



STAFF PHOTO BY CHAD McCLURE

A red wolf that has just arrived in Chattanooga from Minnesota sits in a crate Thursday afternoon. The wolf is part of the Red Wolf Recovery Program and will be released into his new home at the Tennessee Wildlife Center.

NEW ARRIVAL

Male red wolf comes to Tennessee Wildlife Center

BY CLINT COOPER
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The red wolf population at the Tennessee Wildlife Center doubled Thursday with the arrival of a male wolf from Minnesota.

The move was part of the federal Red Wolf Recovery Program's Species Survival Plan, which seeks to re-establish stable populations of the endangered red wolf in areas where it once lived. That range includes all of the southeastern United States.

The male wolf will join a female in an educational exhibit at the center.

There are about 150 captive red wolves in 32 cooperating facilities in the United States and about 100 red wolves surviving

in the wild in northeastern North Carolina and two island locations off the South Carolina coast and Florida panhandle.

The wolf was flown to Chattanooga aboard a Cessna 210 owned by SouthWings, a non-profit aviation service based here and used to educate the public on environmental problems facing the Southeast. Last month, SouthWings flew two red wolves from the Tennessee Wildlife Center to Texas as part of the red wolf program.

"This is so cool," said Steve O'Neil, executive director of SouthWings, as the wolf was unloaded from the plane and onto a van owned by the Tennessee Wildlife Center. "We'll never get this close to something like this again."

Dr. Susie Matthews, the Ten-

nessee Wildlife Center veterinarian who accompanied pilot Hume Davenport to DuPage, Ill., for the pickup, said the 8-year-old wolf had a normal flight. The animal had been flown from Minnesota to DuPage earlier in the day.

"This guy was quite quiet," Mr. Davenport said of the brown, black and buff wolf that resembles a German shepherd.

Mr. Davenport said the wolf was flown aboard a direct SouthWings flight and not a commercial airline in order to minimize the stress on it. He said the weather for the twice-delayed flight was perfect.

"It was a bluebird day all the way across," he said of the 2:45 p.m. flight.

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