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LARIMER COUNTY THREATENS TO CLOSE THE WOLF SANCTUARY

Larimer County, CO – March 13, 2009 –

The WOLF Sanctuary has been ordered by Larimer County to tear down fences on its land by March 20th or face potential closure. This local nonprofit, providing life-time care for abandoned and abused wolves and wolf-dogs, constructed fencing on their property outside of the 5-acre area originally approved by the county. Despite the fact that the fencing was constructed according to all applicable regulations in the County Land Use Code and contain no animals, County officials have demanded that fences be removed because of the lack of a building permit. According to Sanctuary Cofounder, Frank Wendland, *“**The Land Use Code*** is very specific that a Pet Animal Facility (which is how WOLF is categorized) is an Agricultural use and that Agricultural uses are exempted from any sort of fencing permit requirements. The County still asserts that there are permit requirements for fencing that pertain to WOLF but has refused to provide us with the applicable codes or ordinances.”*

The WOLF Sanctuary is located in a remote canyon on over 180 acres approximately 20 miles northwest of Fort Collins. All of WOLF’s fences are constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and no animals have escaped their enclosures. Mr. Wendland further states, *“It has become very obvious that the County has an agenda to which we are not privy. The County’s latest demand does not seem to be backed up by any applicable ordinance, and neither the County nor the **Commissioners*** have responded to our requests for the applicable codes or for clarification of our obligations. It seems as if the County is reaching for excuses to shut down the Sanctuary. This despite the fact that WOLF is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in the care and containment of wolves and that it has operated without a single complaint being filed or violation of the terms of its Special Review for over seven years, when these fences were built.”*

Wendland continues, *“**The County has now threatened*** to schedule a show-cause hearing to potentially revoke the WOLF Special Review Approval, which would result in the Sanctuary being closed down and all the animals there being killed. Considering that WOLF has followed all published regulations in the Land Use Code, we are confused why the County is opposed to this fencing.”*

“It is unfortunate that our own County can’t quite seem to embrace the value of the Sanctuary.”

*Document attached.

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