



**HUMANE
SOCIETY
OF UTAH**

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Summer 2008

Speaking of **Animals**

The Humane Society of Utah is dedicated to the elimination of fear, pain, and suffering in all animals.



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Remember, HSU is *your* shelter.

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Incorporated 1961

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Governor Huntsman Holds Ceremonial Signing of SB 297 *at Humane Society of Utah Facility*

The legislation that we've struggled to get for so many years — and which finally got passed this year because ***your voices made it happen*** — was officially signed into law shortly after the legislative session ended in March, and on April 8 Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. came to the Humane Society of Utah's shelter for the final and ceremonial signing of the bill that makes the torture of a dog or cat a third-degree felony on the first offense.

The Governor himself had been supportive of the bill, and praised animal advocates for their determination in seeing that their efforts didn't end in failure, or, worse, catastrophic weakening of existing laws. Some bills, he said, "*percolate along and get a certain level of recognition and then they die. In other cases, people keep fighting for them until something gets done.*"

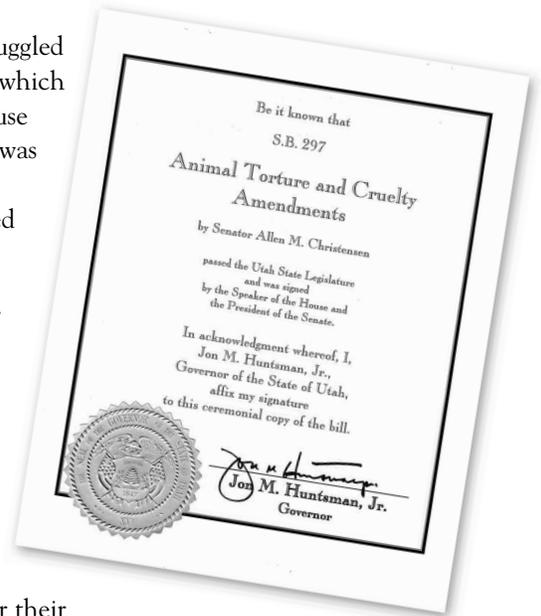


Photo: Oliver Schmidt

Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. appeared at the Humane Society of Utah in early April for the ceremonial signing of SB 297, which makes the deliberate torture of a companion animal a third-degree felony on the first offense.

Governor Huntsman paid tribute to his own family's three dogs at the ceremony, and he also made his own stance on the issue clear: "*I'm one who happens to think that as we treat our animals, so do we treat our fellow human beings,*" he said. "*There's a connection there that I think is undeniable.*"

His views represent what we perceive as the outlook of a new generation — younger people, better-educated people, people who are aware of the interconnectedness and sanctity of the whole Earth's web of life. "*This could not have happened ten years ago,*" says HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt. "*Ten years ago we had no one in positions of leadership with sufficient power even to bring up such an*

issue. Ten years ago enough of the public wasn't concerned about these things to have created the groundswell of support we received this year. Everyone who stood up for this bill literally played a part in changing history, in making things a little bit better than they were. Thanks to all of you." ❖

Lethal Whites

— Too High a Price to Pay for Cuteness

by Juli Ulvestad, HSU Assistant Foster Coordinator

Take a good look at the two adorable pups in these pictures. *Snow* and *Ashes* were brought to the Humane Society of Utah's shelter by someone who was very likely a backyard breeder of Australian shepherds. Puppies this cute could fetch hundreds of dollars apiece on the open

market, so why were they brought to us? Well, it turns out that these two sweet dogs are what are referred to as **Lethal Whites**. Both of them are deaf and blind.



Ashes

Snow and Ashes were brought to the Humane Society by someone who was almost certainly a backyard breeder. These adorable pups were forced to pay a terrible price for their good looks.



Snow

and say each breeding produces a litter of four puppies. Genetically, *the odds are* that this is what you'll get (although, of course, things don't always come out according to the odds; that's where the element of risk comes in):

Mother	Father	Puppies
mm (solid)	mm (solid)	4 mm (solid) puppies
Mm (regular merle)	Mm (regular merle)	2 regular merles, 1 solid, 1 double merle
Mm (regular merle)	mm (solid)	2 regular merles, 2 solids
MM (double merle)	mm (solid)	4 regular merles
MM (double merle)	Mm (regular merle)	2 regular merles, 2 double merles
MM (double merle)	MM (double merle)	4 double merles

Here's how the genetic defect, linked to a double-merle inheritance, results in impaired hearing and/or vision: With two M genes, there is so much color dilution (which is what the merle gene represents) that the dogs are all, or almost all, white, although some do have considerable color. The point is not what color the hair on the dog's body is, but the fact that the tiny hairs in the dog's inner ear must have some pigment in order to stand up and carry sound waves; if those tiny hairs are white, as they are in the majority of double merles, the dog will not be able to hear.

