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Shy Wolf visits local DAR chapter  
 Marco Island Sun Times

By Chris Curle 06/10/2004

Shy Wolf crew. From left are Nancy Smith, Mary Heend, and Bob Melin with Amaya the coyote, left and Lobo the wolf. [Photo deleted to save space]

Which would you rather face in a dark alley, a domesticated dog or a wolf from the wild? Pick the wolf. Here's why: There is no documented case of a healthy wild wolf killing a human in North America. By comparison, more than 20 people are killed and three million are attacked each year by man's best friend, the domestic dog. You stand a better chance of getting hit by a meteorite than being killed by a wolf.

Wolves are at least 10 times more intelligent than the smartest dogs. For one thing, they won't come when you call them. The jaw pressure of a wolf is double the jaw pressure a German Shepard.

The wolf was the most successful mammal on Earth until man nearly exterminated it. Today, there are about 75,000 wolves in the U.S. and Canada.

Of course you already knew all this if you were at a recent meeting of the Marco Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

It was an up close and personal, hands-on experience for the DAR members, when Bobbi Hanson hosted them and a wolf, plus a coyote/dog mix at her home at Port of the Isles.

The special guests from the Shy Wolf Sanctuary Education and Experience Center in Golden Gate included volunteer handlers Nancy Smith, Mary Heend and Bob Melin and their pals, Lobo the wolf and Amaya the coyote-dog.

The Shy Wolf Center and refuge was founded by Smith and her husband Kent 11 years ago. These days, they care for about 30 wolf hybrids, plus coyotes, foxes, prairie dogs and even a Florida gopher tortoise. Why so many wolves?

"Because people breed them to make a buck," Smith explains. "People buy something unique, but have no idea what they are getting.

"They don't realize that wolves are four-legged critters with an attitude and the IQ of a 6-year-old child.

"They are not trainable. You can teach them things, but they won't do what they've learned. Dogs have evolved to want to please us. Wolves just want to be with other wolves."

Smith scoffed at the myth that wolves make great guard dogs. "Wrong, The refuge is called 'Shy Wolf' for a reason.

"Wolves are terrified of humans, with good reason. Their instinct is to run from people, not to protect them.

"A wolf is usually under the bed if the doorbell rings."

Nancy Smith left her work in the construction business to start Shy Wolf Sanctuary.

"There are lots of people who care for big cats but no one to speak for wolves and hybrids, which are terribly exploited. Ours came from state wildlife agencies, individuals, other sanctuaries and zoos."

Anyone who would like to see a real wolf in the flesh can book a group tour of the center. Many of the animals there are friendly and interact well with visitors.

Some of the animals even make road trips with their handlers to nursing homes, schools and private groups. Amaya, the coyote-dog, is curious and affectionate and is a big hit with autistic children, according to Smith.

The Shy Wolf Sanctuary is a nonprofit organization, which depends entirely on tax-deductible donations for its operational expenses.

To find out more about the Shy Wolf Sanctuary, call 455-1698 or visit online at [www.shywolfsanctuary.org](http://www.shywolfsanctuary.org).

To find out more about the Marco Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, call Kay Ziegler at 642-0711. The chapter was founded in 1976. The DAR works to preserve the spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence.

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=11921297&BRD=2256&PAG=461&dept\\_id=455823&rfti=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=11921297&BRD=2256&PAG=461&dept_id=455823&rfti=6)

Colorado Daily

Mountain lions aren't the only local threats

By MATT WILLIAMS/Colorado Daily Staff

Amid recent reports of a dead wolf found along I-70 and frightening mountain lion encounters in Fourmile Canyon, state wildlife officials and local activists warn that pets - not humans - are the main dish on predators' menus.

Mountain lions aren't the only critters that snack on pets.

"Sometimes people assume that if their dog or cat is missing, a mountain lion must have got them," said Todd Malmsbury, chief of information for the Colorado Department of Wildlife.

