

# FLORIDA LUPINE NEWS

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to Veterinarians,  
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and Animal Welfare  
& Control Agencies.*

## FLA 2001-3 Directors

Al Mitchell, President

Mayo Wetterberg

Thom Whaley

Jody Haynes

Kim Miles

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## Wolf Pack's Activities Like a Soap Opera

By Michael Milstein, *Billings Gazette* Wyoming Bureau

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WY

A natural drama unfolding among the wolves in the northeastern corner of Yellowstone National Park over the last month contains all the elements of even the most sensational soap opera.



**Gazette file photo** — Members of the Druid Peak wolf pack eat a carcass in this file photo. Yellowstone Park biologists suspect members of the pack recently killed the alpha female and began caring for her litter of pups.

There's a tyrannical matriarch, adultery, child-snatching, revenge, a coup d'etat — even murder.

And then, last week: a tragic car accident.

"The whole story of the Druid pack is developing into a very unique one — the kind of story we have never seen before and perhaps would only have a chance to see in a place like Yellowstone," said Yellowstone Park wolf biologist Doug Smith.

### Strange succession of events

Even biologists familiar with wolves' complex social structure and penchant for mate-swapping say they are amazed by the strange succession of events that has played out within the Druid Peak wolf pack and within viewing distance of visitors along Yellowstone's northeastern entrance road in May. The events suggest that the personalities and habits of individ-

ual wolves may influence a pack's fate as much as biological factors such as prey and habitat.

The Druid Peak pack was among the second group of wolves transplanted from Canada to Yellowstone in 1996 as part of the federal wolf recovery program. The pack got its name from the peak that towers over its home in the Lamar Valley.

Soon after the pack's release in Yellowstone, its wolves earned a reputation as a kind of roving gang of thugs because of their tendency to kill other wolves that strayed into their territory and even to make forays beyond their territory to strike at other packs.

At the same time, though, the pack grew popular among park visitors after taking up residence along the northeastern entrance road, where visitors could easily watch the wolves enter and leave their den, pursue elk and feed on kills.

It was a common sight to see No. 40, the pack's domineering alpha female, snapping at and forcing other wolves in the pack to the ground, reinforcing her control over the pack.

"She was a very aggressive, dominant wolf," Smith said. "She ruled with an iron fist, which is fine as long as you keep the upper hand."

But she may have been losing the upper hand.

Biologists first realized this spring that not only No. 40 but also two other female wolves in the pack — No. 42 and No. 106 — had bred with the pack's alpha male and given birth to litters of pups in their own dens. The dens were separated by a few miles.

It's common for more than one female in a wolf pack to produce a litter, especially in a place like Yellowstone where prey is plentiful and there's plenty of food to go around, said David Mech, a wolf biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division.

*(Continued on page 5)*



**Florida Lupine Association**  
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 please allow 2-3 weeks for a reply.*

## FLA Acknowledgements

Special thanks to those who provided donations or  
 contributed their services to FLA this quarter:

- ? **Bob & Barbara Speer-Skeoch** for their work and organization in setting up the meals for the FLA 2001 Rendezvous.
- ? **Dr. Tom Belcoure**, Director of the Alachua Department of Health and member of the Florida Rabies Compendium Committee, for his rabies presentation at the 2001 FLA Rendezvous.
- ? **Kim Miles** for her "Phenotyping" presentation at the 2001 FLA Rendezvous.
- ? **Vicki Achen and Juan Echagarrua** for their containment information and demonstration at the 2001 FLA Rendezvous.
- ? To all the wonderful people who donated and contributed to make the FLA 2001 Rendezvous Auction a success. There are too many names to name, but you know who you are. **THANK YOU!!!**
- ? To everyone who took pictures and sent them to the Editor for publication in the 2001 FLA Rendezvous insert that was sent out to all FLA members.
- ? And a very big thank you to the directors of the 1999-2001 term: **Al Mitchell**, President; **Beth Palmer**, Vice President & Secretary; **Mayo Wetterberg**, Treasurer; **Jody Haynes**, Webmaster; and **Kim Miles**, Editor. Thank you for a term well done and full of accomplishments! Hoorah!!

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**Mayo Wetterberg**  
**Thom Whaley**  
**Jody Haynes**  
**Kim Miles**

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**1/2 Page: \$20.00**                    **Full Page: \$50.00**

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### Deadlines for Submission:

**Spring NL: March 15**                      **Fall NL: Sept. 15**  
**Summer NL: June 15**                      **Winter NL: Dec. 15**

## From the 'Virtual' Desk of the Webmaster

By Jody Haynes

Well, I hate to admit that I have been pretty busy with work and various other things, and so I haven't had much time to spend on updating the FLA website. I have, however, added three new articles to our Wolfdog Publications page — including an update on rabies written by our illustrious President, Al Mitchell. I have also posted a few photos from this year's Rendezvous. If you have any additional photos that you would like to contribute for our website, please send them to me.

I'd like to take this opportunity to announce a possible future addition to the website. "Kazo's Korner: Ask Dr. Tom..." will be a quarterly column (hopefully) reprinted from a column with the same name that will (hopefully) appear in future issues of the *Florida Lupine News*. Dr. Tom Kazo — founder of the Hollywood, FL, based Wildlife Research Team, Inc. — has photographed and studied the behavior of wolves and numerous other wild dogs throughout the world for *National Geographic* magazine. He also studied wolves in the wild with David Mech, world-renowned wolf biologist!

Dr. Tom offered to answer your questions on wolf, wolfdog, or dog behavior in a column in our newsletter ... but for his column to be successful, you will need to send in behavior-related questions — to Kim Miles, Editor of *Florida Lupine News*, at [editor@floridalupine.org](mailto:editor@floridalupine.org).

Please visit us on the web today — at [www.floridalupine.org](http://www.floridalupine.org) — and encourage your friends, family, neighbors ... and anyone who will listen to do the same! And, as always, feel free to send your comments, criticisms, and suggestions involving the Florida Lupine website to me at [webmaster@floridalupine.org](mailto:webmaster@floridalupine.org).

Happy surfing!

