



Tribute to Princess coyote, 1989 -2004

Julie Lawrence, Communications Manager

It is Tuesday, December 7 at 4:00 o'clock p.m. The air is cold and wet, the daylight waning, and our sweet Princess coyote has been laid to rest. For tonight, she will remain upon the mound of hay inside her deck pen so that Duke, her lifelong companion, can comprehend her departure in his own coyote way.

Both Princess and Duke came to us from a roadside zoo in eastern Washington in 1996 and for the first half of their lives in our care, the two resided in the first enclosure found on our sanctuary tour route. When gray wolves Tonkawa, Chinook, Solo and Denali arrived here from a Nebraska zoo in 2000, the coyote pair was moved to the enclosure opposite, the very last stop on our visitors' trail.

Princess' playful demeanor at times belied her advanced age of fifteen. With her slanty glance and delicate prance, she seemed forever curious about us humans, to say the very least. Stalking was her game, with her front legs crouched low and nose to where the ground met the fence.

I don't know why or how I became so attached to little Princess coyote over my six and a half years here. I try not to play favorites, or to anthropomor-

phize, but I can't help observe both the quirks and consistencies in each animal - and I do love them all without the slightest claim to ever being loved back. My admiration for Princess, and for coyotes in general, arises from their cleverness and ability to adapt to even the most unusual circumstances. Coyotes are the ultimate survivors, wiley creatures, out there making a living in the world against innumerable odds. When accompanying a photo tour, media representative, or any other friend of Wolf Haven in the sanctuary, I could not help but lend special recognition to the smallest and slinkiest of our sanctuary residents.

Surely, Princess will always occupy a place in my heart, as will all of the other gentle beings that have found heaven here. They come to us and thus we are trusted with their lives... and, to me, there are but few honors greater than taking part in their care.

At Wolf Haven we are all grateful to you all who so generously support our work. On behalf of Princess and all of our other beloved sanctuary residents, I thank you for their many carefree days and nights.

