

Tribute

Sítka

ROCCO AND SITKA MET WHEN, AFTER HAVING LOST HIS SECOND ENCLOSURE MATE, WE INTRODUCED BEAUTIFUL SITKA INTO HIS LIFE.

A stunning, black and silver-coated female wolf, Sitka and her lively mischievous energy was a perfect match for Rocco. He was a handsome male wolf with a calm and super gregarious temperament. Their play and feeding time stories became a recurrent topic in animal care conversations and for their near decade together; the two of


them were wonderful friends. As the years passed, both Rocco and Sitka endured some health issues – most probably related to genetic conditions – but their spirits remained sharp and brisk.

One winter day, Rocco's condition took a turn for the worse and he passed away overnight. It seemed that he knew it was his time and had burrowed himself into a very deep chamber of his natural den. When animal care staff found Rocco, he looked serene and cozy in the private space that he had chosen as his last refuge. As is commonly seen between well-



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ROCCO

bonded pairs, after losing her companion, Sitka started to withdraw and her health quickly declined. On a sunny afternoon we helped our beloved Sitka peacefully transition from this life. We had the honor of burying Rocco and Sitka together in our memorial cemetery, close to each other, as they had always been in life. Knowing them was a gift and their faces, personalities, and the stories about them will remain in our hearts forever. 

Pamela Maciel,
Mexican Wolf SSP Liaison