



Angel at one year old (inset) and as an adult (above). JULIE LAWRENCE PHOTOS.

An Angel gets her wings Tami Williams, Volunteer

THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW Angel she made a **big** impression on me. I will never forget how beautiful I thought she was. Angel had the most remarkable eyes – like Mother Nature decided that Angel should be the model for wolf eyes and then added black eyeliner to make sure that we all noticed.

I was attending the Pacific Rim Wildlife Art Show in Seattle, and other than the spectacular artwork, the main attraction for me was the chance to see a live wolf! Many other people had the same idea and by the time they brought the wolf out, there was a large crowd around the stage. Angel was a half-grown pup at that point and obviously terrified to be in the situation she found herself. Though I was thrilled to see Angel, I couldn't help but feel incredibly sorry for her. Little did I know that less than a year later I would see her again, when I began volunteering at Wolf Haven International.

Born in 1997 in private ownership in Montana, Angel was purchased at a very young age to serve as an “ambassador wolf” (a wolf that makes public appearances) in Washington. The idea behind “ambassador wolves” is to provide a dramatic way to attract attention for the purposes of education and conservation. While it is less than ideal for any wild animal to serve in such a capacity, some are better suited than others based simply on individual personality. After her forays into the public arena, Angel would take out her feelings on the other wolves when she was returned to her enclosure and soon had to be permanently separated from them. At just under a year old, she was welcomed to Wolf Haven Intl.

For the first year she was at Wolf Haven Intl., her home was the last enclosure on the tour route, where she was obviously more comfortable around people than she had been on the stage. I remember her as curious, petite, playful

and cautious. After her initial wariness, she even seemed to enjoy the visitors that came by during sanctuary tours.

Angel was obviously enamored with her first companion, M'ijo, when they were introduced. To facilitate M'ijo's shyness, the pair was moved to a new enclosure, which was larger and a long way from the public viewing area. After M'ijo's passing in 2005, Angel was paired with Yukon, another shy male that had been rescued.

I missed seeing her after she moved into the back of the sanctuary. Yukon was never really comfortable around people, so visitors were less common. Angel didn't seem to mind as much as the humans in her life did – she seemed content with her mate. When I learned of her passing, I was somewhat shocked, but then I was reminded that she was 14 when she died, a ripe old age for a wolf. In my mind, though, she will always be the playful, petite, beautiful young wolf with the most amazing eyes. 🐾