The cause of the eye defects that occur in double merles is not as well defined, but it is known that in the developing embryo, the areas of eye and color development are very close to each other, so this may have some influence.

Genetics 101

To understand how this happened, we need to know something about the basics of breeding animals who possess the gene for producing a mottled, or *merle*, coat. This includes not only Aussie shepherds, but also Great Danes, dachshunds, collies, Catahoulas, and shelties. The merle coat is rare, and therefore highly desirable. Merle dogs fetch a good price for breeders. But it's nothing compared to the price that the dogs themselves may have to pay.

The merle gene is dominant, and is represented by the capital letter **M**. The gene for a solid-colored animal is recessive, and its symbol is a lower-case **m**. Any of the breeds having the *potential* for a merle coat, like the breeds listed above, has some combination of these two genes — any individual puppy may be mm, Mm, or MM. The mm dog will be solid in coloration; the pup who gets the Mm combination will be a regular merle; and any puppy who gets the MM gene is often mostly white — and is usually either blind or deaf or both. They can even be born with improperly developed eyes, or no eyes at all. (Remember "*Pepper*," the beautiful blind Catahoula featured in our Winter 2007 newsletter? She wasn't white, but the MM gene that produced her mottled coat also caused her to be born sightless.)

Too Dickey for the Dogs

Double merles can only result from a merle-to-merle breeding, but there's no way of predicting which of the puppies from such a match will be solids, healthy merles, or double merles. As the chart above shows, statistics indicate that approximately one in four of the pups in *any* litter from *any* merle-to-merle breeding will be a double merle. (Some of these may be able to hear and/or see to some degree — but if they do, they're a lucky minority.) Since it's impossible to tell whether a merle dog bred to another merle is going to produce an Mm or an MM puppy somewhere in the litter, unscrupulous breeders will be so eager to get more of the valuable mottled dogs that they'll indiscriminately breed merles to merles, knowing full well that there's a 25% chance of getting double merles from each breeding. From

What Goes Wrong

Breeding puppies is a gamble. Whenever you're trying to get something specific, you are literally *playing the odds*. Here's how it goes: Take a hypothetical pair of parents,

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Disaster Readiness

When Disaster Strikes...

The Animals Won't Be Forgotten!

Humane Society joins Utah Emergency Animal Response Coalition

*by John Paul Fox
HSU Chief Investigator*

Everyone remembers the catastrophes that occurred for both people and animals during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina; we saw the photos of otters and seals and seabirds drenched in oily sludge after the *Exxon Valdez* ran ashore in Alaska's once-pristine Prince William Sound; and, like it or not, we all know deep down inside that in Utah we're living in a bone-dry tinderbox that's perched on a major fault line. We've already had our share of out-of-control wildfires, and minor temblors are more or less a way of life here.

The point is that the whole planet is an unstable and unpredictable place, and we're situated in a very high-risk part of it. So far we've been relatively lucky, but, inevitably, one day the Big One is going to hit us. And when that happens, we need to be ready to take care of ourselves and those we love — including our animals.



Time to get Serious

In September of 2007, the Humane Society of Utah was contacted by representatives of a new group which has been formed to improve emergency animal evacuation and sheltering for animals and livestock in Utah in the event of a large-scale disaster. A very professional circle of directors, led by local veterinarian Dr. Anne Justice-Allen, had already drafted Articles of Incorporation, formulated bylaws, and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit status. The Humane Society was both pleased and honored to become a part of UEARC — the Utah Emergency Animal Response Coalition.

Also participating in this group are important local and state organizations like the Department of Public safety, the Utah Veterinary Medical Association, the Utah Emergency Managers Association, and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. Other interested parties include the Utah Animal Control Officers Association, public health agencies, the Utah Farm Bureau, the Utah Division of Homeland Security, the American Red Cross, and Weber State University's extension programs.