## From the Desk of the President

By Alan Mitchell

To those of you who shared the Ocala 2001 experience, we had a super weekend! The weather cooperated and the KOA staff went out of their way to ensure that we had everything we could possibly need. They hovered around us, totally amazed at our furry friends, and made it very plain that they want to help us make next year's event truly remarkable. With so many dogs in one location, I was surprised that we did not have a howling fest. They were all on their best behavior. I express thanks to those who made presentations. The auction went very well, and the voting for 'best' in several categories was a blast. (We proudly display Pela's Biggest Paws and Biggest Head awards.)

Two relevant legislative issues in the State Legislature both died on the calendar. These were the proposed changes to the dangerous dog legislation and a local bill sponsored by the Ft. Lauderdale delegation regarding breed-specific legislation for Broward County. As these proposals resurface in subsequent sessions, education of public officials will be critical. The main thrust of FLA's charter is education. When local or state officials make decisions affecting animals, it is essential that they base these decisions on accurate information. The continued involvement of FLA members with public officials will help ensure the availability of this information.

The USDA decision to remove their revised definition of dog has left the wolfdog community devastated and in a state of shock. This news came shortly before we arrived in Ocala and was a topic of significant concern. Tom Belcoure's in-depth discussion of the rabies situation in Florida made it clear that our furry friends have not been a source of rabies in humans. However, with the recent USDA action, we are back to square one with regard to this issue. Our dogs will still be sacrificed if they bite or are bitten. I fully expect that this will cause many owners to withdraw from public view. I also anticipate that it will make it much more difficult for anyone to get a count of the number of wolfdogs in the state. We need to work through local veterinarians to gain support for a new push for rabies approval. Many of them do not support the current rules, but we need to encourage their efforts to push discussions with the AVMA, which was a significant player in the USDA's decision. Please talk to your veterinarian about the wolfdog/rabies controversy.

FLA has been approved for 501(c)(3) status and this moves us into a totally different arena of non-profit organizations and improves our 'credibility' as we will now be able to accept tax deductible donations from individuals and businesses.

As we end the Fiscal Year, we bid farewell to Beth Palmer from the Board. Beth was named Best Director by the Board in 2000. Through her exhaustive efforts, FLA was organized and incorporated properly. Hers was the voice of FLA to our members. She was also a significant voice with the Legislature and performed admirably as Vice President and Secretary. Beth is now focusing most of her energy on starting a business; however, she will continue as an active FLA member and will help in various projects. At the same time, we welcome Thom Whaley to the Board. We look forward to his leadership and drive as we begin the new Fiscal Year. Your Board has worked hard to bring FLA online. We are proud of our accomplishments to date. With the help of all members, we look forward to increased recognition for FLA in the coming year.

Al Mitchell, President

# From the Desk of the Treasurer

By Mayo Wetterberg

The FLA Annual Meeting and Rendezvous was a success, both from an organizational and a financial standpoint. As an organization, we met and signed up several new members and spent well deserved time re-acquainting ourselves with current members we had not seen since last year's Rendezvous. The weather cooperated, and despite some last minute speaker cancellations, we were treated to some excellent presentations. We held the Annual Meeting to elect Directors for the next two years and met our goals for the Rendezvous.

At the past two gatherings, we used the auction as a fun time and a chance to bring out some interesting wolf-related items, while also raising money for FLA. This year, the auction was once again a success, bringing in \$538.75. We even managed to auction off a piece of prime Florida timber (about two feet of it anyway) for nearly \$25.00! (Thank you, Lilly!) I can't wait to see next year's auction items!! And after all the expenses were paid out (food and purchase of various auction items) and donations were added in, the Rendezvous netted \$478.06. Thank you to all those who worked to put the Rendezvous together, the many of you who donated items to be auctioned and, of course, all those who attended to make it a success.

I would also like to recognize the gracious host staff at the KOA campgrounds in Ocala. We received a special rate for the cabins and camping spots, and a warm welcome at check-in. The staff were all interested in our wolfdogs and constantly asked if we needed anything to make our stay more enjoyable. In return, we had some super representatives of companion animals that again left them impressed. We have had two gatherings there and have an invitation to return any time we wish. (For any who travel with wolfdogs, this is an excellent, dog-friendly place to stop.)

On a more personal note, I would like to thank Tom Lacey for spending part of his afternoon with us on Saturday during the presentations. Tom's wife recently passed away, and as a tribute to her love of wolfdogs, he became a donor to FLA. He stopped by for a short visit and also made another donation. Thank you, Tom!

We have already begun working on next year's Rendezvous and hope to have the details out in the winter newsletter so you will have much more time to plan for next year's event. If anyone has suggestions or ideas, feel free to contact any one of the Directors. Our goal is to create the best event possible for you, the members of FLA.

# From the Desk of the Secretary

By Kim Miles (Interim Secretary)

At this year's Annual Meeting and Rendezvous, nominations to the Board of Directors (BOD) for the 2001-2003 term were held. As only five people were nominated to the five Director positions, an election was unnecessary. The nominees assume their new positions with the new Fiscal Year, which begins July 1. The new BOD are: Al Mitchell, Mayo Wetterberg, Jody Haynes, Kim Miles, and Thom Whaley. All, with the exception of Thom, are previous Directors.

Beth Palmer, FLA's former Secretary and Vice-President, will be missed, but since she is trying to start a new business, we can understand her time constraints. While she will not be as active as she has been, we are thankful that she will still be a functional and participating member in FLA.

When those elected to the new BOD assume their positions, they will then officially determine who will be best suited for which office. As most on the BOD have found their niches, there should be very little to change within the Board. The only change we will likely make will be the Secretary position. Since these duties have become quite extensive, we may split some of the duties across the Board.

During the transition of secretarial duties, we hope to achieve the following: (1) a new and updated database of members and Animal Control agencies that is accessible to the entire BOD; (2) a finalized version of the various City Animal Control and Shelter database; (3) copies of updated pamphlets, brochures, and information packets that are available to all Directors for their distribution; and (4) FLA 2002 magnetic calendars that will be included in all new and returning membership mail-outs. While this does not fall under the realm of secretarial duties, we are also looking into making FLA T-Shirts. If you can help in this endeavor, FLA would appreciate your input.

