

TRIBUTE: KOCHI

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WE HAVE THE SAD NEWS TO SHARE that Mexican wolf M1360 (Kochi) passed away in August due to complications from diabetes. Born into the Mexican wolf captive breeding program, Kochi had lived in our sanctuary since 2016, when he was transferred from the California Wolf Center to be paired with F1422 (Vida). Kochi and Vida were long-time companions who lived in the seclusion of Wolf Haven's pre-release enclosures.

The pair were recommended for breeding by the Mexican Wolf Saving Animals From Extinction program twice (formerly Species Survival Plan program) and had two litters of pups together. A litter of four was born in 2017, and a litter of eight was born in 2020. Kochi was a doting partner and patient father. Remote camera footage captured Kochi bringing food to Vida at the den and later on, eight hungry pups chasing after him to get him to regurgitate meat for them.

As is natural in wolf packs, the family group developed dominance disputes as the pups grew into adults, and Kochi was moved to an enclosure with one of his daughters, F2053 (Magnolia). Magnolia's playful energy kept Kochi on the move, and the two were good companions. An elusive and shy presence around staff, Kochi's quiet demeanor will be deeply missed. Rest in peace, Kochi. 🐾

Kochi. *Julie Lawrence.*