

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

This has been an extraordinary year for WD4C. We expanded successful programs and initiated new ones. We assembled an amazing roster of partners to join our fight against poaching and wildlife trafficking. And we had the privilege of working with an unbelievably talented group of dogs who are now headed out into the world to make conservation happen.

By combining talented dogs, dedicated partners, and your generous donations, we accomplished amazing things together.



2015: GROWING OUR IMPACT

WE EXPANDED OUR PROGRAMS IN ZAMBIA On the borders of Zambia's South Luangwa National Park, Ruger, Earl, and Chai have helped their handlers remove 16 guns from circulation. Poachers often share guns, so the seizure of even one firearm deals a huge blow to the illegal wildlife trade. Building upon this success, Founder and Director of Research Megan Parker traveled to Africa with McKenzie Homan, our new Canine Field Specialist, to expand our work into North Luangwa National Park, a massive wilderness area that is home to Zambia's only black rhinos. As I write, McKenzie is training local handlers to work with Saxon and Vicka to prevent poaching and shut down wildlife trafficking in this pristine landscape.



.....Veterinary best practices clinic with Dr. Chris Kenyon



.....New recruits McKenzie, Vicka, & Saxon work with Zambian scouts

WE IMPROVED CANINE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS ACROSS AFRICA Most canine programs in Africa have been working in isolation, without access to a professional network or information on best practices for training, dog care, or project design -- until now. This November, we organized Working Dog Summits in Johannesburg and Nairobi that brought together 120 participants from 13 countries, including representatives from established and

prospective programs, customs authorities, conservation groups, wildlife authorities, the military, policy makers, and donors. We delivered hands-on training workshops and cutting-edge information that will allow programs in Africa to do better conservation work, and keep their dogs safer and healthier. The ripple effects of these meetings will be seen in conservation programs across the continent for years to come.

WE KEPT ALBERTA'S WATERS FREE FROM INVASIVE MUSSELS Zebra and Quagga mussels have not yet invaded the waters of Alberta, and WD4C stepped up its work to keep it that way. We now have three dog/handler teams permanently deployed at entry points to key Alberta watersheds. Unlike their human counterparts, our dogs can detect microscopic larvae and can search a boat for mussels in just minutes. Because of their speed, sensitivity, and accuracy, local authorities are finally able to search every vehicle that comes through their checkpoints, creating a tighter net around the area's pristine waters.

WE SAVED KIT FOX HABITAT... AGAIN! One of the first things dog trainers learn is Trust the Nose, so we were thrilled in 2012 when our partners at the BLM's Hollister Office took that trust to a new level by allocating over \$2 million to permanently protect land that our dogs identified as kit fox habitat. This year the dogs did it again: they identified more unprotected habitat, and once again the BLM is acquiring it for permanent protection. We couldn't be happier that what was once a leap of faith is now standard practice!



WE WELCOMED 10 NEW DOGS TO THE WD4C FAMILY The class of 2015 is an incredible one. Of our ten new canine partners, two were given a much-needed change of career, and six were pulled from shelters -- Sara just minutes before she was to be euthanized. We trained this talented group of animals to the highest standard, and fell in love with each and every one. They have bonded deeply with their handlers, and are poised to increase our conservation impact in North America, Africa, Asia, and beyond. We can't wait to share what Saxon, Vicka, Hilo, Chai, Diesel, Earl, Sara, Moose, Theo, and Atlas, the blind wonder-dog, accomplish in the field.

*Thank you. THANK YOU.
None of this work would have been possible without your generous support. I hope you will consider making an end-of-year gift to make 2016 an even bigger success. Use the enclosed donation envelope, or give online at our brand-new website: wd4c.org. I'm always here to talk about other ways you can help put our amazing dogs to work saving wildlife and wild places.*

All the Best,

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