FLA offers the following special info packets: (1) safe containment for wolfdogs, (2) being a responsible breeder, (3) finding an ethical breeder, (4) breed-specific legislation information, and (5) sample puppy sales contracts with spay/neuter clauses. These packets are free. Contact FLA at 305-278-7022 or at info@floridalupine.org if you know of anyone interested in an info packet.

**FLORIDA LUPINE ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
5810-400 N. Monroe Street PMB-122, Tallahassee, FL 32303

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Membership _____	Renew Membership _____	Date _____
Individual* (FL Residents) _____ \$25	Individual Affiliate (out of state) _____ \$15	
Family* (FL Residents) _____ \$35	Family Affiliate (out of state) _____ \$20	
Junior Membership _____ \$10	Business Affiliate (out of state) _____ \$40	
Business Membership _____ \$50	Donation Only (no membership) \$ _____	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*These are the only voting categories.

*("Wolf Pack's" Continued from page 1)*

But it is somewhat unusual for an alpha female as tyrannical as No. 40 to allow other wolves in her pack to raise litters of pups that might ultimately compete with hers.

Indeed, biologists suspect that No. 40 last year attacked No. 42, raided 42's own den and killed her litter of pups.

"After 42 got beat up, she quit being faithful to her den site" – as she would if her pups had been killed by No. 40, Smith said.

No. 40 was last seen one night early this month headed in the direction of No. 42's den, tended by 42 and two other female wolves.

When biologists next saw No. 40, she was badly injured, apparently beaten and battered by other wolves. She died soon afterwards from a ruptured jugular vein sustained in the attack.

"They didn't just kill her, they mutilated her," Smith said. "I could bury my finger up to the knuckle in the wound."

Tracking records show that no radio-collared wolves from other packs were in the area when 40 was attacked.

"Our best hypothesis is that she was going after 42's den, and 42 and at least one of the other wolves jumped her," Smith said. "They had had it with her and at the first sign of weakness they let her have it."

Up-and-coming wolves often test the leadership of their pack's alpha male and female and sometimes even overthrow the alphas, but usually let the alphas remain in the pack as a subordinate member. An unseated alpha wolf may also simply leave the pack.

Smith does not know of any other recorded case in which a wolf pack has killed its own alpha female in the kind of fatal coup d'etat the Druids carried out against their leader.

But that's not all.

In the days after No. 40's death, visitors saw an astonishing spectacle: No. 42 and No. 106 carrying their pups, one by one, to join the pups of the alpha wolf that had just been killed. The wolves of the Druid Peak pack are now apparently all caring for three litters in No. 40's original den.

Biologists don't know how many pups may be in the den, but No. 40's

carcass had 10 placental scars, suggesting that she gave birth to 10 pups this spring. If the typical five or six of those pups survived the first few weeks and Nos. 42 and 106 each carried at least a few of their own pups to the den, "there could be 10 to 12 pups or even more in there," Smith said.

If the other wolves have adopted 40's pups as it appears they have, it would be a remarkable show of compassion for the offspring of a matriarch that had once made their lives miserable.

"Losing 40 is a key blow, but when you look at the pack, you can't say it has had a real negative effect," he said. "In many ways it seems to have reunified a pack that previously had been held together by force."

There are no other accounts in the scientific literature of a wolf pack killing its own alpha female and then caring for her litter.

"This is by far the most complicated case anyone's ever heard of," Smith said.

On the heels of that development, another blow shook the Druid pack last week: a subordinate male wolf was struck and killed by a car late at night along the north-eastern entrance road. Although the wolf was still too young to be an important player in the pack, he could eventually have taken on a leading role in a pack that remains dominated by female wolves,

Smith said.

"The Druid pack, despite their reputation, has not had an easy time," he said. "They are known as a strong, aggressive pack. Now, we'll find out if they stay together without that force that No. 40 exerted on the rest of them."

*Reprinted with the permission of The Billings Gazette, located online at <http://www.billingsgazette.com>. For more information on the Druid Peak Pack or the wolves of Yellowstone Park, go to <http://www.forwolves.org/ralph/wolfrpt.html>.*



The above article was written May 2000. The following is an update on the Druid Peak pack:

*No. 42F is still the undisputed alpha female of the pack, while No. 106F is the beta female. The pack now totals over 30 wolves, nearing 40 by some accounts, including the 7-9 pups born this Spring. Biologists question whether the pack will split due to its size; however, because food is plentiful and the pack appears content to remain together, such a split hasn't occurred yet. This may not be the case through the lean summer months, however. Currently, the primary den site remains the Druid Peak den that No. 40 dominated, and though the wolves of the Druid Peak pack might foray out of the Lamar Valley, they inevitably return.*

**—Excerpt from Ralph Maughan's "Watching the Druids and more...a Grand Time in Yellowstone" July 5, 2001 update**

I recently had an excellent wolf observation trip to Yellowstone, where I saw, along with many other folks, terrific wolf action....

Just as the sun was rising on June 30, I spotted a black yearling from the Druids walking alongside the hill that runs from near the Soda Butte Cone and ends at Round Prairie.... It was mildly interesting to watch until the wolf reached a patch of sagebrush and suddenly flushed a large dark brown creature. I soon saw that it was a small grizzly bear, perhaps just having been driven off by its mother. The wolf and the bear followed each other around in circles for about 10 minutes with the high point [being] when they came almost nose-to-nose (well, maybe two-three feet apart). The interaction seemed playful.

A few minutes later I drove to Round Prairie, where many vehicles were pulled onto the shoulder. The core of the Druid Pack was on the meadow, where they had killed a bull elk the previous night.... Many people wonder how or why wolves would kill a bull elk in June, when presumably bulls are almost invincible, but Dr. Doug Smith of the Yellowstone wolf team told me they examined the bull's carcass and found that the elk had some arthritis, which might

explain why it was so low when most elk have moved to higher elevations. He also said that almost every elk left in the Lamar tends to get a very close look by the wolves, who will soon likely leave the area to follow the elk up to summer pastures.