It's more common for coyotes to kill pets, he said. Red foxes, raccoons, and skunks can also slay cats and dogs, he said.

Great Horned Owls, extremely effective night hunters, can also prey on small dogs and cats, according to Malmsbury.

A 2-year-old female wolf from Yellowstone National Park was found dead last weekend along I-70, west of Idaho Springs.

"Wolves, if they did exist in the hills west of Boulder, which they clearly could because there's prey, would also key on pets," Malmsbury said.

Wolves don't like dogs or coyotes, and they kill both, Malmsbury said.

"Wolves would be one more large carnivore willing to kill the family pet," he added.

Wolves were native to every county in Colorado before they were exterminated from the state in the early 1900s.

"We are essentially, by letting our pets run loose, providing a smorgasbord for wildlife," Malmsbury said.

Pet owners who live in mountain lion habitats should take precautions, said Wendy Keefover-Ring, director of the Carnivore Protection Program for Boulder-based Sinapu, an organization that advocates for wolf and bear re-introduction.

Kennels and enclosures should have a roof, she said.

"Mountain lions can jump an 8-foot fence and jump out with the pet in its mouth," Malmsbury said.

Pets should be leashed, especially during dawn or dusk. Light is an effective deterrent for predators like mountain lions, Keefover-Ring said.

Discourage mountain lions from roaming near homes, Malmsbury said. Bang pots and pans, spray water from a hose, or yell. Make them feel unwelcome.

Wardens will also fire buckshot at lions if necessary.

But he said the Colorado Department of Wildlife has received few calls about mountain lion activity the past few weeks.

Most of the lion sightings in Fourmile Canyon reported Wednesday by the Denver Post were anecdotal, Malmsbury said, meaning they weren't reported quickly to the Colorado Department of Wildlife.

Malmsbury said the Department of Wildlife can't assess the threat posed by a mountain lion if an encounter is reported days later.

Those in Boulder who spot unusual or dangerous mountain lion behavior, including the stalking of pets, should immediately call dispatch at the Boulder County Sheriff's Department at 303-441-4444.

Some reports of mountain lions are unnecessary, Malmsbury said.

"Just the sighting of a lion in and of itself does not mean anything other than there's a lion and you live in lion country," he said.

Mountain lion sightings are not a new phenomenon in Fourmile Canyon, Malmsbury said. He also recalled a rash of lion sightings there in 1991.

"Boulder County is essentially a de facto mountain lion preserve," Malmsbury said. Hunting mountain lions is illegal within Boulder city limits and the city of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks.

Hunting is also prohibited within Boulder County Parks and Open Space. Mountain lions killing humans is extremely rare, Keefover-Ring said, "maybe once every decade in the nation."

Boulder County has never had a human fatality or serious injury caused by a mountain lion attack, Malmsbury said.

There have been just two confirmed killings of people by mountain lions in Colorado history: one in 1991 and another in 1997.

<http://www.coloradodaily.com/articles/2004/06/10/news/news04.txt>

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News Observer

Red wolves find life fine in Carolina

By JERRY ALLEGOOD, Staff Writer

a mournful song once silenced by fearful humans -- is making a steady comeback in northeastern North Carolina with a record number of pups joining the chorus this year.

Biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said at least 55 pups in 11 litters were born in the wild this spring. In addition, two more puppies were released to foster parents who accepted them in their litters.

That is the most successful breeding season since a project to re-establish the endangered wolves in the wild began 17 years ago, said Sarah Krueger, outreach coordinator with the Red Wolf Recovery program.

The recovery began with release of a mated pair in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in September 1987 and others later. Now there about 100 adult animals roaming lowlands and forests in five counties.

The population is "greater than it ever has been," Krueger said. "We've seen a continual rise every year."

Only about half the puppies are expected to survive, she said, but they will make a significant increase in the nation's only wild red wolf population. About 150 red wolves live in captive populations in zoos or research facilities around the country.

