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Howl Ins at Full Moon Farm Wolfdog Sanctuary educate, entertain, amaze and involve

For those who don't know – which is probably 99 of every 100 people even in the dog friendly Asheville area – a Howl In is a free and eye-opening event.

Each Howl In combines a tour of the Full Moon Farm (FMF) facility in Black Mountain with talks and discussion about the truths, misconceptions and obstacles facing wolfdogs, followed by an optional potluck dinner. For a fee of \$5 per person, Full Moon Farm provides the meat and soft drinks while visitors are asked to bring a side dish.

Howl Ins are held April through October, usually on the middle Saturday of the month. The next Howl In will be on Saturday, July 13, followed by the one



In fact, all domestic dogs have wolf in them, as Howl In visitors learn. All domestic dogs, (canis lupus familiaris), are descended from gray wolves (canis



lupus). Every domestic dog, from a purebred Cavalier King Charles Spaniel to a 200 pound St. Bernard, has wolf in its heritage. That includes the familiar “mixed breed” or “Heinz 57 variety” pet so loved by American families, of course. That includes “doodles” and other designer dogs. And it even includes Chihuahuas and Yorkies and everything else in the

As the FMF website says: “If it's small, fast and squeaky, your wolfdog will want it.” Responsible parents should not leave a wolfdog, or any dog for that matter, alone with small children or infants.

Donations and volunteer help are currently much in need at Full Moon Farm. As Nancy Brown points out, the facility doesn't benefit from major grants, private or governmental. “Because they are not considered completely domestic animals by many agencies and organizations, wolfdog rescue is often not eligible for help that goes to ‘pets,’” she says. “And because they are not considered ‘wild’ by other agencies and organizations, they don't benefit from wildlife grants, either.”



on Saturday, August 17. As with all Howl Ins, the gates will open at 3pm and the farm tour of the 17 acre facility will begin at 3:15pm. Visitors will get to see, and hear, wolfdogs as they actually are, not as misconceptions define them.

The misconceptions about wolfdogs start with “wolfdogs are half dog, half wolf.” Not true. Wolfdogs are NOT half wolf/half dog. They are a dog with recent wolf heritage, defined as “having a verified



captive pure wolf ancestor within the last five or so generations.” Wolfdogs are domestic animals with special needs that depend on humans for food, protection and often for companionship.

Nancy Brown, Founder of Full Moon Farm, says that most of the wolfdogs she takes in are a mix of German Shepherd Dog, Alaskan Malamute and/or Siberian Husky. “Most wolfdogs today have all three breeds in them,” she says.



tiny dog family. As the Full Moon Farm unofficial motto says: “Without wolves there would be no dogs.”

Wolfdogs, like people, are highly diverse. Regardless of common parentage, no two wolfdogs in a litter will be identical in looks and behavior. One might be very much like a domestic dog, fitting right in with family pets and children. Another might be much more like a wolf in the wild. In either case, regardless of common parentage, no two wolfdogs in a litter will be identical in looks and behavior. In either case, the prey instinct will be strong.

The cost to maintain the FMF wolfdogs is high and getting higher. While the 200 pounds of high protein kibble of their nightly diet is donated, there are many other costs involved in their upkeep. The van used to transport the animals to/from veterinarians is on its last wheels, as is the utility golf cart used to get animals, volunteers and materials around the grounds. The farm's tractor and other vehicles also need major repairs or replacements. And volunteers are always needed.



To find out more about wolfdogs, Howl-Ins, Full Moon Farm and ways to support its efforts, go to FullMoonFarm.org, call Nancy Brown at 828 664-9818, or write to Full Moon Farm, PO Box 1374, Black Mountain, NC 28711. And tell them PetGazette sent you. 