

# Alpha

A wolf would have a hard time if he/she is not supported with an alpha wolf. That means an Alpha has to keep the other wolfs safe and has to fight for his/her pack, no matter how hard it could be. The alpha would put himself/herself in risk of getting hurt, but will not give up until the pack is safe.

The three reason why we picked the name Alpha is important to explain. First, we thought that an Alpha has a hard time keeping others safe especially if it is a big pack. We thought an Alpha would have a hard life for being an Alpha.

Second, An Alpha means the wolf inside is stronger than other wolves in the packs. Naming a puppy Alpha will make he/she feel stronger and brave to overcome the hard life.

Finally, an Alpha who has a hard life is similar to the lives of the deaf people who can't help it themselves without hearing or talking. Most of them get killed from trying to stay alive because most people get killed from not hearing themselves.

Overall, we learned and feel that having the puppy name Alpha will help them to be brave for his/her families and never to be afraid to give up! He/she knows how much being loved now when being helped by other people more than the world.

Mexican Gray Wolves, well all wolves actually, are one of my favorite animals. They are also one of the most feared animals in the world. I believe that people fear wolves because they don't know very much about them, and because we all have grown up hearing scary stories about them. So many people hear wolf and think of the big bad wolf. However, they are actually very beautiful, important and often gentle creatures. Wolves are pack animals, and their families are the most important thing to them. One misconception people have about wolves is that they are violent toward each other, with an alpha and other members of the pack always picking on the omega. We have recently learned that these misconceptions were the product of only studying wolves in captivity. This behavior is actually a sort of coping mechanism for wolves who are kept in captivity. In the wild, however, they are rarely violent toward each other, and they only hurt or kill other animals to protect themselves, their families, and to eat. I think we humans could learn a lot from wolves.

Sadly, due to ignorance, selfishness and a lack of respect for nature, wolves are nearly extinct in the wild. Mexican Gray Wolves are the most endangered of them all, with only a handful left living in the wild. This is very upsetting to me not only because I love wolves, but also because they are really important to their ecosystems. This was made painfully obvious when wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park. The wolves literally brought the park back to life. Not only did they help to restore the populations of other animals, but they even changed the landscape. The reintroduction of wolves forced herds of grazing animals to stay on the move, rather than staying in one place so long that they killed all of the vegetation. Before the wolves were reintroduced, the grazing animals had become complacent with no predators to worry about. They would stay in one area for too long and eat everything. This caused the river banks to weaken and collapse, which led to stagnant water.

Once the wolves were back, they restored the natural order of the ecosystem. One of the effects of this was the re-growth of vegetation near the rivers, whose roots strengthened the river banks and helped even the rivers to come back to life. When I learned about this, I thought it was really amazing. Wolves are truly incredible animals who deserve love, respect and protection.

The name I chose is Atira, the name of the Earth Goddess in the Native American Pawnee Tribe. I chose this name because Native American culture has always greatly respected wolves and every other animal. They know, unlike many of us, that every animal has its place and we are all brothers and sisters of the Earth. I think Atira would be a good name because she was considered to be the creator, or life-giver. As we have seen from what happened at Yellowstone, wolves truly bring life with them everywhere they go.

Thank you for your consideration and for giving me this opportunity. It would make me really happy if you chose my name.

Atira is a good name for the wolf pup because Atira is the Goddess of Earth and wolves are connected to Earth, by balancing the ecosystem and helping our planet.

Dear Mexican Gray Wolf Naming Contest,

My name is Mackenzie Couch and I am 12 years old. I am in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Plainwell Middle School in Michigan. I am writing because I want to be chosen to name a wolf in honor of my best friend, my Papa. My Papa was a correctional officer in Tucson, AZ and passed away on the job, he was 52. On March 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 it will be 3 years. My Papa was my best friend and I know that I was his because I was the only one that was ever able to eat in his truck. He even let me eat Ice Cream in his truck. This was a HUGE deal because he would not let anyone else in the family ever eat in the car. He would even make my Grandma wait to get home if they got food.

When I was younger I didn't know that he was so sick. No matter how he was feeling he always had time and energy for me. The year that I was born he had a kidney transplant and things were going well for awhile. He was able to get a job and even buy a house with my Grandma. Even though he looked like he was feeling well there was a lot that he was suffering from, but he never let me know this. He was Papa and didn't want me to worry about him. He started having a really big problem with his heart before I was born, but things got worse when I was in Elementary school. The doctors told him that part of his heart had died and that he may need a heart transplant. He started to do all the testing and then some of his heart got better. I was really happy when I heard that. Then he was told that his heart was not bad enough to be put on the list for a heart transplant and I got really upset. I know that my mom was upset too because she cried.

