

Meghan Murphy,
Animal Care Assistant



Julie Lawrence

Spruce

SPRUCE WAS A GROUNDING presence at Wolf Haven International. He was a handsome white wolf with stunning yellow, penetrating eyes and was one of the most popular wolves with staff and visitors alike.

He and his family arrived at Wolf Haven in 2003 from San Bernardino, CA. They taught us a great deal about wolf family interactions. As Spruce and his siblings matured, tensions in the family grew, making it clear that housing a family of eight

in one enclosure was detrimental to their well-being. Wolf Haven then began housing them in pairs (male and female) in order to decrease stress and squabbling.

Spruce lived the majority of his life with his sister Cricket on the visitor route. The two of them were inseparable and revealed much about bonded pairs. In 2011, Cricket passed away and Spruce was paired with another female wolf named Jaque. Despite being unrelated, the two became fast friends, and were often seen playing together or teaming up to run the fence line with wolves in the adjacent enclosures.

In 2014, Spruce began to show

signs of neurological difficulties and Jaque started taking advantage of his physical changes. This is not unusual in bonded pair dynamics, but over time, their squabbles became an increasing source of tension between the two of them. In November of 2015, the decision was made to move Jaque into another enclosure. Spruce continued to remain on the visitor route and was quite content to have an enclosure to himself until he passed away in March.

There is now an emptiness in the sanctuary but in our hearts, Spruce's enduring nature and the lessons he taught us leave lasting impressions.