Much of the "nuts and bolts" equipment that will be necessary, including trailers for transport and shelter, trained volunteers, and medical, food, and water supplies, is still to be obtained, but HSU has already donated \$1,100 toward this effort.

Ready to Help Where Needed

The goals of UEARC are to (1) facilitate a prompt and effective response to animal emergency issues in Utah in a manner consistent with that of the National Incident Management System and the Utah Emergency Operations Plan; (2) reduce threats to the health and safety of humans and animals during an emergency; (3) minimize the economic impact of animal issues during emergencies; (4) maximize resources available for recovery efforts related to animals and animal agriculture; and 5) serve as a training resource for local emergency personnel.

Already Getting Underway

UEARC representatives met with HSU's Board of Directors last October to present an overview of their organization and goals. The Board was highly supportive, and since then HSU representatives have attended each UEARC meeting to monitor their plans and progress. A Mobile Operations Center trailer is being purchased and outfitted to serve as a base for coordinating statewide animal rescues and sheltering during disasters. They are also developing memoranda (or statements) of understanding (MOU's) with other state groups and organizations to facilitate cooperation during disasters.

Arrangements have been made with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to utilize their large tent in case of emergency as a temporary animal shelter. They are investigating possible temporary animal housing sites at fairgrounds, auction yards, veterinary clinics, animal control and welfare shelters, equipment sheds, firehouses, and public and private arenas. Representatives from various Animal Control agencies have been encouraged to participate in upcoming disaster-training programs. In addition, UEARC has been meeting with and coordinating their efforts with the Local Emergency Preparedness Council, Community Animal Response Teams, Community Emergency Response Teams, State Emergency Response Teams,

Emergency Preparedness Program, Utah Volunteers Organization Active in Disasters, as well as Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART), Disaster Animal Response Training (DART), and Emergency Animal Sheltering (EAS), the latter training offered through the Humane Society of the United States. Staff and volunteers from all these organizations will receive the education and documentation required by the National Incident Management System's integration center to allow them to enter and work in disaster areas.

HSU looks forward to its association with this worthwhile Coalition in order to be fully prepared to deal with any future emergencies that may impact the state's animals in any way.

You can read and/or print out HSU's own disaster-preparedness handout on our website

Everything for the Animals

Specialized training prior to disasters will focus on the following issues:

- ✓ Rescue/transportation of companion animals and livestock
- ✓ Volunteer staffing; human and animal housing (portable and stationary cages, livestock panels, portable stalls)
- ✓ Food/water storage and preparation
- ✓ Alternative feed sources/grazing areas
- ✓ How to deliver goods to animals in isolated or remote areas
- ✓ Handling and housing of exotic pets and wildlife
- ✓ Dead animal disposal
- ✓ Basic equipment (live traps, nets, carriers, boats)
- ✓ Medical/ veterinary care (vaccinations, disease prevention/control)
- ✓ Information management and communications (including ham and citizen's band radio)
- ✓ Networking among law enforcement/fire departments, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the National Guard, horse and kennel clubs, boarding kennels, stables, and livestock and farm groups
- ✓ Cleanup and disinfection
- ✓ Expenses, financial assistance, and record-keeping.

Veterinary Medical Assistance Team, Utah's Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps, and similar groups.

Further preparations are being made for local disaster-preparedness training involving the Chemical Stockpile

at www.utahhumane.org/Investigation/PublicHandouts/PetDisasterPreparedness/tabid/1023/Default.aspx to get a first-hand look at what you can do when an emergency arises. In such a situation, every animal will need whatever help any caring person can provide. UEARC will be there — you can, too. ❖



The story of Yellowstone Wolf 253M and What I have learned from his Life and his Death

by Marlene Foard

Editor's note: Marlene Foard is a schoolteacher in Salt Lake City, and has also been a long-time member of the Humane Society of Utah. A few weeks ago Mrs. Foard telephoned us and asked if we had seen the article in the Salt Lake Tribune of April 9th entitled "Wolf's Death Stirs Fears for Species' Fate," which detailed the shooting of an 8-year-old male wolf in Wyoming who had crossed beyond the borders of Yellowstone National Park — on the very first day that wolves were stripped of their protected status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. "I had been following that wolf since he was a pup," says Mrs. Foard, "and I want to tell his story. Would the Humane Society publish it in your newsletter if I write it?" We will indeed, and are proud to include Mrs. Foard's moving tribute to one of the most noble representatives of a noble species.

