

## Tribute F1046 (Abu)



Julie Lawrence.

**W**OLF HAVEN WELCOMED MEXICAN WOLF F1046 (ABU) IN THE FALL OF 2019. SHE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE SANCTUARY AS A COMPANION FOR M1066 (MOSS), A THIRTEEN-YEAR OLD MALE.

Fourteen years old herself, Abu came to us after a long life as part of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. Born to wild parents in the Mexican wolf reintroduction area (New Mexico and Arizona), Abu spent her first year and a half growing up with her family, the Aspen pack. Unfortunately, recurring encounters between her pack and free-ranging cattle resulted in Abu being taken into captivity.

In 2008 she became part of the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan (MWSSP) captive breeding program

and found a home at California Wolf Center, where she met M863, her companion and breeding mate for years to come. F1046 and M863 were a very prolific pair, producing 4 litters and a total of 21 pups in their time together. She lived with several of her offspring in subsequent years, even helping some of them raise their own pups – inspiring the nickname “Grandma.” Last summer when both Abu and Moss needed a companion, the MWSSP coordinated their union.

From the moment Abu (short for *abuela*, grandma in Spanish) arrived at Wolf Haven, her confident and playful temperament was evident. On her first morning, we saw Abu sassily bluff charge her neighbors Lakota and Sierra, a pair of large gray wolves almost double her size. Abu adjusted smoothly to life in a quiet enclosure in the edge of the

sanctuary, and in the spring, she was spayed and retired from the captive breeding program. Her oocytes were preserved for future use in conservation.

Abu and Moss got to enjoy just short of one year together. After cancer compromised her quality of life, Abu had to be humanely euthanized. Abu contributed an invaluable legacy to the conservation of her species, and it was an honor to have offered her a home for the last phase of her life. A beautiful memory will forever stay with us, of Abu and Moss spending their afternoons peacefully lying next to each other underneath their vast Douglas fir.



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