



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Reward Offered in Endangered Mexican Wolf Killing**

PHOENIX (July 13, 2010) — The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for illegally killing an endangered Mexican gray wolf in eastern Arizona. The HSUS offer brings the total reward amount for information on this case to \$54,500.

### ***The Case:***

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the body of an adult male wolf was discovered on June 18. Officials say that the wolf died from a gunshot wound. The wolf was an alpha male member of the Hawks Nest pack, which lives in the area east of Big Lake in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in the spring and summer.

“This callous poaching is an affront to the recovery of this critically endangered species, and we implore anyone with information about this case to come forward,” said Kari Nienstedt, Arizona state director for The HSUS. “The Humane Society of the United States commends the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their dedicated work to find those responsible for this serious crime.”

Mexican gray wolves are highly endangered, and killing one is illegal under the federal Endangered Species Act.

### ***Poaching:***

- Wildlife officials estimate that for every wild animal killed legally — tens of millions of animals per year — another is killed illegally.
- Every year, thousands of poachers are arrested nationwide; however, it is estimated that only 1 percent to 5 percent of poachers are caught.
- Poachers injure or kill wildlife anytime, anywhere and sometimes do so in particularly cruel ways. Wildlife officials report that poachers often commit other crimes as well.
- The HSUS works with state and federal wildlife agencies to offer rewards of \$2,500 for information leading to arrest and conviction of suspected poachers.

### ***The Investigators:***

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (928) 339-4232 or Arizona Game and Fish Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700. Callers may remain anonymous.

### ***The HSUS Media Contact:***

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The HSUS works to curb poaching across the country. Visit [humanesociety.org/poaching](http://humanesociety.org/poaching) for more information.

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*The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization — backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty — On the Web at [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org).*

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*Since 1993 the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, alone or in partnership with other conservation groups, has participated in the protection of more than 1.8 million acres of wildlife habitat in 37 states, and eight foreign countries. On all properties owned by the Trust or protected by the Trust's conservation easement, both here and abroad, we prohibit recreational and commercial hunting and trapping and restrict logging and development. The Trust's commitment to these principles will never change as we continue to assist caring landowners to make their property permanent, safe homes for wildlife. Join our online community at [wildlifelandtrust.org](http://wildlifelandtrust.org).*

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