Yellowstone Wolf 253M — so named because he was the two hundred and fifty-third wolf to be fitted with a radio tracking collar in Yellowstone Park, and a male — was born into the Druid Peak pack in the spring of 2000. This is probably the most closely watched wolf pack in history, long studied by scientists and naturalists throughout the West. It was in the midst of this famous pack that Wolf 253 left his mark on the hearts of thousands of visitors from all over the world.

A Trouper from the Start

Very early in his life, Wolf 253 received an injury to his left rear leg while helping defend his pack from invaders from a neighboring wolf pack. The injury left him with a permanent limp, but he never let that interfere with his role as a brave and useful pack member. Many wolf watchers nicknamed 253M "Limpy" because of his injury, but I always called him my Stud Muffin. He was a handsome jet-black wolf. I always thought the limp made him look distinguished — it made him special.

In November 2002, Wolf 253 left the Druids, probably looking for a mate and the chance to start his own pack. Toward the end of that month he appeared in Morgan, Utah, caught in a coyote trap. Now he had *two* injured paws. This wolf had traveled at least 200 miles, crossing roads and passing through areas of human development without ever being detected by people in his long walkabout. But, what is more important, not once in that incredible odyssey was he ever known to prey on livestock.

This was the first confirmed wolf sighting in Utah in over 70 years, and it was at this point that Wolf 253 became, to me, "my baby." I half-jokingly told all my friends he had come to Utah to visit me. A wildlife biologist from the US Fish & Wildlife Service came to collect Wolf 253, refit his collar with a new battery, and clean and medicate his injury

from the coyote trap; then "my baby" was relocated in Grand Teton National Park. Within days, 253 had made it back to Yellowstone. The trip back must have been difficult, since he was not familiar with the area where he was released.

By sheer luck, I happened to arrive in Yellowstone the very day after 253 returned. He surely was a sorry sight to behold. Although he had long ago become accustomed to his permanent rear-leg limp, it had become a more noticeable hindrance with his front paw wounded as well. In the wolf world, an individual in such circumstances might well have become the Omega wolf, or the wolf on the bottom rung of the pack hierarchy. Not 253. He healed and went on to become the Beta male, second in line only to the Alpha male.

Grief in the Pack

During January 2004, group dynamics in the Druid Peak pack began to change dramatically. First, the Alpha female of the Druid pack was killed by members of another pack. Then her mate was found dead in July, most likely killed by an elk, though I'd like to think he died of a broken heart — the alphas had been inseparable during their four years as leaders.

Some label this kind of thinking as "anthropomorphic" — assigning human feelings or emotions to animals — but for those of us who have loved them and taken the time to know them, we have a better understanding that animals really do feel emotions and can be very caring and devoted. In any case, Wolf 253 stepped up to lead the Druids.

Although 253 had been successful in keeping the Druids together, for some reason we will never understand he left the pack in the fall and started roaming Yellowstone. Wolf 253 appeared at the Jackson Hole Elk Refuge in the winter of

2005. Here, he was one of the "good guys." Often, when wolves experience physical limitations like those of 253 they turn to easier prey, such as sheep and cattle. But during 253's years in his new area, he never once preyed on livestock. He became a member of the resident Flat Creek pack, where he fathered five pups. In the several trips I made to Jackson Hole to search for "my baby," I never did find him. However, I did get to watch his jet-black pups in April 2007 — junior Stud Muffins all! They were beautiful.

Unforgivable

Wolf 253 had led a "true wolf" life for nearly a decade. He managed to traverse both the protected world of Yellowstone



Photo: David Wilkerson

Wolf 253M was a beautiful, brave, and resourceful member of the famous Druid Peak wolf pack in Yellowstone National Park. He inspired enormous loyalty and respect among both his wolf companions and the human beings who came to know him.

Problems Solved Here!

