

A SANCTUARY FOR ALL



SHY WOLF
SANCTUARY
EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE CENTER

Presented to:
COLLIER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION



About Shy Wolf Sanctuary Education & Experience Center

Long the subject of legend and lore, our volunteers and staff can attest from daily interaction with wolves, that they are the embodiment of intelligence, loyalty, and beauty. Since incorporating in 2001 as a nonprofit, Shy Wolf has been learning from their stories and leading the way in the Southwest Florida community with messages of healing, hope, and peace – for animals and humans - fulfilling our mission to **heal hearts and minds through Rescue, Sanctuary, and Education**. These three core components form the foundation for all services and programs that ARE Shy Wolf Sanctuary Education & Experience Center.



RESCUE



We believe that a world-class facility dedicated to captive-bred exotic and un-releasable wild animals is vital –to preserve, protect, and foster understanding for them and their wild cousins.



SANCTUARY



We believe all life deserves respect, empathy, and the security of a safe haven. Shy Wolf serves as a sanctuary for the animals we rescue, the volunteers who support us, and all visitors entering the gates.



EDUCATION



We believe that the best way to learn is by doing – encouraging hands-on discovery for a deeper understanding. Natural habitats and immersive interactive experiences form the foundation for a better world.

Our Programs

RESCUE



- Respond to requests for assistance from individuals, domestic animal shelters, law enforcement, wildlife rehabilitators, and rescue organizations.
 - Screen rescued animals to determine if they can be responsibly adopted as pets.
 - Support every adopted animal for their lifetime.
 - Offer opportunities for animals often overlooked by other rescue organizations.
 - Educate and equip owners to help pets remain in their home.
-

SANCTUARY



- Provide a safe and forever home for animals that are unadoptable.
 - Provide our resident animals with unconditional love, respect, freedom from pain and stress, enriching activities, a healthy diet, and the best care our dedicated volunteers and staff can offer – for the duration of their lives.
 - Shelter first responder and community pets during times of natural disaster and crisis.
 - Allow access to larger, naturally enriched habitats with the ability to provide changes in environment.
-

EDUCATION



- Reach children across SWFL and beyond with experiential learning opportunities in the sanctuary, in the community, and in a virtual learning environment.
 - Encourage and facilitate hands-on learning via workshops and classes.
 - Inspire adventure, spiritual connection, passion, personal reflection, and discovery.
 - Provide a variety of educational resources, organized by grade level for schools, camps, and other youth organizations - that are designed to address state educational standards.
-



Healing Hearts

Kindness. Forgiveness. Gratitude. Courage. Unconditional Love. All attributes we can learn from the animals at Shy Wolf.

Because our animals come to us from abuse, abandonment, and neglectful situations, a magical healing connection is made with humans who have had similar life experiences. The Healing Hearts program offers participants an animal encounter, art projects like painting wolf houses or making holiday ornaments, and camaraderie for adult participants through work projects benefiting the sanctuary residents. During the experience, we see participants build confidence and self-esteem while finding respite and hope that help them along the path to healing.

Shy Wolf Sanctuary Education and Experience Center partners with the following nonprofit organizations:



Our Impact



The fascination people hold for exotic animals is reflected in our growth over the years and by the needs we fill through Rescue, Sanctuary, and Education. Requests come in to rescue animals when a family member dies, families relocate, wild animals are injured, and animals exhibit behavioral issues. These abandoned, neglected, and abused captive-bred exotic and un-releasable wild animals have nowhere else to go, if not for us. We could not reach the lives of animals and people the way we do, if not for you.

While “wolf” is in our name, our many dozens of residents at any time might include bobcats and cougars, dingoes and singing dogs, foxes and raccoons, wolfdogs and coyotes, even prairie dogs and tortoises. Over the years, we’ve rescued some 1,350 animals, including many that never stepped foot on Sanctuary grounds.

Tens of thousands of visitors from Florida, across America, and around the world have been enlightened and captivated by their experiences meeting our amazing animals. Our resident and ambassador animals connect deeply on an individual level with people, helping fulfill our mission by sharing their unique personalities and inspiring stories of survival, unconditional love, and HOPE.

Through our Healing Hearts program, traumatized individuals whose own stories include abuse, neglect, or abandonment find a powerful and unique bond as our animals exhibit unconditional love and acceptance.

