state park. We can't wait to explore this land as we have many of the state's other assets. The possibilities for a combination of wildlife habitat preservation and recreation are numerous: back-country backpacking and hunting, tent and camper camping facilities and miles and miles of hiking, biking, ATV and horse trails. If we've left off your favorite activity, no offense intended. Colorado is built for adventure. It's part of the appeal of this parcel of The West to both residents and visitors. But as more folks discover the magic of Colorado Colorado, the need for more open space grows. Thankfully, many of Colorado's politicians, including Polis, have long understood the need to preserve and maintain lands for the public's use and the protection of wildlife. It's not a cheap endeavor. One of the blessings is that lawmakers and voters had the foresight to lock away millions of dollars in lottery revenue in a trust fund set aside for public lands. Today Great Outdoors Colorado -- the lottery trust -- is contributing \$7.5 million to the new park. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is adding another \$7 million. the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land, two nonprofits that currently own the land, are working with the state to finance the remaining value of the land, estimated at \$25 million. Public officials from Las Animas County deserve credit too for recognizing the potential of this land for their community and helping to advocate for the resources to make it happen. "It's the backdrop to our community," Trinidad Mayor Phil Rico was quoted saying in The Denver Post. "We've always felt like we owned it, in a sense, but we've just never been able to access it." Rico said his community has been pushing for this for years. And now the work will really begin. It took 27 years for Staunton State Park to open after it was given to the state by Frances Hornbrook Staunton, but the state was busy slowly acquiring land around the park so that when it opened it would be the gem it is today, including the beautiful Elk Falls. Today Staunton, which opened in 2013 as the state's 41st park, is an unexpected gem, remarkably close to the Denver-metro area. The lesson here is that our states and cities must never stop dreaming or setting aside resources for our public lands. We know it'll take time to develop a plan for the land in Trinidad and find the operating funds in the budget to open it, but we're thrilled Polis and his team have made this a reality for the state.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Make Everyday Earth Day!



Enrichment Fun!

BUILDERS TURNING TO HEMP BRICKS TO REDUCE POLLUTION

Cement Makers Are Responsible For About 7% Of Global Carbon Dioxide Emitted Into The Atmosphere Every Year

by Jeremy Hodges and Kevin Orland

The hemp fields sprouting in a part of Canada best known for its giant oil patch show how climate-change is disrupting the construction industry. Six years after setting up shop in the shadow of Calgary's tar sands, Mac Radford, 64, says he can't satisfy all the orders from builders for Earth-friendly materials that help them limit their carbon footprints. His company, JustBioFiber Structural Solutions, is on the vanguard of businesses using hemp -- the boring cousin of marijuana devoid of psychoactive content -- to mitigate the greenhouse gases behind global warming. Around the world, builders are putting modern twists into ancient construction methods that employ the hearty hemp weed. Roman engineers used the plant's sinewy fibers in the mortar they mixed to hold up bridges. More recently, former White House adviser Steve Bannon weighed in on using so-called hemp-crete to build walls. Early results indicate it's possible to tap demand for cleaner alternatives to cement. "We have way more demand than we can supply," Radford said from his plant in Airdrie, which is undergoing expansion and soon expects to churn out enough Lego-like hemp bricks each year to build 2,000 homes. Greener alternatives to cement add to the pressure on companies, including LafargeHolcim and Votorantim Cimentos, as the global economy pivots toward dramatically lower emissions. Cement makers are responsible for about 7% of global carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere every year, with copious volumes entering via limestone

kilns needed to produce the material. Manufacturers say they've struggled to find markets for greener alternatives, giving easy entree to entrepreneurs like Radford who cater to customers concerned about their impact on the Earth. "They love it once they understand it," Radford said of the builders who've adopted the modular, inter-locking bricks he invented for their projects. "Our old practices -- we have to change." While architects and developers have traditionally concentrated on the energy used by their buildings once they're standings, it's actually the materials required in their construction that represent the brunt of a structure's lifetime carbon footprint. Replacing high-carbon-intensity materials like cement with greener alternatives like hemp can dramatically reduce or even offset greenhouse gas pollution. Hemp fields absorb carbon when they're growing. After harvest, the crop continues to absorb greenhouse gases as it's mixed with lime or clay. Hemp-crete structures also have better ventilation, fire resistance and temperature regulation, according to their proponents. numbers across the industry vary depending on the process, but JustBioFiber says that its hemp captures 287 pounds of carbon dioxide for each cubic meter it builds. Those structures made with their bricks will sequester more greenhouse gases than they emit in production. but contrast, each ton of cement produced emits half a ton of carbon dioxide, according to the European Cement Association.



