

TRIBUTE: MERLIN

Erik Wilber, Sanctuary Manager

MERLIN WAS A GREGARIOUS AND OUTGOING WOLFDOG — short in stature but big in personality. He won the hearts of everyone he came across, both human and non-human alike, and had an ever present “happy face” to express his excitement toward staff (or food).

Merlin and his offspring lived in private ownership in Illinois for many years. In 2015, after failing to acquire the proper permits required by the state, the owner decided to simply pelt out the wolf family. Thankfully, a rescue operation ensued, led by the Brookfield Zoo and Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Many rescue organizations stepped up and the group was sent to various facilities across the U.S. Wolf Haven took in Merlin and one of his offspring, Luca.

Merlin loved napping in his favorite spot at the base of a particular tree, following animal care staff around as they did their daily duties, and eating his all-time favorite food — chicken drumsticks. Merlin never seemed to have a bad day and was always ready to greet situations with an upbeat attitude.

As the years came and went, time began to take its toll on Merlin. While his spirit remained strong, his body had a harder time keeping up. At 16 years of age, his mobility became increasingly compromised. Eventually, the time came to help our friend move on. On a sunny day in May, surrounded by friends, Merlin left this world for new adventures.

Thank you for everything, Merlin. We'll see you again someday. 🐾

Merlin. *Julie Lawrence.*