**We know that healing – for our animals
and for our visitors – begins with hope.**

By the numbers



65 RESIDENTS ON AVERAGE



1,350+ RESCUES & ADOPTIONS



452 RESCUE REQUESTS IN 2021



\$65,000 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR MEDICAL CARE



22,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS PER YEAR



10,000 PEOPLE REACHED PER YEAR



A Sanctuary for All

CAMPAIGN FOR SHY WOLF SANCTUARY EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE CENTER

The need to do more is urgent, and the time is now. Because we remain at capacity, the number of animals that Shy Wolf can help is limited. We turn away animals daily. With a vision for the future, our board of directors has purchased 17 acres to expand our campus and save more lives.

Shy Wolf's vision and bold plan for the future is to create a kinder world for people and animals, through all aspects of our programming and services: Rescue, Sanctuary, and Education. We would love for there to not be a need for sanctuaries such as ours. Until that time, we promise to carry the light of hope and healing for captive-bred exotic and un-releasable wild animals through crisis intervention and lifelong care and support. We then share the animals' life lessons to reshape human understanding and behavior through educational and life-changing encounters.

- The daily requests for animals needing our specialized assistance
- The need for a CAT 5 shelter catering to animals, first responders, and community
- Our desire to expand educational programs and partnerships like we have with Eagle Scout projects, school field trips, and wildlife conservation through thoughtful habitat design like the underpass – which will allow visitors to experience animals walking under them

All speak to the urgency of our plan to expand from 2.5 acres to 17 acres.

With a three-decade track record of caring for rescued animals encompassing compassion, an enduring commitment to education and research, and a sense of urgency to respond to capacity demands and severe weather events, Shy Wolf is poised to propel our mission forward in a bold new way through the transformative \$30 million **Campaign for Shy Wolf: A Sanctuary for All.**

Community Need



**IF NOT NOW...WHEN?!?
WE CAN PLAN BETTER FOR EVERYONE**

By the numbers



4 of 5

COSTLIEST
HURRICANES
IMPACTED SWFL



40B+

COST OF HURRICANE
IAN TO DATE



385,980

COLLIER
RESIDENTS IN
2021



?????

PETS IMPACTED FOR
RESIDENTS & VISITORS



121

HURRICANES THAT
HAVE IMPACTED
FLORIDA

PRICELESS

FIRST RESPONDERS
WHO WORKED
DURING THE STORM

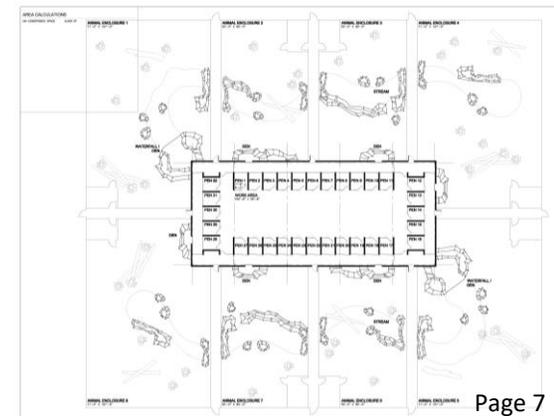
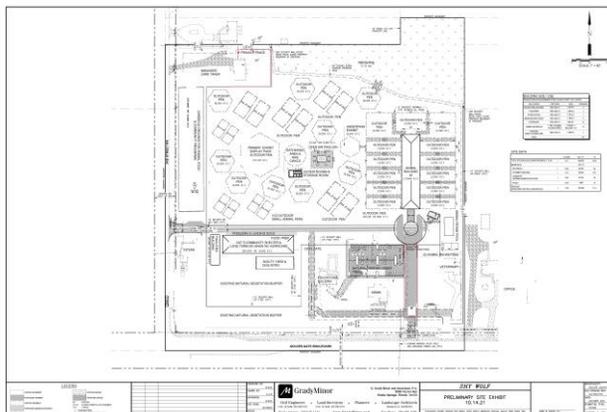
What's Next: Campaign Strategic Goals



We are thrilled to have closed on the purchase of our future home. With a vision to become a world-class sanctuary, leading the way in animal care and education, we will welcome more visitors for encounters that connect animals, people, and communities.