Enrichment is vital for good mental health and stimulation. It is also good for us to watch and enjoy them having fun.



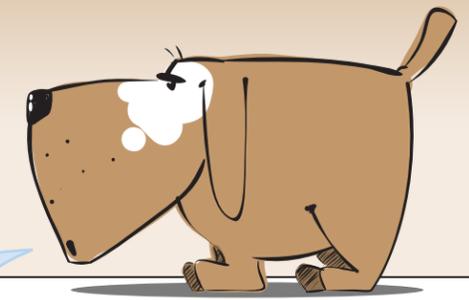
Adoption corner

TCRAS

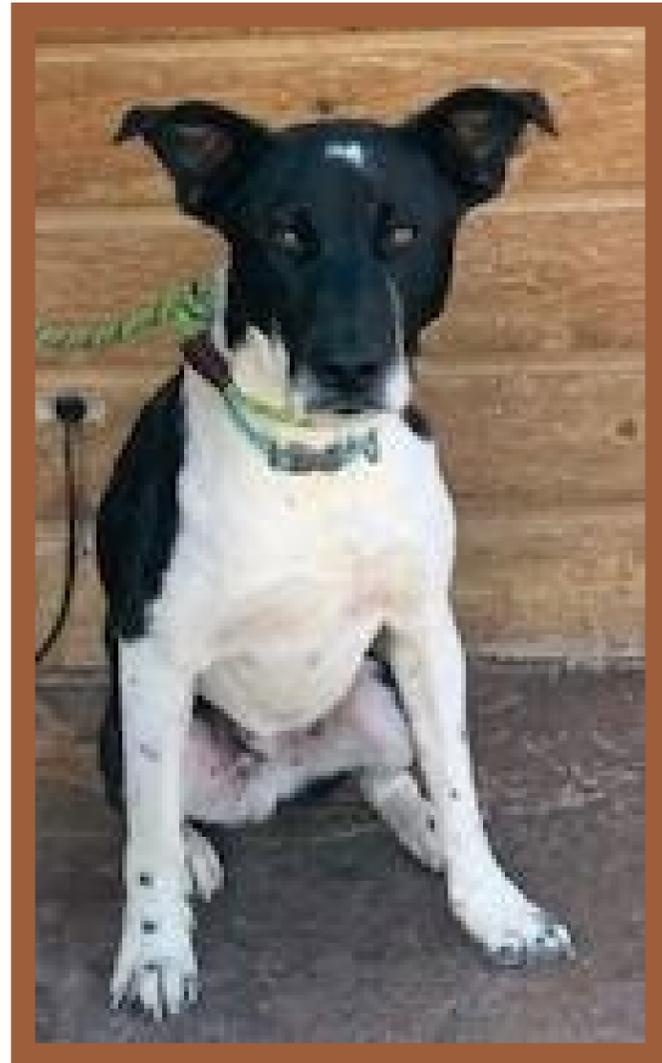
Teller County Regional Animal Shelter
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

