

Tribute



Julie Lawrence.

YUKON, WHOSE NAME MEANS “GREAT RIVER”, CAME TO US FROM OREGON WHEN HE WAS ONLY 11 MONTHS OLD. HE WAS PULLED FROM HIS NATAL PACK AT A COUPLE OF WEEKS OLD AND WAS VERY SKITTISH AROUND PEOPLE.

Despite this, he was sold to a couple in California. Shortly after, the couple realized they were in over their heads, and Yukon was given to neighbors. The new owners returned Yukon to the breeder when they too discovered that owning a wolf was no easy task. Fortunately, Wolf Haven, was able to offer him

sanctuary.

Yukon was very shy and frantically searched for a hiding spot when he first arrived. He grew quite close to his first mate Angel. They shared an enclosure for seven years in a secluded area of the sanctuary where he would not get unduly stressed by humans. Yukon grew into a confident male that was protective of his companion and territory. He alarm barked and huffed at animal care staff when we had to change his water, clean his bucket or bring food. We limited our time near his enclosure so as not to stress him too much. When Angel passed away, he howled alone for days; she was all he had known since he was very young.

Over the span of his 16 years he had several more female companions and grew more comfortable with animal care presence but stayed wary until the very end. It is in the wolf's nature to avoid humans and we were grateful we could provide an area of the sanctuary for him to be able to do that. He lived a long life for a wolf, and I hope we gave him at least some of what he yearned for. I am sorry you could not be free Yukon, like you were meant to be, but I know in my heart we all did the very best we could for you, every day.



Ursula Davis, Animal Care/
Membership Assistant