Red wolves freely roamed coastal North Carolina and the southeastern United States when European settlers arrived in the 1500s but were gradually eradicated by hunting and destruction of habitat. By 1980 they were declared extinct in the wild.

Unlike larger timber wolves, the red wolf is about the size of a German shepherd dog. They also resemble the dogs with their coats of gray- or cinnamon-tinged fur. And contrary to the depiction of wolves in legends and fairy tales as fearsome creatures, these wolves are shy animals that are not considered a threat to humans.

The return of a predator to the wild was not universally welcomed. Critics question whether red wolves are a pure breed and worthy of protection by federal laws or the expense of the recovery program. And landowners in northeastern North Carolina filed a federal lawsuit in an unsuccessful challenge of federal regulations that prevented the killing or trapping of wolves on private property.

The project drew strong support from wildlife groups that said the wolves should be saved. The Tar Heel wolf packs have become a tourist attraction for some who come to the refuge for a glimpse of the animals. The Alligator River refuge and the Red Wolf Coalition, a group of private program supporters, conduct weekly sessions in which dozens of people are taken into the refuge to listen for the howls.

The programs will begin June 23 and run until September.

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, a pair of female red wolf pups recently was transferred from a captive facility on Bulls Island at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge near Charleston, S.C., to North Carolina. The 2-week-old sisters were selected for their rare genes and placed in separate dens with wild red wolf pups of identical age. The captive-born sisters were adopted by wild foster mothers, biologists said, and will probably be raised within their respective packs.

In addition to the two new 2004 arrivals, the agency was able to measure the success of a fostering attempt two years ago. Agency officials said two pups from the N.C. Zoological Park, a male and a female, were adopted by their wild foster mother and raised within the pack. During the following spring of 2003, the two captive-born yearlings remained with their adopted pack and helped raise a new litter of pups.

This spring, biologists said they hoped each of the zoo-born red wolves would produce litters of their own.

The male zoo-born wolf, displaced from his adopted pack and forced to establish a range of his own, was successful in securing a dominant position of another established pack in time for breeding season. Biologists are celebrating the discovery of a litter of eight puppies fathered by the zoo-born male.

Will Waddell, coordinator of the agency's captive breeding program, said the captive breeding program and the free-ranging population are integral aspects of the recovery.

"They still depend greatly on each other for the recovery of the species," he said in a news release.

In mid-April, biologists who track and monitor the wolves found that the zoo-born female had died, apparently of complications with her pregnancy.

Krueger said red wolves will be able to maintain their range better as numbers increase.

Many of the wolves in the recovery program die from natural causes or from being hit by vehicles on highways where red wolf crossing signs are posted. However, Krueger said, one of the original wolves released in Alligator River refuge survived for 13 years.

"He was the longest-living wolf we've ever seen," she said.

<http://newsobserver.com/news/story/1320490p-7442727c.html>

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Bozeman Daily Chronicle

GYC's annual meeting in West Yellowstone

Greater Yellowstone Coalition will hold its 21st annual meeting and conference June 10-12 in West Yellowstone. The event, "Greater Yellowstone's Wealth of Wildness, Protecting Natural Riches" will be held at the Union Pacific Dining Hall.

Presenters include keynote speaker Dr. George Woodwell, founder/director of The Woods Hole Research Center; National Public Radio's "90-Second Naturalist" Thane Maynard; and Mississippi author Janisse Ray.

Indoor morning sessions will be followed by afternoon field trips, ranging from mushroom ecology to wolves and wilderness values to flyfishing, mountain bike riding and hiking.

On Friday evening, Bozeman activist and former U.S. Forest Service employee Joe Gutkoski will receive GYC's Lifetime Achievement Award. Other awards will be presented to Dave Moody, the late Wally McClure and LaMar Empey.