Talk to the Pro

Michelle Rizzi, CPDT, is a certified animal trainer and the owner of **Handle with Care Dog Training**. She teaches obedience classes at the Humane Society of Utah, and will discuss readers' training problems in *Speaking of Animals*. Here is one over-the-top situation, with Michelle's advice on handling it:

Help! I have a seven-month-old Lab who loves everybody too much! He knocks me down every time I walk into the room and tries to lick my face. I tell him to get down, but he doesn't listen. He jumps on everybody that comes into the house, or even if he just sees them coming up the walk, and it's getting harder and harder to make him get down. He's really a good dog, but this behavior is driving me and my family crazy. I love him so much — how can I make this stop?

— Fran C.

Hello, Fran —

Usually dogs jump up on people either to get closer to them, or to get their attention. Therefore, if you push the dog down and say, "No! Down!" you are actually very likely rewarding and reinforcing the behavior you want to stop! This is because, first, you're leaning into him to push him away and, second, when you yell at him he's definitely got your attention. So, from the dog's perspective, jumping on you works just great — he got exactly what he wanted.

I recommend taking your attention away from the dog completely when he jumps on you. Your goal is to show him that jumping is not only not going to get him more of what he wants — it will, in fact, get him less.

As the dog jumps on you, immediately turn your back to him and take a step away so that his front paws drop to the floor. Once he's down, quickly turn around to face him, look him directly in the eyes and say, "Good!" in an approving tone. But that's it. No petting, no gushing, just a simple "Good!" when his feet are on the floor — where you want them to be.

It's best to let the dog know the moment he gets a behavior right, not just when he gets it wrong. In essence you are telling him, "I don't like your jumping on me, but I do like you down there on the floor." So don't forget the important part: Let him know when he's behaving correctly.

This simple method works wonderfully well if everyone in the household is committed and follows the rule all the time. When the dog jumps on children who are too young to understand what to do, or on strangers coming into the home, it may be best to have him on a leash and, as the child or stranger approaches, make the dog sit or at least keep all four paws on the floor before he gets any attention. If the dog jumps up as the person comes near, ask them to quickly turn and walk away for ten to twenty seconds and then come back and try again. Repeat this as many times as necessary until the dog sits for a polite greeting, and then he gets petted. You'll be surprised at how quickly this will work.

For those who are inclined to use physical punishment for misbehavior — DON'T. Remember that when your dog jumps on you, he's only trying to get closer to you! There is no reason for kneeling him in the chest, or stepping on his paws, or pinching his toes. Good heavens, people, your dog is just being a dog and wanting your closeness. Show him the appropriate way to behave in your household with love and affection — and clear direction. There's no need to use force and risk an injury or even a confrontation.

Remember, the first line of defense when correcting an unwanted behavior is always... *handle with care!* ♦

LETHAL WHITES... continued from page 3

from a monetary standpoint, these dogs are worthless and many breeders simply kill the white puppies at birth, giving the double merle its other name — "**Lethal White.**"

The Problem is Getting Worse

Some of the "LWs" that are not killed by the breeders themselves are turned in to shelters where they may be euthanized. For these pups, being born white is therefore, literally, a lethal condition — unless, like Ashes and Snow and some other fortunate ones, they are taken to a shelter that will (a) work with them and prepare them to go to homes where they will get the special care and attention that they'll need for the rest of their lives, and (b) educate the general public about the inherent dangers in merle-to-merle breeding and discourage *anyone* from indulging in this foolish Russian-roulette practice.

Snow and Ashes are currently with HSU foster families, awaiting transport to a Lethal White rescue group in Arizona which is dedicated to placing these animals with forever families. For the two local fosters, these are, respectively, the second and third LWs they've taken this year. Another of our foster parents took a brother-and-sister pair last year. Some months ago West Valley City Animal Control informed us that they had several LWs in their facility which they suspected had been abandoned by a breeder in the area. Somewhere, somebody got a big price for a couple of fancy merle puppies; but somebody else *paid a terrible* price — their hearing, their eyesight, and perhaps even their lives.

The bottom line is this: People who indiscriminately breed dogs with the M gene, *gambling* that they will get a valuable merle puppy to sell, are also risking getting a certain number of LW pups. It's ironic that gambling for money is illegal in Utah, but gambling with living beings is just another instance of *Business as Usual.* ♦

and the human-dominated landscapes of Utah and Wyoming and survive. He is the only wolf known to have accomplished this feat.

