



TRIBUTE

Brothers Aki & Hopa

IT IS WITH A SAD HEART THAT I WRITE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE PASSING OF TWO BROTHERS AND LITTERMATES, **AKI AND HOPA**. THE BROTHERS HAD GROWN UP TOGETHER AT A WOLF FACILITY IN WASHINGTON STATE AND WERE MOVED TO WOLF HAVEN IN 2014 AFTER THE FACILITY DECIDED TO CLOSE ITS DOORS.

For most of their lives, the brothers lived apart. They had separate enclosures, separate female companions and separate lives. When they came to Wolf Haven, Aki and Hopa came as bachelors and both were initially paired with single females here at the sanctuary. Both ended up outliving their female companions and were once again living alone.

A few months ago we moved Hopa into the enclosure next door to his brother Aki and though there was a fence between them, they seemed to enjoy each other's company (we often saw them spending time at the communal fence they shared). Hopa passed away on December 11, and his brother Aki died the next day, both from complications due to advancing age. They were 15 ½ years old.

It is strange how the universe works... the brothers are now together, away from this life in captivity. It was such an honor to care for them these last few years, and we did our very best to provide them a good life, but I truly believe they are in a better place now. Rest in peace brothers. 🐾

—Wendy Spencer,
Sanctuary Director

Julie Lawrence photo.