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Wolf trust celebrates World Animal Day

Mon, October 06 2008

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More than 500 people visit the UK Wolf Conservation Trust for World Animal Day

MORE than £5000 was raised at World Animal Day at Butlers Farm, Beenham, on Sunday (October 5), which will go towards conservation projects for the protection of wolves.

The money raised from the day, organised by the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, will go towards keeping wolves in the wild and the chosen project will be named by the trust in the coming weeks.

More than 550 people, including many family groups and visitors from Dorset and the Midlands, attended the event, which was the first of its kind.

There were demonstrations by wildlife artists Vic Bearcroft and Sue Shimeld, activities for children and the chance to meet Michelle Paver, the author of the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness book series, about a boy's fight for survival alongside his wolf companion.

The UK celebrity ambassador for World Animal Day, TV wildlife presenter Anneka Svenska, said: "This event is a coming together of everyone across the country to celebrate animals.

"One of the biggest problems in urban areas is the loss of habitat and we are seeing many species disappear.

"We need to bring the wild back into our back gardens."

A cheque presentation for £1,500 was made at the event by the trust to the Born Free Foundation, an international wildlife charity working to stop individual wild animals suffering and protect threatened species in the wild.

The cheque, which matched the funds raised by a Walk for Wolves event in September at Battersea Park, London, was received on behalf of the foundation by Anneka Svenska, who said the money would go towards helping protect Ethiopian wolves, the most endangered wolves in the world.

One of the trust's senior handlers, Linda Paul, said: "The day was absolutely

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fantastic despite the weather.

"To have that amount of people was amazing and it has undoubtedly helped us raise public awareness of what we do and the importance of protecting these species.

"Educating the public is of paramount importance to us and if we can get more members from events like this, then that would be great."

The trust, which is totally reliant on donations and support, looks after nine North American and European breed wolves and has just started a student exchange with the Balkani Wildlife Societies large carnivore education centre in Bulgaria, which it is keen to develop.

The trust has said they are keen to hold a similar event next summer and will be holding an open day for the public on Sunday November 2 between 11am and 4pm.



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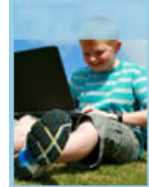
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