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Symbol Of Wolf Reintroduction Program Dies

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- A routine capture and checkup for one of the best known wolves in the Mexican gray wolf reintroduction program ended in death Thursday after the animal overheated.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the female wolf died despite receiving immediate veterinary care.

Officials said she was an integral part of the program to reintroduce the wolf back into its native land. Her photo was used repeatedly for posters and she became recognized as the symbol for Mexican wolf recovery.

The wolf was at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro with her mate, four pups and her yearling male.

Officials said the other wolves appear to be in good health.

The pack was brought into captivity this summer because of multiple cattle depredations in southwestern New Mexico.