Late that afternoon, an adult grizzly claimed the elk carcass and was seen by hundreds of people as it fed on the carcass, which lay in Soda Butte Creek. More surprisingly, soon a lone gray wolf approached the bear and the carcass and cautiously began to feed alongside the bear. The grizzly was not pleased and ... chased the wolf (Druid 106F) several times, but each time she came back, and after about a half hour the bear was chewing on one end of the elk in the creek and allowing 106F the other. Smith said the wolf's persistence in the face of grizzly's chases was unusual.

The next morning I was fortunate to see five of the Druid puppies playing on a hillside meadow on Druid Peak. I was told seven pups in all were observed that morning. As mentioned, the Druids will probably soon leave the browning and increasingly hot Lamar Valley. They have already made long trips up the Lamar River, where Smith said he saw hundreds of elk in the headwaters near the Mirror Plateau.

<http://www.forwolves.org/ralph/druid-watching.htm>

# Prevention of Small-Animal Poisonings

## ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

### General Information

Our pets are marvelous beings. We provide food, attention, training, medical care and love. In exchange, they offer companionship, protection, enjoyment and their own love for us.

For all that they have to offer, though, they must rely on us for protection from harm. We need to look at our homes through the eyes of our pets, seeking out "toys" and "entertainments" that may be harmful for them.

Dogs and cats of all ages, and especially kittens and puppies, explore with their mouths. Dogs like to mouth and chew things. Cats may start to taste something and be unable to spit it out because of their rough tongues. Both may simply "dive in" when they see us doing something new or unfamiliar. These behaviors often land them in trouble. But we can do a lot to improve the odds.

Always be prepared. Your animal may become poisoned in spite of your best efforts to prevent it. You should keep telephone numbers for your veterinarian, a local emergency veterinary service, and the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-4 ANI-HELP) in a convenient location. If you suspect that your pet has ingested something poisonous, seek medical attention immediately.

### Indoor Hazards

Our homes can contain a wide variety of potentially harmful compounds. The following is not a complete list, but indicates some of the most common problems.

#### Foods to Avoid

- ? Onions, onion powder
- ? Chocolate (milk, dark, baker's, and semi-sweet chocolate)
- ? Alcoholic beverages
- ? Yeast dough
- ? Coffee (grounds, beans, chocolate covered espresso beans)

- ? Tea (caffeine)
- ? Salt
- ? Macadamia nuts
- ? Hops (used in home beer brewing)
- ? Tomato leaves and stems (green parts)
- ? Potato leaves and stems (green parts)
- ? Rhubarb leaves
- ? Avocados (toxic to birds, mice, rabbits, horses, cattle, and dairy goats)
- ? Moldy foods

### Medications

Because they are so much smaller than we are, our companion animals need to be kept away from all medications. Cats, in particular, have a body chemistry quite different from ours in several important ways. Do not give any of your medications to a pet. That includes over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, ibuprofen, cough or cold medicines and decongestants. Do not give your dog's medicine to your cat or ferret.

Be careful where you take your own medications. Make sure a pill does not drop within reach of a playful paw or quick, slurping tongue. Do not put your medications out on a table or counter to take later. They may not be there when later arrives.

Store medications for all family members and pets in high cabinets, out of reach. With their curiosity and strong teeth, dogs can crack open a pill bottle and swallow the entire contents in a very short time.

Even if a medicine prescribed for your pet, too large a dose could cause problems.

Medications that come in tubes may also pose a large risk. Most pets have sharp teeth and can chew into a tube within seconds. Creams and ointments that may be quite safe when applied to the skin can cause serious problems when eaten.

Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, anti-depressants, vitamins and diet pills are all examples of human medications that can be lethal to animals, even in small doses.

### Plants

Some house plants can be quite harmful if ingested by an animal. The ingestion of azalea, oleander, castor bean, sago palm, Easter lily or yew plant material by an animal can be fatal. Chewing on some plants may result in severe irritation to the mouth and throat. Others, while not quite so deadly, may cause a severe intestinal upset.

You should know the names of all your plants, and keep any potentially toxic plants out of areas accessible to your animal companions. A good visual reference guide can be found at the University of Illinois Toxicology homepage (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/vex/toxic/comlist.htm>).

### Flea Control Products & Insecticides

For many pets, fleas are a problem that make life miserable. When you treat a house to kill fleas or other insects, read the product label and follow all directions carefully. This is particularly important if a flea control product is to be applied directly to the pet. Before buying a flea product, consult your veterinarian, especially when treating sick, debilitated or pregnant pets. If you put out ant or roach baits, make sure they are in a spot inaccessible to your pet. Keep track of the baits and remove and dispose of them properly when they are no longer needed. Record on a calendar the date the bait was put out and the name of the bait used. This will be needed if your dog eats an entire bait container or if there was no label on the container and you need to tell the Center veterinarian what your pet ingested.

### Mouse and Rat Poisons

If you put out mouse or rat baits, make sure they are in a spot that your pet cannot reach. Keep track of the baits and remove and dispose of them when they are no longer needed. Record on a calendar the date the bait was put out and the name of the bait used. This will be needed if your dog eats an entire bait con-

tainer or if there was no label on the container and you need to tell the Center veterinarian what your pet ingested.

### **Household Chemicals**

Many household chemicals can be harmful if consumed by a companion animal. Most cleansing materials can cause stomach upset and vomiting if they are eaten. Dishwasher detergent can produce burns in the mouth. When using household chemicals, special care should be taken to make sure your pets cannot get into them. This may mean keeping your pet out of the room where you are using such materials. Common household items that can be lethal to an animal are mothballs, potpourri oils, coffee grounds, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent, batteries, cigarettes, and alcoholic drinks.

### **Outdoor Hazards**

#### **Outdoor Plants**

Outdoor plants can also be quite hazardous to your pets. Many plants, such as oleander, azalea, rhododendrons and Japanese yew, can affect the heart rhythm, possibly even causing it to stop. Some plants can cause considerable stomach upset with vomiting or diarrhea. Others can produce mental disturbances or confusion.