SLVAWS

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



**SLVAWS
ADOPTION FAIR**
Every Saturday 10am-4pm
at the Petco in Colorado Springs
5020 N. Nevada



Ash

4 Year Old · Male/Neutered
Black/White Border Collie/Mix

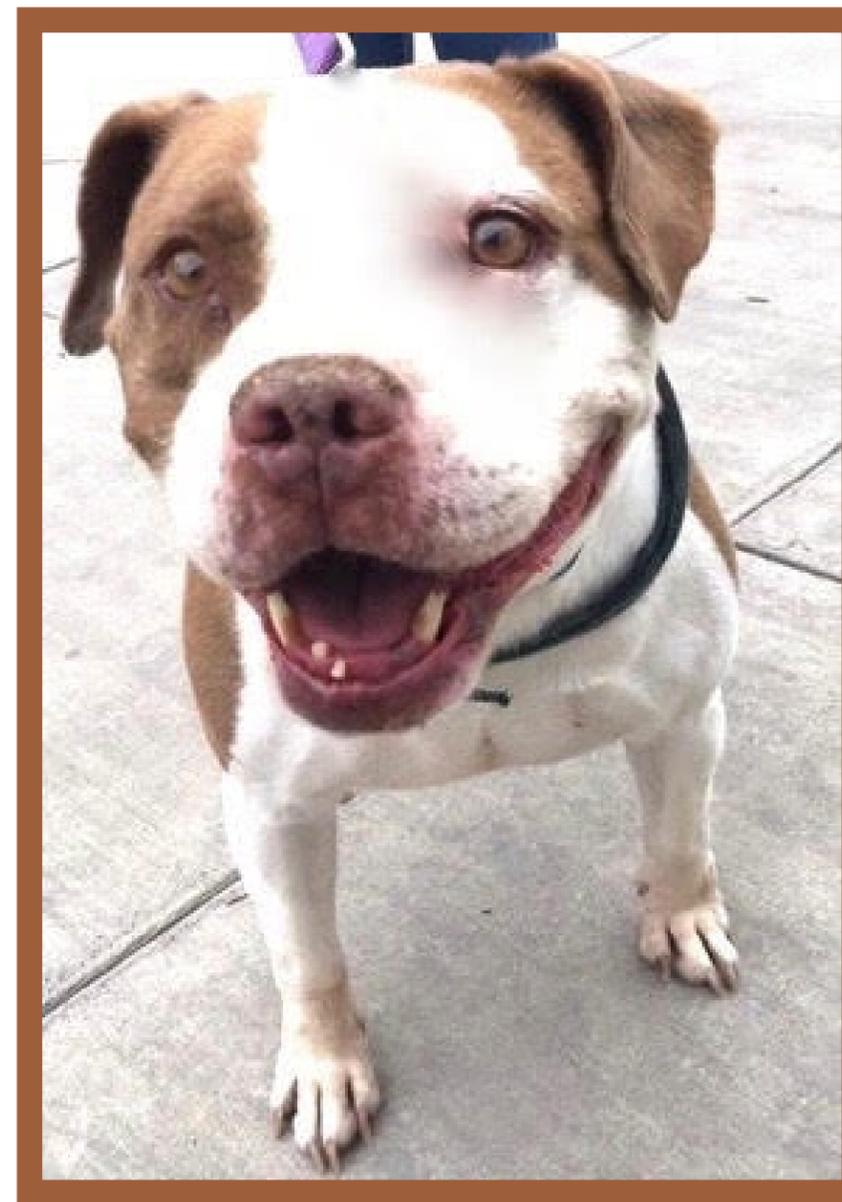
Say hello to Ash! This handsome boy is lots of fun. He loves to be outside, play with balls or rope toys, or take siestas in the sun. He's great at entertaining himself but would also love to go on walks or hikes with you. Please come by the shelter sometime to say hi to this awesome guy in person!



Stormi

2 Year Old · Female/Spayed
White/Brown Domestic Shorthair/Mix

She is a polka dotted, stripe coat cat. Personality plus. She enjoys being petted to show off her slender built. Please come in to visit with this awesome cat.



Angel

This is Angel, the mini pit who lives up to her name. She is a love, about 8 years old, spayed, all vaccinations. Best as an only dog. Very mellow, very quiet. Just loves to hang out and be a couch potato and receive petting and love. Good with older children.

ANNUAL
THANKSGIVING DAY
TURKEY TOSS

Thursday, November 28th at 9-11am

Be a part of feeding our wolf, coyote, and fox families.

Watch them enjoy their turkey dinner.

(No turkeys will be alive or harmed with this event)

RSVP

719.687.9742

12 and older \$35

6-11 \$15

(pre-paid event)

Limited space available

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