The **Campaign for Shy Wolf: A Sanctuary for All** will allow Shy Wolf to:

- Increase the number and types of permanent exotic residents
- Provide specialized veterinary services for captive and wild animals, especially those related to the unique SW Florida ecosystem, through an on-site dedicated veterinary clinic designed for large cats or even bears
- Form partnerships with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the US Department of Agriculture, and the Florida Panther program to aid animals they serve through this clinic
- **Construct a CAT 5 rated hurricane-resistant shelter for our residents, and for First Responder and community members' pets during emergencies**
- Build larger natural habitats with the ability to offer resident animals varied enrichment

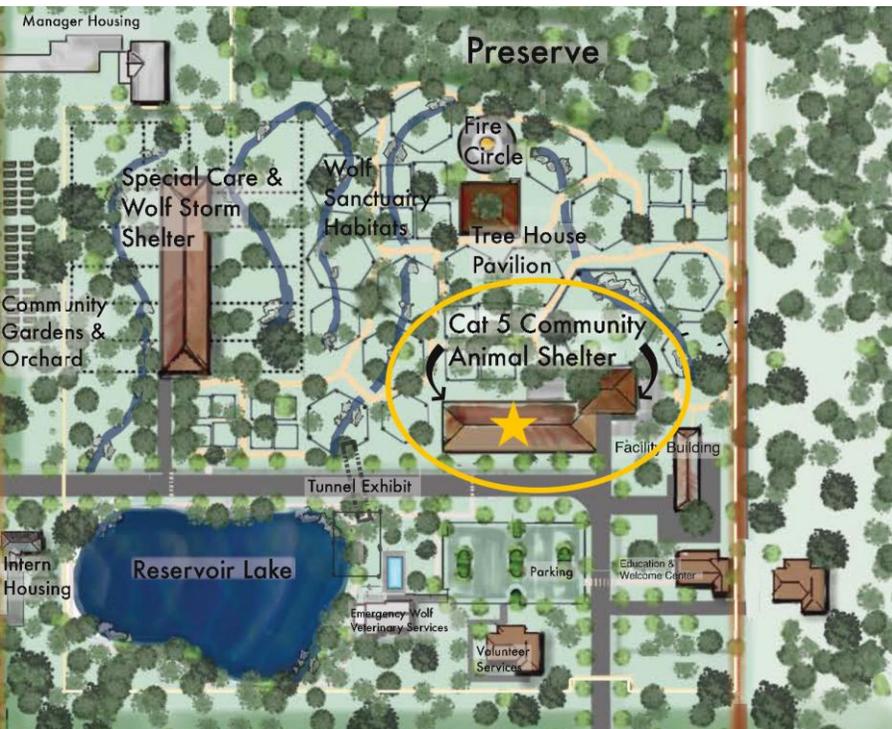


Our Priority:

CAT 5 Community Animal Shelter

With Hurricane Ian fresh in our minds, Shy Wolf Sanctuary has its eye on the future, knowing it's not a matter of IF the next storm will hit but WHEN. The most responsible thing we can do right now is to prepare for the next storm – to protect animal and human lives.

To that end, Shy Wolf Sanctuary will be including a CAT 5 hurricane-resistant community animal shelter on our new 17-acre property. This first-of-its-kind shelter will house all of Shy Wolf residents but also the pets of first responders and the pets of community members forced to evacuate in the face of disaster.



Rendering above is conceptual and subject to change.

The 10,000-square-foot shelter will:

- Feature a large open warehouse-style floorplan, in which temporary kennels can be constructed to accommodate animals of various sizes
- Be constructed to withstand CAT 5 hurricane winds and minimize the threat of flooding
- Have the ability to operate by generator for an extended period in a power outage
- Include a dedicated animal food preparation area with commercial coolers and freezers for food storage
- Serve as a resource to all of Florida depending on where the storm is headed, in particular zoos that may be in a direct path like Naples Zoo was during Irma or the Miami Zoo during Andrew
- Be an ongoing resource to house pets of community members recovering from a storm after shelters close
- Serve as an entertainment venue for community events when not needed as an animal shelter in times of crisis
- **Projected cost for CAT 5 building is \$500 per sf or \$5M total**

Board of Directors



 **BETH SWIDERSKI**
President



 **SHANE BLITZ**
Treasurer



 **ANDREA DEKOFF**
Secretary



 **J. CHRISTOPHER LOMBARDO**
Board Member



 **PAULA HUGHES**
Board Member



 **DEANNA DEPPEN**
Executive Director





“ I truly believe that we are all connected to the earth and each other, and what happens to the earth, and animals, happens to us. And awareness is desperately needed by all.”

NANCY J. SMITH, CO-FOUNDER
Shy Wolf Sanctuary Education and Experience Center



Contact Us



DEANNA DEPPEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

 239-290-9867

 deanna@shywolfsanctuary.org

Shy Wolf Sanctuary
P.O. Box 3032
Naples, FL 34106

shywolfsanctuary.org