#### **Gardening & Lawn Care Supplies**

Please do not use garden or lawn care chemicals in the presence of your pet. For your own and your animal's safety, read and follow label directions carefully. Your pets should be kept off of a lawn treated with an insecticide or a weed killer at least until the lawn is completely dry. Your pet must be kept out of an area where snail or slug bait has been applied. Always store such products in areas that are inaccessible to your companion animals. Contact the manufacturer for information concerning product usage around your pets.

#### **Automobile Care Supplies**

Like indoor cleaners, car-cleaning compounds can cause stomach upset and

vomiting. Some car-cleaning agents are stronger than those used indoors. Car-cleaning products should be kept away from your pet, who will be safer if he or she is not allowed to "help" you clean your automobile.

Antifreeze and windshield washer fluid can be harmful to your pet. Your pet should not be allowed to drink water from a car radiator. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than one tablespoon can be deadly to a 10-pound dog. Safer antifreeze products are now available and should be used.

#### **Miscellaneous Chemicals**

While performing construction, remodeling or repair work, keep pets out of the area until all equipment and materials have been put away. Keep pets away from fresh paint, varnish, or stains until

these finishes have dried completely. If a pet comes in contact with paint or other finishes, DO NOT use paint thinners or paint removers to clean the animal. Contact the Center or your local veterinarian for removal instructions.

*Reprinted as a courtesy and with permission from the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, which is dedicated to providing the most medically useful veterinary poison and drug information possible. For more information on poisons and your canine, you may contact them at 888-426-4435 (<http://www.apcc.aspc.org/smalanml.htm>) or you may contact the National Animal Poison Control Center at 800-548-2423 or 900-680-0000 (<http://www.vetinfo.com/dtoxin.html> or <http://www.vetinfo.com/dogindex.html>).*

**Top 10 Reasons to Breed Wolfdogs:**

10. Thought the house was too neat.
9. If you can train one, why not train ten.
8. Wanted my vet to buy a new BMW.
7. Never did like a full night's sleep.
6. Neighbors didn't complain enough.
5. Wanted an excuse to buy new furniture.
4. Love the sound of puppies in the morning, noon, afternoon, evening, midnight, pre-dawn...
3. Garden and backyard needed renovating & didn't want to hire a gardener.
2. Kids weren't enough of a challenge.
1. Wanted to see if spouse took those vows seriously.

If you wish to breed wolfdogs, please go to <http://floridalupine.org/breedingissues.htm>.  
If you breed, do so responsibly!!

# Hurricane Season is Here Once Again

By Kim Miles

Have you made provisions for your pets in the event of a hurricane? Advance planning is essential to the welfare of you and your pets.

Do you live in an area that mandates evacuation? Emergency shelters do not allow pets for public health and safety reasons; in addition, Animal Control facilities do not board pets.

However, there are other alternatives, but pet owners must seek out the alternatives prior to the storm's approach.

Some hotels will accept pet owners and their pets during a hurricane emergency. Call to determine which ones accept pets and if they have a limit on the size and number of pets.

Some veterinarians have boarding facilities. Call yours to see if he or she offers this option. If so, find out who stays on the premises with the animals

during the storm and what provisions are made if they need to evacuate the building.

If your veterinarian does not have provisions for boarding animals during the storm, ask for referrals.

If you locate a private boarding facility that will provide your pet with refuge, call it early because many pet owners may have the same plans to board their animals, and the kennel may fill up quickly.

If you plan to leave your pet home while seeking safety elsewhere, do NOT leave your animal outside, exposed to the elements.

Bring your pets inside and place them in a safe room away from windows (e.g., a garage or interior room); leave plenty of dry food and water in non-spill containers; and make sure that ID tags are on all of your cats and dogs.

If you can stay or elect to stay at home with your animals,

- ? purchase extra pet food (dry kibble);
- ? acquire bags, newspapers, etc., for sanitary waste disposal;
- ? prepare an area in the home for your animals to use for waste (e.g., a corner of the garage);
- ? have a complete First-Aid kit and any special medications handy;
- ? ensure that all animals are affixed with ID tags, complete with your phone number and address;
- ? ensure that all cats or dogs are current on their vaccinations, specifically rabies;
- ? have leashes, crates, and obedience aids handy; and
- ? fill bathtubs with plenty of water for you and your pets.

Remember, preparation before hurricanes can help to ensure the health, safety and well-being of your pets. Don't wait until the last minute. Also, remember to have collars on your animals with proper identification tags (with the owner's phone number and address) affixed. This will prevent a beloved pet from becoming permanently separated from its owners.

## Tribute to Rescuers

The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets, and cross the bridge together.

The young pup playfully nipped at the older one: "Look! Something wonderful is happening!" Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge.

The older dog stood up and barked, "Quickly—get over to the path."

"But that's not my owner," whined the pup, doing as he was told.

As the glowing figure passed the animals lining the pathway, each animal bowed its head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared.

The young pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered.

"No, son," the older dog replied. "That was a gift from God. That was a person who worked rescue."

## Interesting Legislation Alert

In Okaloosa County, Florida, the tethering of dogs or cats is banned outright. Sec. 528(d) addresses an animal's restraint and confinement to property: Dogs or cats shall not be chained, tied, fastened or otherwise tethered to dog houses, trees, fences or other stationary objects as a means of confinement to property.

Rather than focus on breed specific legislation, more communities are addressing the aggression issues surrounding chained animals. KUDOS!!



# Wild at heart? The issue of wolf-dog hybrids continues to fuel debate

By Wendy Victora, Northwest Florida Daily News Staff Writer

FREEPORT - They live in a pack, running through 11 acres behind the rural home.

One, a large white and gray animal, stops and puts back his head to howl for attention.

"Whaatttt?" owner Andre Raymond mock howls back.

All of these dogs are being raised like wolves. And most of them have some wolf blood in them, according to the Raymonds, who breed them for that purpose.

There's a market out there for wolf hybrids, known to many as wolfdogs. But not just anyone can take them home.

