

Sharing Reminiscences of Sung

JACK LAUFER, CURATOR

On October 5, Wolf Haven suffered a great loss to our wolf family with the death of Sung. Fortunately for Sung, she was very healthy and active until the end, then quickly passed on due to heart failure.

Sung arrived at Wolf Haven at the age of one. She had been sold to a couple in rural Texas who then moved into an apartment, prompting the search for a suitable home. Wolf Haven was contacted and we accepted her in July of 1984.

When Sung arrived, she was a very skinny, scared, and lonely wolf. She seemed to have little idea of what meat was for, although the other wolves quickly taught her. Sung shared her life to the fullest with her companion Teddy Bear, until his death in 1992. They spent countless hours together playing chase and tag. When Teddy Bear lost his eyesight, Sung became his seeing-eye wolf. They continued to run in play guided by Sung's vision, and her apparent affection for him, until the very end. Sung went through a period of mourning before she was even remotely interested in another wolf companion. In the fall of 1993, however, she welcomed a quiet, watchful male named Marius. Theirs was more a relationship of Marius learning everything he could from the older, wiser Sung.

Sung had a few very close human friends who, like Teddy Bear, were allowed to share her life. Her favorite game with me was called "watch the fool jump." She would wait until I was on my hands and knees crawling around her enclosure looking for old meat and bones to remove. Sung would then run up from behind and see how high she could get me to jump as she bounced her front feet on the ground while snapping her jaws shut like a steel trap. I then got her "could of had you this time" look and smile as she trotted off in glee.

Sung was a very active animal for her entire life. Without Wolf Haven, I seriously doubt she would have had much of a life. Thanks to the support of our members, we were able to give Sung a long and full life. I thank Sung for sharing her life with me, and for all the things she taught us through the years. I am also very thankful for the financial support our members give so we can continue to shelter as many Sung and Teddy Bears as we can.

Sung is now again with Teddy. Neither are confined to an enclosure, or troubled with loss of sight, or pain of any kind. Thank you Sung, you did your job well, teaching many of us why we must allow your kind to survive. You will never be forgotten, only missed.



It was with great sadness that we read your October 96 letter informing us of the death of Sung. Again, we were struck with the realism that all good wolves must pass on to a better place and meet their maker. Having adopted Sung this past year made her death much more personal. Nor can we forget wolves, such as Lucan, Clementine, and Teddy Bear who provided so much to educating the world to the life of the wolf and their destruction by man. Her passing has left us with a void which can never be replaced. But there are many others who need our love and support, as she did.

We would like to propose a memorial fund be established for all of those wonderful wolves who have passed on, who you have loved and sheltered. Those whose destiny brought them out of the wild and into the hearts of many throughout the U.S. and the world. A fund to provide hope, caring, love, and dignity to those who remain and those who will arrive in the future.

In memory of Sung, we will initiate this memorial fund with a \$100 donation. We ask each person, whose adopted wolf has passed on, make a contribution in the name of their adoptive wolf.

Rick & Lori Skinner
Apache, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: All of us at Wolf Haven are touched by your thoughts, your generosity, and your proposal. We are happy to begin a special memorial fund in honor of all those magnificent wolves who have touched so many and for the future of all wolves. Thank you to everyone who chooses to remember the wolves with such love.