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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Wolf Sanctuary Receives National Accreditation** *One of only two accredited wolf sanctuaries in U.S.*

Tenino, WA- [Wolf Haven International](http://WolfHavenInternational.org) announced that the 31-year old sanctuary has received accreditation by the [American Sanctuary Association](http://AmericanSanctuaryAssociation.org) (ASA). Wolf Haven is now one of only two wolf sanctuaries in the country that has earned ASA endorsement (the other is W.O.L.F. in Colorado).

The rigorous application process included a review of all aspects of the organization including financial stability, board oversight, educational materials, veterinary references, permits and licenses. There was an onsite inspection of Wolf Haven's facilities and thorough examination of its animal care procedures.

"We continually strive to give our resident animals the best care possible, and we are honored to merit ASA endorsement," said Diane Gallegos, executive director of Wolf Haven International.

The American Sanctuary Association (ASA) is a 501 (c)(3), nonprofit accrediting organization for nonprofit organizations that provide sanctuary for homeless, abandoned and abused domestic and wild animals. It is similar to the American Zoological Association, which provides accreditation to zoos. ASA holds its members to a high set of standards and receiving ASA accreditation helps to distinguish facilities that meet sanctuary criteria and provide a high level of care.

Wendy Spencer, director of animal care who has worked at Wolf Haven for over 15 years, offers her assessment of sanctuary.

"In my opinion, a sanctuary exists solely for the welfare of its residents and as such, their welfare should be its highest priority. A true sanctuary commits to the highest level of care and every action or procedure is examined to ensure that it serves the animals rather than the humans."

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Wolf Haven International is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to conserve and protect wolves and their habitat. Over 170 wolves have been rescued and provided a lifetime home since it was founded in 1982. Wolf Haven gives sanctuary to displaced, captive-born wolves, promotes wolf restoration in historic ranges, and offers educational programs about the value of all wildlife.