Two counties in Florida, Okaloosa and Orange, prohibit the ownership of wolfdogs within their boundaries.

The reason, officially, in Okaloosa County is that the rabies vaccine that works on dogs has not been approved for wolfdogs.

But Dee Thompson, executive director of the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society in Okaloosa County, pointed out that there are other concerns about these animals.

"They are a wild breed and they are a wild animal," she said. "You cannot train the wild out of them."

But not everyone agrees. There are people like Mayo Wetterberg, a Shalimar man, who believe that while you cannot "train the wild out of them," you can work to suppress their instincts.

He argues that since wolves and domesticated dogs are descended from the same ancestors, they are more alike than they are different. Genetically, they are nearly identical.

"I can't draw blood, send it to a lab and say, 'Tell me which one is wolf.' They can't do it," said Wetterberg.

Thompson refers to Wetterberg as the local wolf expert and calls him when a dog comes into the shelter that is suspected of being part wolf.

By examining the animal's appearance and behavior, he establishes what percentage of wolf they are likely to be.

It is an inexact science, he'd be the first to admit. Identifying a dog with very little "wolf content" is pretty easy. So is identifying a high content animal. In the middle range, it can be more difficult.

If he determines that an animal is part wolf, Thompson's staff will not return the

dog to its home.

Instead, Wetterberg helps her decide whether the animal would be a suitable companion in the right home. Then, he finds one outside of Okaloosa County.

It is not hard to find people willing to take on a wolfdog, Wetterberg said. But he also claims that most people who want to adopt a wolfdog do so for the wrong reasons.

"People get them for macho reasons, so they can tell their neighbors they have a wolf, which is the absolute worst reason to have them," he said.

When he is looking for homes for his rescue animals, he looks for people who have had past experience with wolfdogs or people with a lot of dog experience.

As a breed, wolfdogs have special requirements.

"They're escape artists," Wetterberg said. "They're extremely intelligent. They can jump a 6-foot fence without a problem," he added. "I've seen a couple of them dig a hole big enough to fit a 30-gallon tank in about 15 minutes."

They also require a great deal of companionship since the human owner, in effect, becomes part of the wolfdog's pack.

Even adult dogs may wet the floor when their owner approaches. This isn't disobedience, but rather evidence of the submissive behavior a wolf would demonstrate before a more dominant animal in the pack.

Wolfdog owners keep a low profile. They may even call their animals dogs, rather than wolfdogs, to save themselves and their animals from unwanted attention.

Wetterberg said even in counties where they are legal, animal control officers may have problems with wolfdogs.

That is because, he said, often their only experience with them is negative. They are called to deal with the animals that were turned loose after their owners couldn't handle them. Or they are sent in after the ones who have been chained up in the yard.

And everyone who works with wolfdogs agrees that that is not the way these animals should be raised.

"You want a mean dog?" asks Raymond, rhetorically, as he watches his pack lying in the shade. "Here's how you get a

mean dog. Put him on a 6-foot leash. Leave him there."

Out in Walton County where the Raymonds live, it is so rural that they have escaped any of the negative attention that might come in a more populated area.

But Thom Whaley, who also does wolfdog rescue, prefers to stay out of the spotlight. He loves his dogs and has a license to do what he does, but doesn't want his hometown published. [*Printed retraction: Thom Whaley is currently working on earning his license.*]

He jokingly calls himself the "Wolf Whisperer" for his ability to work with animals that won't let other people get close.

His first exposure to wolfdogs came five years ago, after he was diagnosed with cancer.

"I was going out with this girl who had one tied up in the back yard," he said. "When I got sick, she dumped me, but she gave me this dog. When I was sick, the dog was next to me the whole time," he added. "Bonded to me."

Now he owns seven and has another half-dozen rescue animals that he cares for.

"They are a very good bonding type of animal for the right person," he said. "They're not out to please you; they depend on you. Wolves and wolfdogs ... their social abilities are a lot stronger and better than ours," he said. "When they bond, they bond strongly."

*Reprinted with permission from the Northwest Florida Daily News in Ft. Walton Beach and located online at <http://nwfdailynews.com>. Staff Writer Wendy Victora can be reached at the Northwest Florida Daily News at 850-863-1111, Ext. 478 or via email at [wendyv@nwfdailynews.com](mailto:wendyv@nwfdailynews.com).*

**Note from the FLA Editor:** Wolfdogs are technically not a breed, and the "wild" reference may be somewhat misleading. For more information on the "wild/domestic" issue, please see an earlier article entitled "Of Wolves & Dogs: Dispelling the Myths" in the Fall 2000 issue of the *Florida Lupine News*.

## A Little 'Whiskey' Goes a Long Way

By Wayne and Candy Young

*This story is an old one that circulated via email many years ago; however, many of you may not have heard about it and although I recall when it happened, it still tugs at my heartstrings when reading it nearly five years later. It is a tribute to Whiskey, a wolfdog companion and hero. All too often we hear news stories of dogs and wolfdogs who have hurt or killed children. Here is the story of a child who owes her life to a wolfdog. This is the original story as written by Wayne and Candy Young when Whiskey was a year and a half old. —Kim Miles*

My wife and I have gone through a harrowing year. We bought a higher percentage wolfdog pup. Before we were even considered as a good prospect, we had to read several issues of *The Wolf Hybrid Times*, meet the parents of the pup, and answer what we considered numerous crazy questions.

We finally convinced the breeder that we were going to love, honor and compromise with this new addition to our family. In addition and at the breeder's request and insistence, we assured her that we would be in touch if we had any questions or problems.

During this first year of living with Whiskey, we went through many things together — toys, shoes, clothing, furniture and even fences. We were forced to re-evaluate our own feelings and the way that we dealt with problems.

We learned patience from our Whiskey and also learned that he is full of love, caring and understanding. We even made the numerous phone calls about problems that we were sure we would never have to make!!

Although we had been told that there were many things to

watch out for and that we would experience and learn, we didn't really believe it. Needless to say, the woman that we bought our Whiskey from was right. He became the child that we didn't have.... And then Candy became pregnant.

Whiskey was never far from Candy during her pregnancy. Many times I would find him sitting next to her with his head against her stomach.

