

**IDAHO BLACK BEAR REHAB, INC.**



**Garden City, IDAHO  
U.S.A.**

# HANDBOOK CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. Information Sheet	2
Acknowledgments	3 - 3a
Introduction	4
Statistics on Rehabilitated Cubs	5
Facilities and their Use	6 - 6j
Use of the Main Enclosure	7 - 7a
Formula	8 - 8b
Bottle Feeding & Feeding Formula in a Dish	9 - 9d
Introducing Solid Food	10 - 10a
Introducing Cubs to the Main Enclosure	11
Weaning	12 - 12b
Food Chart	13
Imprinting - Handling Cubs	14 - 14d
Behavior During Rehab	15 - 15b
Daily Routine	16
Stages of Development	17 - 17i
Maturing of the Bears Wild Instinct	18
Preparation for Denning and Hibernation	19 - 19a
Denning	20 - 20a
Release statistics	21 - 21e
Trip to the Dens - Pictures	22
Spring Release - Pictures	23 - 23d
Winter & Spring Releases Through 2013	23c - 23d
Spring Release or Winter Denning	24 - 24e
Preferred Release - Spring or Winter Denning?	25 - 25a
Rehab Bears and Human-Bear Conflict	26 - 26b
Tetanus or Something Else?	27 - 27a
Injuries and Illness	28 - 28j
Are All Bears the Same	29 - 29c
Combining Cubs - Yearlings- Older Bears	30 - 30a
The Triplet Experience	31 - 31a
Peeping Tom - Video Monitoring System	32 - 32d
Video Monitoring System - A New Era	33 - 33b
Whiskers - Meeting the Challenge	34 - 34d
Kapiolani & Shadow - Their Story	35 - 35f
Rosy Finch - A True Success Story	36 - 36d
For the Bears	37 - 37a
How Do you Say No to a Bear in Need?	38 - 38e
Summary - Is Rehab Successful with Orphaned Cubs?	39
Making a Positive Difference in the World of Bears	40 - 40a

## Additional pages

- Bear Necessities Wish List - 1 page
- IBBR Mission Page - Notes - 1 page

September, 2014

# IDAHO BLACK BEAR REHAB, INC.

<b>Board Members:</b>	Sally A. Maughan Valerie LeBoeuf Steve Audain Terri Hill Roy Butler Tom Robb Carol Whitehead
<b>Memberships:</b>	International Association for Bear Research & Management (IBA) National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) Animals In Distress Association (AIDA)
<b>Licensed By:</b>	Idaho Department of Fish and Game Region 3 3101 South Powerline Road Nampa, Idaho 83686 (208) 465-8465
<b>Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators:</b>	Sally Maughan
<b>Assistants:</b>	Amy Kidwell Tennyson Egan; Melanie Brown; Josh Hood Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. 6097 Arney Lane Garden City, Idaho 83714 Phone: (208) 853-3105 E-mail: <a href="mailto:IBBR@bearrehab.org">IBBR@bearrehab.org</a> (Wildlife rehabilitators, bear projects, or those working hands on with bears only) <a href="mailto:INFO@bearrehab.org">INFO@bearrehab.org</a> (All others - General e-mail)
<b>Media; Public Relations;</b>	Valerie LeBoeuf
<b>Administration of Donor</b>	E-mail: <a href="mailto:INFO@bearrehab.org">INFO@bearrehab.org</a>
<b>Development and Engagement; Data Analysis;</b>	
<b>Education Outreach:</b>	Valerie LeBoeuf Christina Brearley E-mail: <a href="mailto:Info@bearrehab.org">Info@bearrehab.org</a>
<b>Transport Team:</b>	Larry & Terri Limberg
<b>Web Site:</b>	<a href="http://www.bearrehab.org">www.bearrehab.org</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Idaho-Black-Bear-Rehab-IBBR/130968260303298?v=wall">www.facebook.com/pages/Idaho-Black-Bear-Rehab-IBBR/130968260303298?v=wall</a>

September, 2014

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I started as a wildlife rehabilitator in 1978. When I began the Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Program in 1989, working with orphaned cubs quickly became my focus for the future as a rehabilitator. The bears teach me what it means to be a bear and each year they bring new insight and knowledge. I also continue to learn from the books, documentaries, studies, and conference papers of those working with bears in their natural habitat. By sharing their knowledge, they help ensure the success of this program.

