



Full Moon Farm

Newsletter

Fall 2006

Sanctuary for a Sanctuary: Full Moon Farm's Newest Challenge

We had space for sixty wolves and wolfdogs. We were over-full with sixty-six. Nancy had been saying "No, we can't, we're over-full" at every turn, every day, and when "no" means a dead animal, one does not say it lightly.

But then another local wolfdog "sanctuary," Shadow's Den, was evicted by their landlords. Twenty-four wolfdogs were facing death. It was all over the local media. Animal Control and county officials were involved. Nancy was contacted, and it became clear that Full Moon Farm was the only option.

If you run an animal sanctuary and you want to continue running with the blessings of the locals and law enforcement, you need to stay in the favor of the media, Animal Control, and government officials, especially if your sanctuary is for a species or breed that is considered "exotic" and often has legal restrictions placed against it. Saying "no" this time would have negative repercussions for a long time to come. "Full Moon Farm? Isn't that the place that wouldn't help when that other sanctuary was shut down?"

But *twenty-four* more wolfdogs!? That would bring our total to *ninety*. Over the past year, we had finally upgraded most of our enclosures to sanctuary-quality large habitats. We were about to get our first intern. Our volunteer base was finally getting bigger. Every animal under our protection was well cared for, well fed, and had optimal medical treatment. Our budget had finally developed a small amount of breathing room.

If we rescued the wolfdogs from Shadow's Den, we would have to put them all in small, temporary quarters and try desperately to find other sanctuaries to transfer as many as possible. Our animal caretaker, Tam, would be pushed to the limit providing care for them. Our budget would once again be tight and



Sky, a very sweet-natured wolfdog from Shadow's Den

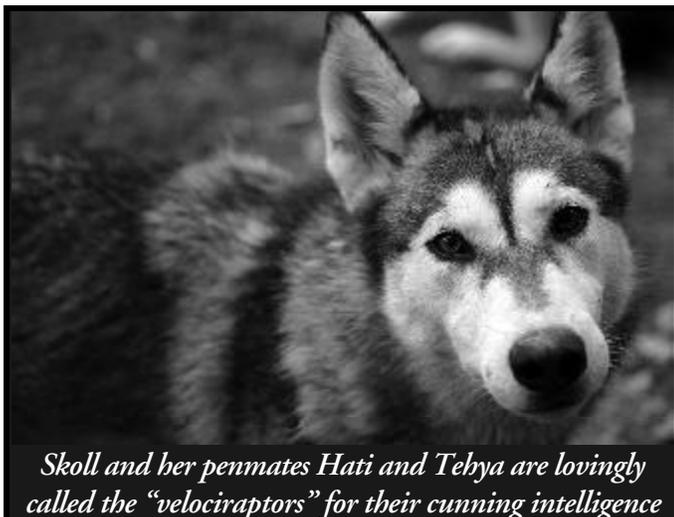
strained. The intern position would have to be pushed back because we would no longer be able to buy the trailer for lodging.

When Tam and Nancy went to assess the situation at the other sanctuary, however, they quickly realized that *anything* we could give those wolfdogs would be paradise compared to how they were living. Nancy agreed to take them.

Most of the animals had been kept in one long pen with a fence separating the males from the females. Wolfdogs usually do *not* get along very well in captivity, especially in smaller pens, so packs are rarely a good idea. Several bore scars from all of the fights they had been in. One had suffered half of her face torn off by another, and it healed badly, giving one side of her face a bad scar and a strange tumor-like bump. Many of them showed signs of psychological and social problems.

The wolfdogs were all very malnourished and thin. They were usually fed only once a week when their caretakers would bring a bag of kibble out to their pen and let them fight over it. The lower-ranking dogs in the pack structure hardly got anything to eat at all. Additionally, wolfdogs need a very high-protein diet, supplemented

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Skoll and her penmates Hati and Tehya are lovingly called the "velociraptors" for their cunning intelligence

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with meat, but these dogs were fed only the lowest-quality kibble. It was so low in nutrients and they were so unhealthy that their stool was mostly composed of undigested kibbles.

