



Wolf Haven History

In the spring of 1978, Steve and Linda Kuntz, purchased a wolf pup from an exotic animal breeder in Colorado. At the time, Steve and Linda knew very little about wolves, their needs, or that wolves were an endangered species.

Steve and Linda started raising Blackfoot, and in the process, met Ed Andrews, who was raising wolves in Boulder, Colorado. Ed and his wife Elizabeth taught Steve and Linda how to better care for their wolf.

In 1980, the Andrews' moved to Washington to set up a wolf facility where they could educate the public about wolves. Steve and Linda soon followed.

Steven and Linda studied wolves, learned how to care for wolves through hands-on experience, learned how to ensure a proper diet, how to construct sound enclosures for the wolves in their care, and began the legacy of public education about wolves through fairs, civic meetings, and at schools. This work was done under the name of Wolf Country.

Funding was scarce in the early days, and with the need to raise their own family, the Andrews' relinquished Wolf Country, and the 22 wolves that resided there, to Steve and Linda.

In May of 1982, Steve, Linda, and their young daughter Collette, moved to the site that would become Wolf Haven International. Steve filed for nonprofit status and became Wolf Haven America, a sanctuary for wolves.

Their purpose was simple: to provide the best possible care for the wolves that resided there—wolves that, for the most part, had not other place to go. Also, to educate the public as to why wolves are important and why wolves should be preserved and protected in the wild. These early days were supported entirely by dedicated volunteers and donations from concerned individuals.

Wolf Haven eventually became Wolf Haven International, complete with a Board of Directors and Executive Director. The Board, staff, and volunteers of Wolf Haven International have adopted the following mission for Wolf Haven: “working for wolf conservation since 1982.” While intentionally broad, this statement unites all the programs that Wolf Haven undertakes. Further guidance as to the mission of Wolf Haven is found in its bylaws. We incorporated the word “international” into our name because we recognize that wolves need help all over the world.