The conference is open to the public. For information and registration, call 586-1593;

<http://www.greateryellowstone.org>

<http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2004/06/09/news/briefsbzbig.txt>

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Jackson Hole News & Guide

Dog baits alert town

Officials confirm lethal pesticide found within Jackson limits.

By Bill Curran

Officials on Thursday found a suspected poisoned meat bait in Jackson, possibly the third appearance in the densely populated town of a lethal pesticide that has sickened or killed 25 dogs.

Darren Rudd, an animal control officer with the Teton County Sheriff's Office, said the meat bait - a steak found near a dumpster on Clark Street - contained what appears to be the same pesticide that first killed dogs in Buffalo Valley in March.

The Wyoming Veterinary Laboratory recently confirmed that two hot dogs found in mid-April in east Jackson contained the pesticide commonly sold as Temik, Rudd said.

While some officials believe the poison baits are an attempt to kill wolves, Rudd said finding them in town could mean whoever is spreading them is less discriminatory.

"It's not so much targeted at domestic or wild, kind of just dogs in general," Rudd said.

While discovering the poison, which can be fatal to people as well as dogs, in town is particularly alarming, the poisonings also continue to occur in outlying areas of the county.

A German shepherd mix named Griz became ill June 2 after eating Temik in an unidentified meat bait on the Triangle X Ranch near Buffalo Valley. Griz, who belongs to the Turner family, survived after treatment from a veterinarian.

On June 1, the poison sickened a dog on the Pinto Ranch near Buffalo Valley. Before that instance, no poisonings had been reported since mid-May.

Those two poisonings bring the total to 25, seven of which were fatal. Temik also may have killed several foxes, coyotes and possibly two moose and an eagle.

University of Wyoming Professor Merl Raisbeck identified the poison, known generically as aldicarb, and warned of its toxicity in a release Tuesday. "A few grains of the commercial product are certainly enough to kill an average-sized dog, and a few ounces are theoretically enough to render a town the size of Jackson dog free," Raisbeck said. Symptoms occur quickly and include slobbering, vomiting and loss of muscle control. "It has some pretty nasty effects, but there's a pretty good shot at treatment if you get the stomach emptied fairly quickly," Raisbeck said.

The poison is gray or black and granular with the consistency of table salt. Residents shouldn't touch any suspicious meat as Temik can be harmful if absorbed through the skin.

Despite the recent discovery of meat baits in town, a federal agent still believes at least some of the poison was meant for wolves.

"I think at least the initial placement of these poisons was targeted at wolves," said Dominic Domenici, special agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Casper.

The poison may have killed a wolf.

Domenici said officials retrieved a wolf carcass from near the Greys River Road in the Bridger-Teton National Forest about a month ago. No other cause of death was apparent, and Domenici is still waiting for lab test results to confirm the presence of the pesticide. Several dogs became ill after eating poison meat in the same area.

Baiting meat with Temik is recommended as a way to kill wolves on a Web site maintained by an Idaho man. The man's home was searched by authorities in March in connection with similar poisonings in the Salmon-Challis

National Forest.

Rudd said he's not certain if one person or several people are behind the poisonings. "At least if it was just one person, we wouldn't have to worry about a copy cat type of instance," he said.

But the poisoned meat found in town appears to have been placed more recently than the hot dogs discovered elsewhere.

"The ones up north are the older ones," Rudd said. "The ones in town were new."

The poison hot dogs may have been left in Buffalo Valley in the fall and buried by snow. The poisonings began occurring with a spring thaw.

Though a special license is required to get Temik, the source of the poison still may be hard to determine.

Statewide, more than 3,000 companies or people have the applicators license necessary to get Temik, including about 200 in Teton County, Rudd said.

License holders are required by state law to account for the pesticides they use, but interviewing even the Teton County licensees is "kind of an overwhelming task," Rudd said.

He hopes to narrow the list with other evidence.

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture controls the licenses and only grants them if applicants "prove" a need, Rudd said. License holders are subject to inspection.