He was at work when he died. He had volunteered to help another correctional officer out and when he was done with the job he had a massive heart attack. I know that they did everything that they could to help my Papa, but he didn't make it. That was the worst time in my life. I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and no one close to me had ever passed away before.

My Papa still is my best friend and I know that he still looks out for me. He still looks out for my Mommy too because he sent us my Step Dad a few months after he died. In fact they got married on his anniversary March 9<sup>th</sup> 2015. I got to walk her down the isle 😊. My Cousin also made a teddy bear of his work shirt that I sleep with every night. He was always very proud of me and would always support everything that I did. I started to do charity work when I was younger like giving up my birthday gifts and have people donate money to WWF. I also donated my hair. I wanted to keep that going and when I moved to Michigan my mom started working at a Zoo and I was able to start another charity fund to help bring back wolves to the Binder Park Zoo. I was able to raise over \$2500 in a few months and helped bring 2 wolves over from California. They are beautiful. I know that my Papa would be happy.

I would like to name a wolf "Azul." I picked this name because my best friend's favorite color was blue. His favorite truck was "Big Blue." And I know that he loved wolves just like me. I know that Azul would be a good name for a wolf because my Papa was a good Papa. He will be protective of his family and be strong too. Azul will be just like my Papa.

Thank you

Mackenzie Couch

Name: Lobo

Ellen F.  
7th Grade

I chose the name Lobo because it reminds me of the UNM Lobos. I chose this name hoping one of the Mexican gray wolf puppies would have the honor of bearing this name with pride.

One of the reasons I chose this name is because it reminds me of the New Mexico Lobos basketball team. Like the basketball team, wolves win a game and sometimes they lose a game, but in the end they defeat their greatest enemy, extinction.

Another reason I chose this name is because it is the Spanish name for wolf. As you know, New Mexico has a Spanish history because the founders were Spanish. Our Spanish heritage is a big reason why it is a great state to live in.

The last reason I chose this name is because I have had similar experiences. As a hard-of-hearing child, I have a challenged life just like Mexican Grey wolf puppies. I have found myself confused and lost when in a hearing environment, so I understand their situation.

In conclusion, even though these puppies have lost some battles, I know the battle is far from over and they will win the war. They will defeat extinction and come back with an iron claw, like the strong and fearless Lobos they are.

Daniel and Pablo  
7th & 8th Grade

### **Lone-Wolf**

When we heard we can name a Wolf my partner and I decided to join the contest and name him Lone-Wolf. This name is special to the both of us for many reasons. These wolves commonly referred to as “El lobo” and here in Albuquerque we have a college called University of New Mexico and their animal is a lobo.

We chose to name him Lone-Wolf because we know he will be fearless and strong and trust no other wolf. The reason we joined because we are both deaf and we would like to represent our school, community and our family. We went through many struggles in our life and we couldn't imagine losing a family member and our home just like these wolves have.

The Albuquerque Sign Language Academy is a charter school and about 100 students that are mostly deaf and hard of hearing, we are like a family and depend on each other and our teachers to succeed.

We would love to have a wolf named after us especially when there is only a few left. It is a real opportunity to represent our school the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy and our Community and family. Please consider our name.

Lowell

Well I had found my wolf cub name it's Lowell, it means wolf cub, little wolf. In Paris most people say Lowe for short but the true side is Lowell. Maybe there is no wolfs in Paris but, when I was little my grandmother would always tell me about the stories from Greek that a wolf can't just be one thing it can be another, it howls at night so that everyone knows that it's time for bed.

Poetry : Lonely night

Little cramped words  
scrawling all over the paper,  
Like draggled fly's legs.  
What can you tell of the flarrling  
moon through the oak  
leaves? Like a wind whistle ,  
like a knock on my door. Came like a dash, running fast, running faster,  
till the light gone. More like a howl , Like a screech.  
Around a tree with a sleeping owl, seeing a village, like seeing a dime.  
The moon is the begining, is wolf.

Brianna Lente and Arianna Bruso  
7th and 5th Grade

The name Miracle represents proof of the world, love by one and another, it magical and Miracle is a good way to start.

These wolf pups need help because if their parents died, they do not have anyone. But as they grow up, they do not know what is going to happen so they need help. Soon they will find their true wolf pack, but they can't because they lived without parents and don't know the ways of the wolf. It is good if you help these wolves survive in the wild, so they can stay and be healthy.

I'm deaf. It a hard life. I had to go to surgery four different times. With my experience being deaf, I know how hard life is and I just want a better life for these puppies. So life in the wild would be so difficult, but if there were a animal rescues help these little pup and it would be a miracle for these pup to survive the wild. That is why Miracle is a good name for a pup because it has been through many difficulties. Now he is in the best place where all of the other wolves are. So now you know a miracle can always happen.