

DEATH CAN BE VIEWED from many different vantage points allowing a much different perspective from each mental perch. For some, it may be a negative experience which only contains darkness and holds only unpleasant moments. For some it may be a last breath of relief, taking away the much undeserved pain that binds our bodies to this realm. And to some it is just a transition; a door that all of us must venture through at some point and there is no point in dwelling on the end of a journey when you are in the middle of your life's path.

Sissy's death came very abruptly and very unexpectedly. When she was still with us physically I knew her to be one of the most focused and determined animals here at Wolf Haven. She really wanted nothing to do with humans for the most part, and in my opinion viewed them as an unfortunate "necessary evil." We were the means to an end, mainly being food and other physical requirements.

One example of Sissy's determination and focus would be when we had to catch her up. We utilize sheets of canvas as mobile fences when we have to catch up our animals. This allows us to work with the animal and try to funnel it toward a specific goal whatever that may be. All the wolves that I have worked with here really respect the canvas as not just a physical barrier but a mental one as well. Sissy was bound and determined to not let that foreign object stop her from her intended goal which was to get away from us. The first time she encountered the canvas she went right under it without any hesitation. We stared in disbelief as



Sissy. PHOTO BY JULIE LAWRENCE.

Sissy

Daniel Curry,
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the canvas was peeled from the ground and Sissy's tail slid under our "barrier." We then weighted the bottom of our canvas down to help deter her from going under it again. The second time she encountered the canvas she sailed over it as smooth as a gentle breeze. We were now kind of dejected that our barrier had failed twice with this little girl. We literally went back to the drawing board and had to redesign our canvas in order to compensate for these unusually rare and effective tactics that little Sissy was throwing at us. We went back with high hopes that our canvas was

now an adequate barrier for this little girl. On this attempt our rectifications did work; she did not go under or over our canvas. Instead Sissy punched a whole through the center of it. My point being that the wall could have been concrete and with her level of determination and focus she would have found a way to penetrate it. Those two qualities are something to admire in this little girl, for she used them as tools to navigate through her life.

During Sissy's stay here at Wolf Haven she formed a strong bond with her friend and mate Rhett. Rhett was definitely the leader out of the two of them and Sissy was okay with that. What Sissy wasn't okay with, was that Rhett wanted nothing really to do with her initially, but once again her determination proved unshakeable

and eventually she won Rhett over. Unfortunately we had to break Rhett and Sissy up due to Rhett being too old to breed with her. It wasn't long until Sissy found herself with another mate. Her new mate relied heavily upon Sissy's now very confident standing in her familiar and comfortable home. She and Jacob did pretty well for the relatively short time they had together.

THE MORNING THAT we found Sissy it was as if death had come in the middle of the night, snuck in, and snuck out without any warning and took her spirit from her healthy body. She was just fine the day prior and gave no sign of illness. We did have Sissy's body examined due to the abruptness of her passing and found that she passed away from gastric torsion. We are

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RED WOLF RECOVERY continued from page 35

Of these, the adult males are suspected of being illegally killed, and an investigation is underway by the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement. One yearling died from a vehicle collision and the second died of unknown causes. The Species Survival Plan (SSP) program administrators lost radio contact with two wolves, including a breeding female wolf and a yearling male.

There are currently 178 Red wolves in the captive SSP program, distributed among 40 participating wildlife facilities in the United States.

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the Anatolian leopards were considered aggressive and seeking to kill, it was not prohibited to kill them in dangerous situations. The fur made it even more attractive because it looked good as a carpet in houses. So, people didn't really care that Anatolian leopards were the fastest leopards in the world, the best climbers of trees and very specific in their meals. Interestingly, the Anatolian leopards (as well as other leopards) specialized, which meant some of them only ate hogs and others only deer. The list also might include antelope, wild goats, wild sheep, jackals and even birds. In that way, they were really healthy for ecosystems because collectively they consumed

a variety of herbivores as well as carnivores. So, they helped to keep the food web stable. They were the royal owners of these lands.

Now, looking at the situation of Anatolia, it really needs help. Like the Anatolian leopards, the Anatolian bears, lions and tigers have ceased to exist. And this is not the whole list. Anatolian jackals and *Caretta caretta* are now endangered. We are also losing many plants like salep orchids. The kings, queens, princes, princesses and sultans of Anatolia are dying right now. We lost the king, but we haven't lost the whole clan. It is time to help Anatolia.

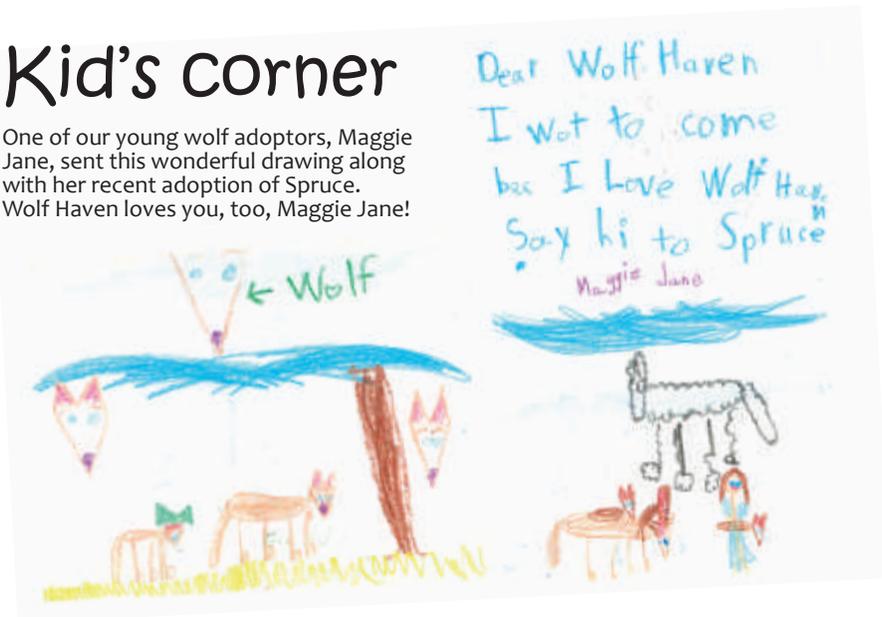
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unsure of the cause of the ailment that took Sissy's life.

SISSY I NEVER GOT TO know you as much as I would have liked to, which was probably ok with you. I sure miss your audible addition to the wolves' chorus; the howls are just not as colorful as they were when you were singing with them. I hope that you found Rhett and that you two can now be together without the threat of being ripped apart again. I am faithful that you have found a solace in spirit that will be infinite. Your determination and focus are qualities that I want to model and cultivate so that no object will stand in the way of my goals. Thank you Sissy, we sure named you incorrectly. 🐾

Kid's corner

One of our young wolf adoptors, Maggie Jane, sent this wonderful drawing along with her recent adoption of Spruce. Wolf Haven loves you, too, Maggie Jane!



He came to the river

He came to the river,
The Elk did
He came to the river,
The Wolf did
He came to the river,
The Bear did
And they drank of its essence,
The wild river,
The wild fast moving river
Came to them and they
Came to it and they joined
Together like few things
On this earth do
They are all wild here,
The Elk, the Wolf, the Bear,
The River
But in their wildness there is
peace,
There is love, there is
understanding
They are the essence of life and are
our teachers,
They live without hate,
The live without ambition,
And they know of love in a way
most
Of us do not
The river flows by and feeds
The Elk and the Wolf and the Bear
And they in return feed it too
And for those of us who watch
they
Feed our souls

Steve Roberts, Volunteer