Private individual may secure applicators licenses to control garden weeds, for instance, Rudd said. "Once you have the license it's easy to get," he said.

Hank Uhden, program supervisor at the agriculture department, said Tuesday he's not aware of an effort to increase the regulations controlling the sale of Temik. Uhden said the product is an important agricultural tool in the Big Horn basin, but he isn't aware of much use in this part of the state.

"It's an important product for use in the sugar beet industry," Uhden said. "That is a big industry in the state."

Sellers of Temik, who range from county weed and pest departments to major agricultural supply dealers, also must be licensed and keep sales records, he said.

The poisonings constitute a federal misdemeanor as a misuse of a pesticide. They also could be considered animal cruelty, Rudd said.

Two acts of animal cruelty amount to aggravated animal cruelty, a felony punishable by one year in a jail and a \$5,000 fine. Because wolves are protected by the Endangered Species Act, killing a wolf is a federal crime.

Dog owners, federal agencies, a Temik manufacturer and Jackson Hole Crimestoppers are offering a \$20,000 reward to help catch those responsible for spreading the poison.

With information, contact Crimestoppers at 733-5148.

<http://www.jacksonholenews.com/>

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Jackson Hole News & Guide

Police warn of poison for dogs

By Bill Curran

JACKSON HOLE DAILY

The Jackson Police Department is warning residents to watch their pets closely as poisoned meat that has killed or sickened 25 dogs in outlying areas of the valley is turning up in town.

"We're encouraging dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash so they know what they're eating and smelling," Sgt. Alan John said Wednesday.

Meat containing a gray, granular pesticide commonly sold as Temik has turned up in different areas of town.

Most recently, officials found a steak June 3 on Clark Street laced with a substance they suspect is Temik. A state laboratory will analyze the steak, John said.

In mid-May, a resident found a hot dog containing Temik on Kelly Avenue, and another found a piece of hamburger meat with the poison on Gregory Lane. A lab recently confirmed the poison in those cases as Temik.

John said he's worried a child will touch a piece of meat containing the pesticide, which can be fatal to humans as well as dogs. "We don't want this poison to get on some little kid's hands; it can be absorbed through the skin," he said.

The police department distributed flyers warning of the poison to Jackson elementary students on their last day of school. Officers also are posting signs at trailheads and around town.

The poison first killed dogs in Buffalo Valley in March and has since sickened or killed more dogs in that area as well as on the Greys River Road in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Theories range on the motive behind the poisonings. A federal agent believes at least some of the meats were spread to kill wolves, while a Teton County sheriff's deputy says it's an effort to kill canines of all types.

John isn't sure.

"There's really no rhyme or reason," he said. "It was up in Buffalo Valley and on Kelly Street."  
Symptoms following contact with Temik occur quickly and include slobbering, vomiting and loss of muscle control.  
Treatment from veterinarians is effective if received quickly.

The pesticide is gray or black and has the consistency of table salt. It's used widely by sugar beet farmers to kill insects in the Big Horn basin but isn't used much in this part of the state, according to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

Dog owners, federal agencies, a Temik manufacturer and Jackson Hole Crimestoppers are offering a \$20,000 reward to help catch those responsible for spreading the poison.

Anyone with information can contact Crimestoppers at 733-5148.

<http://www.jacksonholenews.com/>

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Donna Bettinger

U.S. Representative

Scandinavian Joint Action For Wolves

<http://www.fellesaksjonenforulv.org/engelskesider/English.htm>

The Lone Wolf of Langedrag

[http://home.earthlink.net/~sno\\_4\\_ever/](http://home.earthlink.net/~sno_4_ever/)

" To Look Into The Eyes of A Wolf Is To See Your Soul .....

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" To Look Into The Eyes of A Wolf Is To See Your Soul .....

Gabriel ~ Not a day goes by.... "In the arms of the Angels, may you find some  
comfort here" ~ Sara McLachlan