



Tribute

Sam

THIS SEPTEMBER WE SAID GOODBYE TO LONG-TIME SANCTUARY RESIDENT, SAMANTHA.


Samantha, nicknamed Sam, lived out the last 6 years of her life in peaceful sanctuary at Wolf Haven.

Sam was a very striking and calm female. She had darker fur in her younger years but as she grew older, phased to a beautiful silver with black on the bridge of her nose.

Like many captive-bred wolves and wolfdogs, Sam's life got off to a rough start. Born in 2003 and acquired by a roadside attraction in Alaska, she spent the first 8 years of her life chained to a metal post. When that operation was shut down by the state, Lockwood Animal Rescue Center (LARC) rescued 30 animals. Wolf Haven resident, Bart, had lost his sister and Sam seemed like an ideal match for him when she joined us in 2013. Sam built a solid friendship with Bart until he passed in 2018. After she had time to process his passing and mourn for him, we knew Sam needed a new companion. We paired her with Lonnie, who was excited about a new friend right from the beginning.

This summer, Sam developed some health issues related to her advanced age. After showing signs of recovering from a stroke or seizure, Animal Care staff were able to medicate her and saw a short-term improvement. We monitored her very closely and were happy to see that she seemed to be enjoying her life with Lonnie. Unfortunately, her health soon started to decline once more, and we knew it was time to help our dear friend rest.

Sam passed away at age 16, a long life for a wolf. She was cremated and her ashes will be placed in the cemetery alongside her former companion, Bart.

Sam seemed to find joy in relaxing in the shade under her favorite tree and was an expert at digging day beds. We will always remember her walking proudly around her enclosure with a deer leg in her mouth or showing off any special treats to her neighbors. Farewell, sweet Sam. 

Sam with a deer leg. *Julie Lawrence.*

Marissa Pushee, Animal Care Assistant