In March, we became the proud parents of a baby girl. We brought Alexis home and introduced Whiskey and Alexis to each other. During those months of pregnancy, Whiskey must have become acquainted with Alexis, and I would imagine she with him.

From the first night that we were home, Whiskey began this miserable habit of waking us up many different times during the night. We were not allowed to just go back to sleep. Even though Alexis was quiet, we had to get up, walk over to the crib, pick up Alexis and say, "See, Whiskey, she is just fine." At that point, Whiskey would lay back down and go back to sleep.

After about a week of very little sleep, we made another one of the "numerous" phone calls to our breeder. She suggested that Whiskey might be trying to tell us something. What he was trying to tell us, no one could say, except that it centered around Alexis.

Great! In our opinion, this person was definitely a "bit crackers." So what could Whiskey be trying to tell us? He wasn't just bothering us a time or two each night. He was continually waking either Candy or me to get us to check on Alexis.

One day when Alexis was about two and one-half weeks old, Whiskey again pestered us to check on her. Grumbling, complaining and dragging our feet, we went over to check on Alexis for him.

ALEXIS WAS NOT BREATHING!!! We immediately panicked, calling the doctor and racing her to the hospital.

Alexis spent several days at the hospital undergoing numerous tests. Candy or I come dragging home to be greeted by a very concerned Whiskey. He would sniff us all over and search for Alexis.

We explained to Whiskey that she was in the hospital. How does one explain this to an animal? Whiskey would shuffle off dejectedly and lie down by Alexis's crib. He no longer wanted to play and seemed to be as worried as we were.

Alexis was finally diagnosed as having the symptoms which lead to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). If she had died during one of the numerous times that Whiskey had nagged us into checking on her while she slept, the doctors would have pronounced that SIDS was the cause of death.

We brought Alexis home two days after that, along with her medication and all the mechanical contraptions — the bells and whistles that we had to hook her up to, which would alert us when or if she quit breathing again.

Whiskey was overjoyed to have his family back home — especially to have "his" (and he does consider Alexis as his) little baby girl back home. He wasn't too sure about the bells and whistles, so we went through the explanation of what we were doing, and why, so that he would, hopefully, understand. Whiskey has yet to wake us up in the middle of the night anymore.

We believe that if Whiskey had not been so alert to Alexis's manner of breathing, or lack thereof, she would no longer be with us.

We felt that with the controversial issue of owning a wolfdog and

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

with individuals along with the media constantly downgrading them, we should share our story. We won't say that all wolfdogs are like Whiskey; maybe he is unique.

We still don't totally trust him alone with Alexis; however, we would never consider getting rid of him either. He has become a valued member of the family and you can bet that we sure as heck listen and pay more attention to him when he starts "talking" to us.

What do we honestly think of this whole situation?

**THANK GOD THAT  
WHISKEY CAME TO LIVE  
WITH US!!!**

## Update on Whiskey

**May 4, 1990 — October 6, 1996**

**By Cheryl Grenier**

*May he rest in peace and be waiting over the Rainbow Bridge with the rest of the Angel Pack in heaven.*

It is with great sadness and tears streaming down my face that I write this story. Six-year-old Whiskey died Sunday night, October 6, 1996. In the cold rain on Monday, here in Virginia, Wayne Young buried his friend.

Whiskey had been shot in his left side and had crawled up onto the front porch to wait for Wayne to arrive home from his night job. It was there that Wayne found him. Someone had shot Whiskey with a 22-caliber rifle.

Over five years ago, Whiskey

was instrumental in saving Wayne's infant daughter, Alexis. Whiskey was the one who noticed that Alexis was having problems breathing. Whiskey would go to the parents at whatever time of the day or night and MAKE them check on Alexis.

I was the breeder and it was I who had received the phone calls from Wayne asking my opinion as to what Whiskey was trying to tell them about Alexis. My response was that he was definitely trying to tell them something and that they needed to be alert and to keep a close watch.

Four days later, I received the call from Wayne telling me that they found that Alexis was taken to the hospital and that she had SIDS.

Whiskey had awakened them again in the wee hours the night before; that was when Wayne and Candy had found Alexis not breathing. When Alexis came home from the hospital with the heart monitor and alarms, it was still Whiskey that alerted them before the alarms went off. Whiskey is now gone, and Alexis made it through her infancy BECAUSE of Whiskey's love for her! Whiskey will be missed by that little family.

## WOLF FACTOIDS

1. There are two species of wolf in North America: the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and the Red Wolf (*Canis rufus*).
2. Arctic, timber and tundra wolves are all Gray Wolves.
3. Adult wolves can range in color from black to white to reddish brown and everything in between.
4. All wolves are born dark—even the arctic wolves.
5. Wolf pups are born only in the Spring—usually in April or May—and the average litter size is four to seven puppies.
6. Wolf puppies are never referred to as 'cubs.'
7. Wolves generally do not mate for life.
8. The "alpha" wolf is the highest ranking wolf in the pack; there is an alpha male and an alpha female in all wolf packs.
9. Male alphas usually dominate over males and female alphas usually dominate over females.
10. The "beta" wolf is the second highest ranking wolf in the pack.

**SEE  
SPOT IN A CAR.**

**SEE  
THE WINDOWS ROLLED UP.**

**SEE  
SPOT PLAY DEAD.**



On a warm day, the temperature in your car can reach 120° in two minutes even with the windows partially rolled open. Leaving your pet unattended inside can be a deadly mistake.

**SO DON'T.**

If you see an animal alone in a parked vehicle, contact your local Animal Shelter immediately.

# Wolves Find Haven in Collier County

## Shy Wolf Facility Cares for 25 Critters, Including Big Cats

By Mary Wozniak, *news-press.com*

GOLDEN GATE — Nancy Smith walked quietly into the pen of Ti-yowan, a female gray wolf.

Tiyowan walked just as quietly up to Smith, sniffed her, and licked her face. The wolf's name means "the silence within."

Then Smith crouched down, and the wolf sidled up and rubbed her thick, wiry fur against Smith, much as cat rubs against her owner.