Only one out of all twenty-four was altered (spayed or neutered). They had never had any vaccinations against rabies. Some had bad hip problems and other genetic defects common of inbreeding. Several had untreated eye infections. They all had parasite problems, having never been de-wormed. And eight of them had heartworm, which can kill canines. Their fur was patchy and many were dangerously thin.

On top of it all, Tam discovered through their papers that all but two of these animals had been bred there at the "sanctuary," some of them *inbred*. These weren't "rescues" at all. They were *selling* them for a \$350 "adoption fee." This was a breeding operation taking cover under the label of "sanctuary," with state non-profit status, collecting donations from unsuspecting wolf lovers.

That first week was hell for Tam and Nancy. They transferred the wolfdogs to Full Moon Farm, where they had set up "triage" with all of them crated inside one of our large pens. Each time one of the animals went to the bathroom, its crate had to be cleaned out and re-bedded. Small water buckets in each crate had to be



Dakota is very shy with people

refilled. Feeding was pandemonium. And every once in a while, one of the dogs would break out of its crate into the larger pen and had to be recaptured. Disoriented, scared, and lonely in their crates, the new wolfdogs howled and barked all night long, so that no one could get any sleep. All of this on top of the considerable chores that are always needed to run the rest of the Sanctuary, and they all—human and canine alike—were utterly exhausted.

Several volunteers came out to Full Moon that first Saturday after the rescue to help build the temporary pens in which these new wolfdogs would live until they were either transferred or we got new large pens built. By the end of the day, all but one of the new animals were finally out of their crates. The temporary pens were much smaller than anything else we have,

but they were secure and at least gave the new rescues room to move.

We couldn't believe the sad condition these animals were in after coming from a supposed "sanctuary." They had no vet care whatsoever. Many suffered serious life-threatening health problems from near-starvation to heartworm. This "sanctuary" didn't even properly feed its animals. This "sanctuary" let an animal whose flesh was hanging from her face go without vet care—the poor thing was deformed for life, but lucky she hadn't died of infection. This "sanctuary" didn't provide even the most basic preventative care.



Kodiak is playful and friendly

How can we rescue animals from this or that individual abusive owner, when we first must rescue a huge *group* of animals from an abusive "sanctuary" that has been operating right in our own backyard? It's incredibly discouraging when the "good guys" are revealed to be bad.

However, month by month, we have had the privilege of watching these Shadow's Den rescues regain their health and spirit. Their coats are now sleek. The eye infections have slowly cleared up. They are regaining muscle on their frames. A few rounds of de-wormer have done wonders for them. They are digesting their food. They have toys to play with for the first time in their lives. The fears that haunted them have slowly slipped into the past. They run and play with one another, and some come right up to the fence to lick an outreached hand. Progress. It's slow, but progress it is.

Shadow's Den is the largest and most challenging rescue that Full Moon Farm has ever undertaken. Vet care alone for these animals will total over \$4,000. Most of the new animals are still in small temporary pens while we wait for funds and volunteers to put up new large enclosures—which usually cost more than \$1,000 each, and we hope to construct at least six. Ongoing costs for food, toys, medicine, and de-wormer are significant. If you would like to help these new rescues, please earmark your donation for the "Shadow's Den Fund."

Full Moon Farm Newsletter, Fall 2006

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Board of directors: President Nancy Brown, Vice President Melissa Ray Davis, Secretary Morgan Davis, Treasurer Sandi Rector, and Suze Hecht. Advisors: Tam Nesbit.

Newsbites: Volunteers Needed, Bucket Brigade, Rescue Play

Volunteers Desperately Needed. We have fencing on the ground with no one to put it up! The Shadow's Den animals and a few others are still in cramped temporary pens. If you're local or planning to take a trip out our way, consider donating some time. If you don't know how to put up fencing, we can teach you!

Auctionable Art, Items, and Services Needed!

