

Pamela Maciel, Mexican Wolf SSP/
Bilingual Education Specialist



Badger

Badger at Wolf Haven.
JULIE LAWRENCE PHOTO.

PICTURE A GENTLE, long-legged wolf with huge paws, thick white fur with bundles of shed hair hanging like Christmas tree ornaments, deep small eyes, and a subtle, sweet, confident “smile” showing on the corners of her mouth. That was Badger.

When Badger came to Wolf Haven, she was eight years old. Previously, she had been privately owned in Oregon and then sent to a facility in California. At this facility, Badger was planned to be used as an ambassador wolf. Fortunately they lost their permits, and she

came to live at our sanctuary for good. Her shy temperament and serene presence would have never fit in the anthropocentric idea of walking a wild animal on a leash for educational purposes. From a different perspective, Badger was a true ambassador for wolves: she embodied a dignified existence that demonstrated that they should be left alone; that –when forced to live in captivity- all they need, besides high quality care and shelter, is a companion of their own kind.

During her time at Wolf Haven, strong Badger outlived

three wonderful male friends (Kuna, Myta Sr. and Bono) and shared her last months with Aki. Through the years, Badger became more shy and hypersensitive to the world around her; we were mindful of it and limited the activity in the area to give her privacy. She seemed to enjoy just being in peace in her off-public enclosure. Every afternoon, she would pick the best sunspot and lie there for long naps. The last year, her body showed the natural health decline of an 18-year old wolf, but up until her last moment, what always stood out were her serene spirit and that sweet, lovely smile. 🐾