But Tiyowan's strength is such that even her gentle greeting can knock her human caregiver off balance.

Female gray wolves grow to be about 90 pounds, and males are about 120 pounds.

Smith has seven purebred gray wolves at Shy Wolf Sanctuary, Education and Experience Center Inc.

The facility has 25 animals that are mostly from zoos that were closing and could no longer care for them or from pet owners who no longer wanted them.

Being lucky enough to do anything more than glimpse and photograph wolves, reintroduced six years ago into Yellowstone National Park, has always been unlikely.

At the sanctuary, the wolves and other animals can not only be photographed, they can be touched and petted by humans.

The private, nonprofit corporation opened eight years ago as a private venture funded solely by Nancy Smith and her husband, Kent, of Golden Gate Estates.

After volunteering at another sanctuary, Nancy decided to open her own.

She also works full time in the office of a

Naples oncologist. Her husband is the senior captain on a fishing boat charter that runs out of Tin City.

Nancy obtained the proper licenses from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture to house the animals.

Smith's first adoptee was a black Asian leopard born in 1993 named Moondance. As a youngster, Moondance had one of his legs bitten off in an accident at another animal facility.

Smith took him in.

The next year Moondance was joined by a litter of six purebred wolf pups from a zoo that was closing in northern Florida.

These eventually were joined by two more purebred wolves, including a red wolf; five wolf-dog hybrids; two coyotes; two prairie dogs; two sugar gliders, which are tiny marsupials; one cougar and three hybrids that are partially descended from cougars and Florida panthers; one leopard-jaguar mix; and one gopher tortoise.

The wolves are all in areas surrounded by a network of tall electrified fences. The big cats are in large wire cages partially covered with a growth of wild grapes.

Until January 2001, Smith and her husband paid to house and feed the animals themselves, with the



TERRY ALLEN WILLIAMS / The News-Press

help of an occasional donation. A handful of volunteers helped them care for the animals

Total care cost: about \$15,000 per year.

In January, Smith incorporated as the nonprofit Shy Wolf Sanctuary, with herself as president and volunteer Michael Kloman, a Naples electrician, named as director. She did so to enable the sanctuary to accept donations for the care and feeding of the animals.

People may visit the sanctuary free of charge, as long as they call and make an appointment beforehand.

Kloman came on board after reading a story about Smith and her wolves in the Golden Gate community newspaper in November 1999.

"I called her up and I've been here every day since," he said.

Kloman also adopted a white wolf-dog hybrid, Nakipa, who had been brought to Smith after having three owners within six months.

"They're not good pets to have in the house," Smith said of the hybrid animals.

"They're so intelligent, they have to be busy all the time. They're diggers. They're always chewing,

(Continued on page 13)



TERRY ALLEN WILLIAMS / The News-Press

destroying stuff."

People shouldn't expect them to be like dogs, Smith said. "I just love them and I appreciate what they are and I don't want to change them."

That's why Smith has all the animals outside, the wolves in pens with at least two per pen and one large area with what they call "the pack of four." There they can romp and dig in the ground and play with one another. The 2-and-a-half-acre sanctuary has lots of vegetation and trees.

Volunteer Deanna Deppen of Naples became entranced with the animals after running into Kloman and Nakipa at a Pet Supermarket store and visiting the sanctuary.

"I was amazed," she said. "They had just gotten the coyotes."

The coyotes came from South Carolina, where they had been owned illegally by a woman and were taken away from her. They were about to be sent to a laboratory to be used for experimentation, Smith said.



TERRY ALLEN WILLIAMS / The News-Press

After they arrived, the female, Samantha, had to have one eye removed. The male, Wile E., had cataracts and eye ulcers, all the result of inbreeding, Smith said.

Deppen made it her task to socialize the fearful animals. She sat and talked to them soothingly and made them treats. Now they respond to her touch.

The animals were all raised by humans from tiny pups and cubs, Smith said. She has taken some of the wolves and cougars to schools and other organizations for educational programs.

Smith cares for the animals because she loves them and it needs to

be done, she said.

"I think that people are so busy with everyday lives and trying to keep a roof over their heads that empathy passes them by," she said.

Kloman chimed in. "I do it because they deserve it. This is not what they chose. They deserve the best we can possibly give them."

Smith said that if one person understands and takes the time to be kind because of their efforts, "then it will all have been worth it."

*Reprinted with the permission of newspress.com, located online at <http://newspress.com> and covering Southwest Florida. Staff writer Mary Wozniak can be reached at [mwozniak@newspress.com](mailto:mwozniak@newspress.com).*

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

The *Florida Lupine News* is very happy to announce the addition of a new column to future issues entitled "Kazo's Korner: Ask Dr. Tom..."

It will be hosted by Dr. Tom Kazo, wildlife behaviorist specializing in canids and bears and former photographer for the *National Geographic*. Dr. Tom has had columns in numerous magazines and has agreed to host a Q&A section in our newsletter.

To be successful, we need your input, so please contact the Florida Lupine editor with any questions you have regarding wolf, wolfdog or dog behavior. You may send an email to [editor@floridalupine.org](mailto:editor@floridalupine.org) or call 305-278-7022.

All inquiries received before the submission deadline (please see the "Advertisement Info" on page 2) will be answered in the next newsletter.

# Summer Heat Fries Dogs' Feet

It's summertime in Florida, and all but the hardiest of snowbirds have already made their retreat northward. Hot tropical breezes ooze with moisture as afternoon thunderstorms disrupt the typically calm, sultry days. Meteorologists diligently keep a watchful eye on warm waters, tracking tropical waves, depressions, storms, as well as the occasional hurricane.

We are often warned about leaving dogs (or any other pets) in a car during this hot weather, but there is another danger that may not be quite so apparent to us. When the air temperature reaches 100 degrees, the surface temperature of asphalt in a street or parking lot can be over 150 degrees! This can give a dog (or cat or person) second degree burns on their feet in as little as 10 minutes of walk-

DO NOT FORWARD  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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5810-400 N. Monroe Street PMB-122  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
Support Responsible Canine Ownership & Education!

