



For Immediate Release

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How Do You Handle a Wild Wolf? Very Gently!

From Tuesday, Nov 4 through Thursday, Nov 6, biologists and students from all over the United States and even Mexico will learn how to handle wild animals, including wolves, in a unique 3-day class hosted by Wolf Haven International. For the past 4 years, Wolf Haven has brought renowned veterinarian, Dr. Mark Johnson of Global Wildlife Resources, Inc. to the Pacific Northwest to teach Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization to people who capture and handle wildlife, including wolves.

This course examines how to capture wild animals, administer immobilizing drugs, and respond to veterinary emergencies. On the final day of class, the students actually have a rare opportunity to handle some of the endangered Mexican wolves at Wolf Haven. The wolves used for the class are required to receive health exams and vaccines annually under U.S. Fish and Wildlife regulations, and are not wolves that will be released back into the wild. Wolf Haven also has a multi-generational pack of extremely rare Mexican wolves, and is one of only three facilities in the United States that rears Mexican wolves for release back into the southwest United States and Mexico.

Wolf Haven International has been a partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Species Survival Plan Program for recovery of the Mexican wolf and red wolf for the past decade. This small wolf sanctuary is a major player in wolf recovery efforts. The first Mexican wolves released into the U.S. after an absence of over 30 years came from Wolf Haven International in 1998 and 2000.

Dr. Johnson was project veterinarian for the Yellowstone and Idaho gray wolf reintroduction programs. He provides training, consultation, and field assistance for gray wolf recovery programs throughout the U.S., and in countries such as India, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. His unique philosophy of animal care and handling emphasizes the well being of the animal.

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Wolf Haven Intl. has been working for wolf conservation around the Northwest and throughout the world since 1982. In addition to providing sanctuary for captive-born wolves, Wolf Haven educates over 30,000 visitors each year on the role of the wolf in the wild. Wolf Haven offers educational guided walking tours of its wolf sanctuary in Tenino Washington as well as off-site presentations to schools, community groups, and professional organizations.

For more information or pictures, please contact:

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