



HISTORY

In the spring of 1978, Steve and Linda Kuntz purchased a wolf pup from an exotic animal breeder in Colorado. At the time, they knew little about wolves, their needs, or that wolves were an endangered species.

Steve and Linda named their wolf Blackfoot and began raising him. In the process, they met Ed Andrews, who owned wolves in Colorado and taught Steve and Linda how to better care for Blackfoot.

In 1980, Ed and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to Washington to set up a wolf facility where they could educate the public about wolves. They named their facility Wolf Country. Steve and Linda soon followed to study wolves and gain hands-on experience. They learned about proper diet and how to construct enclosures for the wolves in their care. They also began conducting public education forums about wolves at fairs, civic meetings, and schools.

However, with scarce funding and a need to raise their own family, the Andrews' soon relinquished Wolf Country and the 22 wolves who resided there to Steve and Linda.

In 1982, the Kuntz family moved the organization to Tenino, Washington and filed for nonprofit status as a wolf sanctuary under the name of Wolf Haven America.

Their purpose was simple: provide the best possible care for their resident wolves. Wolves who, for the most part, had no other place to go. They also focused on educating the public about the importance of wolves in a healthy ecosystem and why wolves should be preserved and protected in the wild. Wolf Haven's early years were supported entirely by dedicated volunteers and donations from concerned individuals.

Wolf Haven America eventually became Wolf Haven International, complete with a Board of Directors and Executive Director. The board, staff, and volunteers of Wolf Haven have been working for wolf conservation since 1982 under the mission, *"To conserve and protect wolves and their habitat"*. While intentionally broad, this statement unites all the programs Wolf Haven undertakes. The incorporation of the word "international" recognizes that wolves need help all over the world and that our supporters can be found all over the world.



ABOUT US

Wolf Haven International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has worked for wolf conservation since 1982 under the mission, *"To conserve and protect wolves and their habitat."*

Wolf Haven works to uphold this mission by:

- Providing sanctuary for captive born wolves and wolfdogs
- Offering a variety of educational presentations about wildlife
- Promoting wolf restoration
- Protecting remaining wild wolves and their habitat

Accredited by both the American Sanctuary Association (ASA) and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), Wolf Haven has rescued and provided a lifetime home to over 300 animals in the last 40 years at our sanctuary locations in Tenino, Washington and Bridger, Montana.

Wolf Haven also participates in two federally managed Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) programs designed to ensure the continued health and survival of two endangered wolf species: the red wolf and the Mexican wolf. SAFE programs are partnerships between captive facilities, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a SAFE facility, Wolf Haven has successfully bred both red wolves and Mexican wolves, and three Mexican wolf families from our facility have been released into the wild in the United States and Mexico.

Our education team provides science- and arts-based programs, as well as guided sanctuary and prairie walks, to groups of all ages and backgrounds. Staff interact with students and teachers in both English and Spanish, offering close to 20 in-person programs in Washington, California, and Oregon, as well as virtual programming around the world.

Wolf Haven is a clear and persistent voice for wolf conservation and coexistence in the wild, and advocates for sustainable solutions that not only protect wolves but also minimize wolf-human conflicts and dangers to livestock. Our conservation efforts extend to the 52 acres of pristine Mima mound prairie, wetlands, and woodlands at our Washington sanctuary, as we work to preserve and restore native plants, butterflies, birds, and mammals to the prairie.