Are you an artist? Do you know one? Do you have a connection with a business that could donate an item, a gift certificate, or a service voucher? Full Moon Farm's second annual Silent Auction Benefit is on September 21st. Last year's Auction was a huge success, with several beautiful framed art pieces, gift certificates, vouchers for everything from commissioned portraits to massages, and more. Let us know if you have an item to donate.

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Silent Auction Benefit, September 21st, 6-9pm at Madison's in Black Mountain. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, beer tasting, live music, Marilyn Monroe impersonator, and more! \$20 admission. Tickets are available for pre-order. Further details coming soon on the website, including items for auction and pre-event online bidding.

Because They Have No Words. Los Angeles Actor Tim Maddock was in Louisiana rescuing animals last year after Hurricane Katrina devastated the region. He saved our own Katrina survivor, Pete! Tim has now written a play with Lotti Louise Pharriss about his experiences last year. **Because They Have No Words** will be playing September 2nd through the 30th, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm, at The Lounge Theatre in Hollywood. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Full Moon Farm. Nancy Brown is even featured as a character! See www.weirdsmobile.net for details.

Bucket Brigade.

We're trying to replace



In fond memory of Chenna, who died of cancer this August

steel would be much better and more sanitary for our animals. Sponsor a bucket or donate one! 13-quart stainless steel buckets usually cost about \$30 individually, slightly less if ordered in bulk.

Sponsor a Wolfdog. Several of our wolfdogs do not yet have monthly support, and this includes nearly all of the Shadow's Den rescues. For only \$20 a month (or \$5 child-rate), you can provide partial care for one of our animals. You will receive a picture of the animal you have sponsored and an certificate of appreciation along with howls and kisses when you visit! Pick a wolfdog by browsing pictures and biographies at www.fullmoonfarm.org (just click on "Animal Bios").

Thank you to Animal Haven of Texas, National Greyhound Adoption Program, Carolina Bison in Asheville, and Bone-a-Fide Bakery in Black Mountain for their support and donations!



Cherokee is one of several animals without a sponsor

all of our plastic water buckets with 13-quart stainless steel buckets. Algae grows quickly in the plastic ones; stainless

**Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated.
100% goes directly toward care of the animals.**

Donations by check or money order may accompany this form, made out to:

Full Moon Farm, Inc.
P.O. Box 1548
Black Mountain, NC 28711

We are a not-for-profit organization and tax exempt under IRS code 501(c)(3).

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____ Notes: _____

Upcoming Full Moon Farm Events

For details on any of these events, please contact us at 1-(828)-669-1818 or nancy@fullmoonfarm.org.

September 9th - Howl-In with Potluck & Barbecue, 5pm, Full Moon Farm. Come meet the wolfdogs, tour our sanctuary, have a meal with us, and share in our bonfire! Admission is free. The barbecue is \$5, and bring a side dish to share. Call ahead if it rains.

September 21st - Silent Auction and Benefit from 6-9pm at Madison's in Black Mountain. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, beer tasting, live music, Marilyn Monroe impersonator, and more! \$20 admission, tickets available for pre-order. Further details will be on our website soon, including items for auction and pre-event online bidding.

October 7th - Howl-In with Potluck & Barbecue, 5pm, Full Moon Farm. (See left, Sept. 9th, for details).

October 28th - Halloween Parade, 3pm, downtown Black Mountain. Contact Sandi at 1-(828)-669-0706 for details.

November 4th - Open House for the Howlidays, 11am-5pm, Full Moon Farm.

November 24th - "Thanksevingen," a Black Mountain shopping day. Outreach table at Bone-A-Fide Bakery from 12-5pm.

December 1st - Holly Jolly Outreach, Bone-A-Fide Bakery in Black Mountain, 4-8pm. Refreshments & festivities.

December 2nd - Christmas Parade, 4pm, downtown Black Mountain. Contact Sandi at 1-(828)-669-0706 for details.

See www.fullmoonfarm.org for new announcements, news, and updated events!

Would you like to know about events and announcements sooner?

If you'd like to be added to "The Howl," our new e-mail notification list for announcements and events, please visit our website where we have a link to join!
www.fullmoonfarm.org



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