

Pet Wolf

Back Home

EAGLE — Kepa is back home — about 15 pounds lighter and with a sore leg.

And a host of happy mates are fussing to make him welcome.

Kepa is the seven year old pet timber wolf of the Orin Benson family. He wandered off about 20 days ago and has been the subject of an intensive search.

Mrs. Eleanor Faehnel, who lives along Center Rd., near Mukwonago, about 15 miles southeast of the Benson property, saw Kepa near the rear of her property last Tuesday, but was not aware that the wolf, who could be mistaken at a distance for a dog, was the object of an extensive search.

A story and picture in the Freeman on the search for the animal came to Mrs. Faehnel's attention, and she called the Bensons Saturday.

Benson is a nationally known sporting dog trainer. Kepa and a female companion, Pake, were both born in captivity in northern Wisconsin. They have made several public appearances, at Dousman Derby Days and other shows in the area.

When Mrs. Benson went to the Faehnel residence Saturday, she walked toward a woods and called, and Kepa came limping toward her, with a large trap snapped to her foot.

Mrs. Benson was unable to get the trap off, and the animal was taken home, where Benson took it off. Kepa's patience while the trap was taken off, Benson said, proves what he has always said about wolves not being vicious.

Benson said the trap is larger than that normally used for fox, and apparently is illegal, since it did not have the required tag on it.

The trap, which was probably stuck on Kepa's foot for several days, is large enough "to snap a fox's leg off," Benson said.