

Wolves & Humans

Award-Winning Show Comes to Bishop Museum February 1

Little Red Riding Hood had an unusually bad day when she discovered the Big, Bad Wolf in the guise of Grandma. Unusual because, in reality, wolves don't prey on humans. In fact, they prefer having as little as possible to do with us. But that isn't so easy these days, as an upcoming exhibition at Bishop Museum explains.

Wolves & Humans: Coexistence, Competition and Conflict is an award-winning traveling exhibition opening February 1, 1992 in the Castle Memorial Building, and continuing through May 17. The 6,000-square-foot presentation, brought to Hawai'i by Sealand, examines the wolf throughout history, its role in folklore, myth, art and religion, as well as its present-day challenges of survival in a shrinking wilderness.

Wolves & Humans was developed by the Science Museum of Minnesota, which received an Award of Achievement from the Natural Resources Council of America for the exhibit's outstanding quality. During the past seven years, the popular exhibit has been seen across the country and Canada in some 20 museums, including the American Museum of Natural History, New York; the Boston Museum of Science; the National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.; and the Vancouver Museum. Bishop Museum is glad to be able to bring *Wolves & Humans* to Hawai'i during an extended tour of the exhibition.

During a well-attended showing in Yellowstone National Park, the exhibit was described by Park Superintendent Robert Barbee as "a remarkable presentation of wolf natural history and human attitudes. The quality of the exhibit is extraordinary."

Allen Allison, Assistant Director of Research and Scholarly Studies, says *Wolves & Humans* is an exhibition of the national caliber Hawai'i's state museum is proud to bring to the islands. "Even though there aren't any wolves in Hawai'i, we believe this is something



Richard Hoyt

Wolves & Humans shows wolves in their full range of postures and behaviors.

people here would appreciate seeing," he says.

The central display is a dramatic diorama of a wolf pack engaged in a winter kill of a white-tailed deer. Twelve taxidermic wolves are postured to show varying behaviors, ranging from howling and aggressive stances to playful and submissive ones. Video monitors around the pack add sounds, images and explanations to the full range of wolf behaviors depicted.

Other supporting exhibits include interactive and multisensory displays that allow visitors to experience what it's like to be a wolf. A howling booth lets visitors try out their vocal chords to locate a pack of wolves hidden in its territory. If the visitor chooses the right spot to howl, the pack will answer back, allowing one to learn when and where wolves howl within their territory.

In a section about the wolf and the dog, exhibits show how humans selected features of the wolf to develop more than 120 dog breeds within the last 15,000 years. To demonstrate this process, the visitor may use a computer to create two-dimensional images of some 20 dog breeds by changing the proportions of the wolf head image.

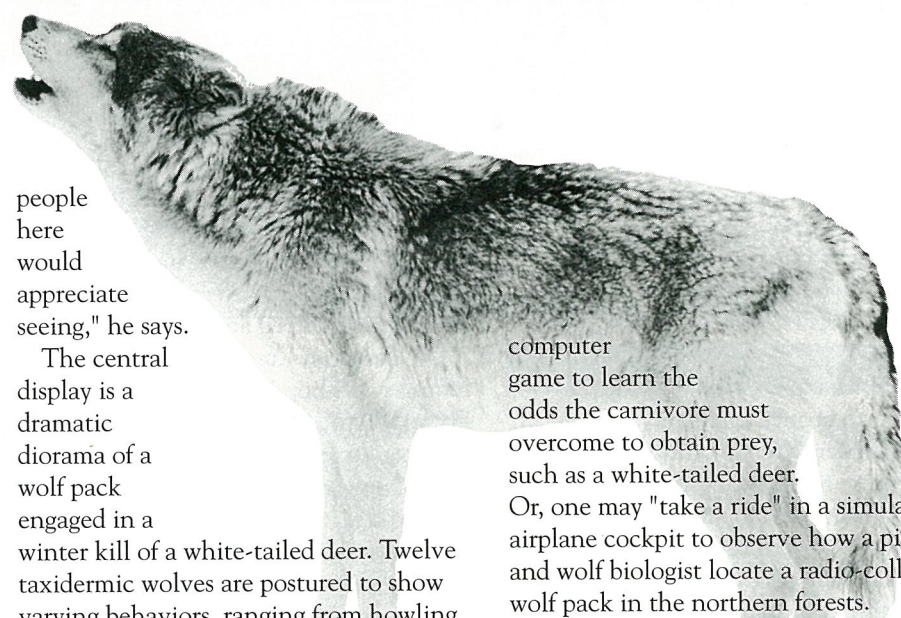
Computers are also included in a section about scientific study of wolves. Visitors can play the part of a wolf in a

computer game to learn the odds the carnivore must overcome to obtain prey, such as a white-tailed deer. Or, one may "take a ride" in a simulated airplane cockpit to observe how a pilot and wolf biologist locate a radio-collared wolf pack in the northern forests.

Other exhibits feature the wolf throughout history and in different cultures. One display compares wolves and humans as hunters in a Pleistocene environment. Another includes prehistoric wolf masks, costumes and totems from Native American cultures. Cultural exhibits show representations of the wolf in folklore, myth, literature, art and religion. Werewolf legends explain how the superstition was most widespread in the late 15th and 16th centuries, when werewolf trials and searches for religious heretics were common.

Last but not least, the wolf is discussed as an endangered species juxtaposed against current human attitudes toward the animal.

Bishop Museum's Education Department will present lectures, family activities and children's workshops to complement the exhibition. Specific programs will be listed in the February/March issue of the Museum's Events and Programs schedule.



Monry Sloan