

# Fern



Fern (center) and Cejitos. *Wolf Haven.*

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### **FERN WAS A BEAUTIFUL LIGHT-BEIGE COATED MEXICAN WOLF WHO CAME TO US FROM EL PASO ZOO, IN TEXAS.**

She was born into the captive breeding program for the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan (MWSSP). When she arrived at Wolf Haven in 2010, she was paired with Coal (M752). The two shared an enclosure for several years in the very back of our sanctuary, a secluded area called pre-release. Coal and Fern were really good friends, but eventually the SSP program recommended pairing Coal with another female, so we moved Fern to an enclosure with two other Mexican wolves, Cejitos (M1135) and Brother (M1067).

Though Fern was twice the age of the two vigorous males, she was quickly in charge, showing an adorable mixture of dominant and playful behavior. When the time came for the males to be paired with younger females in order to fulfill the reproductive needs of the program, Fern was relocated to what has become Wolf Haven's wolf

retirement home: a small quiet enclosure, with an abundance of vegetation, far away from most of the sanctuary activities. As life often comes full circle, when Coal lost his companion, we moved him in with Fern, where he got to spend his last days with his good old friend. After his passing, Fern did not share her enclosure again, but she remained active and in high spirit, engaging in playful displays, running and bluff charging at the fence with her pre-release Mexi neighbors every single day.

Known as F759 in the MWSSP studbook, as 'Fern the wolf' in her previous home, and as "Fernie" to animal care staff at Wolf Haven, sweet Fern lived to be 16 years old and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have cared for her. May we honor Fern's legacy by continuing to work hard to protect her fellow endangered Mexican wolves, with consideration for the value of each individual life. 🐾

Pamela Maciel, Sanctuary Manager