Wolf 253 was just weeks short of turning eight years old when he died. He was shot and killed on March 28th, 2008 near Daniel, Wyoming, on the very first day that wolves were taken off the Endangered Species list. Three other wolves were also killed that same day. And that is how "Limpy," "Stud Muffin," — "my baby" — died. It was hardly a fitting end for a wolf with such heart, such street smarts, and such physical stamina. As of this writing, a total of 15 wolves have been killed in Wyoming. The Wyoming "wolf management" plan is, to me, simply legalizing what I call unreasoning slaughter. Anyone, for any or no reason, can kill a wolf in most of the state, no questions asked.

A Worthy and Noble Teacher

Through observing the example of Wolf 253's life, I have been taught much about living myself. For example, when enduring physical hardships, don't give up — a strong heart can and will overcome many obstacles. Be loyal to your family and companions. Take care of the young. Have a sense of adventure in your life, but be cautious enough to stay out of trouble. I have learned that, given the chance, even a wolf can have a deeply moving story to tell.

I have lived in Utah for over 30 years, and in this time I have inevitably made friends with many people who are hunters. But within this group, there isn't one who would be capable of killing an animal for no reason other than the fact that the animal happens to exist. It's gradually becoming apparent to me that there is an enormous difference between "hunters" and "ethical hunters." The distinction isn't related to a lack of information or education: modern technology makes all knowledge accessible. After much analysis, I believe that wanton killing of certain species is simply a matter of learned prejudice, passed on from one generation to another. Blind hatred of any specific group can never result in a positive, long-lasting outcome for the future.

If any predator is harassing livestock, then certainly control measures should be taken. I have the utmost respect for ranchers and farmers whose lives involve a tremendous amount of hard work and reliance on many variables beyond their control. But do all Wyoming ranchers and farmers harbor the "generational hatred" that would lead them to shoot any wolf on sight simply because that animal happens to be a wolf? Do all of Wyoming's citizens support this type of behavior? I hope not.

A Different World

Today's society is very complex. Most of the important issues our country currently faces — the Iraq war, affordable health care, the disappearing middle class, illegal immigration, etc. — cannot be easily solved. But I truly believe that the wholesale

A Workplace Giving Opportunity

In each issue of *Speaking of Animals*, you will see the logo of Community Shares Utah. This is a workplace giving federation that allows employees to donate any specified amount through payroll options to a range of non-profit agencies, including the Humane Society of Utah, that work to benefit the environment, deliver critical services, improve the community, protect human rights and promote animal welfare.



The Humane Society of Utah has been a member of Community Shares for several years. Look over the list of other member organizations at www.communitysharesutah.org to see what good company we keep. HSU would love to benefit from your workplace giving program — if you don't have the opportunity to contribute at work and would like to, please contact:

Carlene Wall, *Humane Society of Utah*
(801) 261-2919, ext. 209

or Lynne Bradley, *Community Shares*
(801) 486-9224

killing of wolves for the sake of killing wolves, in Wyoming or anywhere else, is something that can be changed. We can say that ingrained, generational hatred is not an American value, no matter what or who the target is. And we will not condone or legalize it.



Photo: David Wilkerson

253M traveled hundreds of miles throughout Wyoming and Utah with a permanently impaired rear leg. Not once in his journeys was he ever known to prey on cattle or other livestock.

Author Randy Pausch has taught me these three principles: (a) dream big, (b) ask for what you want, and (c) dare to take a risk. So, here I am, first of all *dreaming really big*: I want Wolf 253's pelt returned to Yellowstone, to be placed in the small museum there. This legendary wolf deserves a final resting place of peace and dignity. I also want Wyoming to develop a science-based wolf management plan, not one of senseless killing on sight as currently exists in most of the state. Second, I'm *asking for what*

I want: I want all of you to help me accomplish this. Acting as a group, Utahns finally got legislation passed that made the deliberate torture of companion animals a felony. It was the power of the people to right a long-standing wrong that made it happen. And finally, I'm *daring to take a risk*. I'm realistic enough to know that getting 253's pelt returned to Yellowstone in honor may ultimately be an impossible undertaking, but *I would regret it for the rest of my life if I didn't at least try*. Why? Simply because I surely loved that old wolf. Please start e-mailing the governor of Wyoming and Wyoming's senators and representatives every day, with just one statement in the message line: "Return Wolf 253 to Yellowstone."

Please help me return "my baby" to Yellowstone and stop the unnecessary killing of other wolves. His is a spirit worth fighting for. ♦