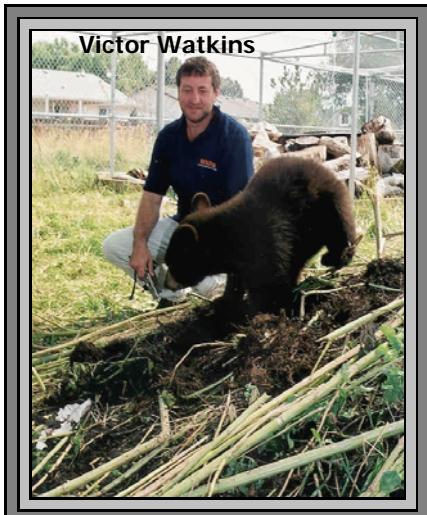
Credit goes to John Beecham, (formerly Game & Research Manager for the Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game) and Idaho Fish & Game Regional Wildlife Manager, Jeff Rohlman for helping make the orphaned cub rehab program a success. John's unlimited patience in answering a myriad of questions (some which probably kept him chuckling for days) got me through the difficult times. His support, knowledge, and encouragement were invaluable. Jeff spent hours searching the mountains for the available den sites each winter. His follow-up after denning or releasing the cubs is an important contribution to the program. In most cases, a wildlife rehabilitator is solely responsible for the release of the wildlife in his or her care. It was not easy to relinquish part of that responsibility. Each winter I placed the cubs that were in my care the past eight months in their capable hands. Today IBBR's transport team and officers in the field handle the releases.



Jeff Rohlman & John Beecham

My gratitude to Dr. C. Leon Johnson and later Dr. Robert Carlson and all the staff at Northwest Animal Hospital who started with us and remained with us over the years. To Dr. Tim Murphy and the staff at Animals R' Us, thank you for stepping in after Dr. Johnson & Dr. Carlson retired. A huge thanks to Dr. Jeff Brourman & his team at WestVet for their care of several of our more severely injured bears. Thanks to Toni Bastida Hicks and Valerie LeBoeuf who served as bear sitters. Also, for Valerie's continuing hard work analyzing IBBR data and statistics in recent years, her contribution to other IBBR activities, and her support and encouragement, my deepest personal thanks. To all the IBBR Board, you are the best!

Thanks to my parents who shared their property, money, love of wildlife, and worked side by side with me to make it all happen. I'm sure they are both now enjoying spending time with the bears who have crossed over and both they and the bears are watching over us in this world.



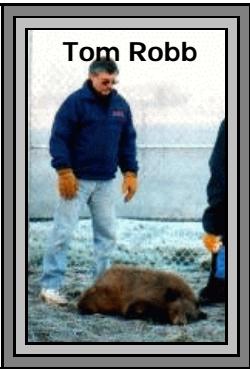
Recognition also goes to the many officers and hard working people at Idaho Fish and Game and state wildlife agencies in Utah, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, California, and Nevada. Their help rescuing these cubs gave me the chance to develop this program and to continue learning and sharing the knowledge today. To all the state agencies that bring orphaned cubs to us, I'm grateful for your willingness to save and help the cubs. Without our transport team, Larry & Terri Limberg, it would have been a struggle to get the cubs to IBBR and back to the officers for the release. Not only are we glad to have them as an important part of IBBR, but they have served the bears well.

This program would have ended in 1998 without the financial support of the World Animal Protection. My respect and appreciation definitely goes to Victor Watkins, Philip Wilson, and all those at World Animal Protection for their support and encouragement to continue the work of IBBR. Of course without the donations and support of organizations, foundations, and the general public over the years, IBBR would not have the ability to continue saving as many bears as possible.

September, 2014

## Acknowledgments - continued

A personal thanks to Steve Audain who keeps me focused during the turmoil. Special thanks to Tom and Kathy Robb who went beyond being good friends and neighbors. Tom is the only other person in the early years that was allowed to care for the bears - if not for both of them, I'm not sure I would have made it through those years.



Thanks to Jon Knight for helping care for the bears until 2009 and all those who followed in his footsteps. Recognition and appreciation goes to our head bear caretaker today, Amy Kidwell. Since July, 2009 Amy has taken on that responsibility along with a team who helps as needed, Tennyson Egan, Melanie Brown, & Josh Hood. Without them, none of this would be possible. Amy will continue IBBR when I've crossed over to walk with the bears on the other side.



Managing the bear program would not have been impossible without the support of Evelyn Loveless, Kevin Loveless, Cindi Michalski & the staff and management of Global Travel by enabling me to work from home. They made it possible to manage the demands of my job while taking care of my mother, the bears, and the bear program.

IBBR is grateful to the Garden City Council and all the wonderful people at Garden City Hall and the Garden City Police Department who have been very kind and supportive to the IBBR. Their help and support over the years is so appreciated and important to IBBR. They make us feel a welcome part of Garden City and IBBR is proud to be part of the Garden City family. Thanks to all our Garden City neighbors whose support meant so much over the years. Their interest and encouragement continues to keep us going day to day.

Without the computer, video, & web support of Thann Massaro from Capitol Computer Service, we would be stopped cold in so many areas. He is always understanding when my panicked phone call comes in at very weird hours. More recently, Ryan Chris @IP Design joined the team to support the video monitor system he installed in 2013. He is invaluable to our ability to get video and snapshots from the monitor system. Don't tell the bears, but thanks to him they have a 24/7 stalker now.

To David Soul, thank you for sharing your gift of music during the thousands of hours spent watching the bears. Not only did you keep me going, you made those hours an even greater treasure. Your continued support, help, and friendship encourages me during even in the most difficult times.

Finally, my deepest gratitude and respect to a man who, by example showed me qualities that have value and worth, qualities that result in success and achievement. He knows who he is. Out of respect for his privacy, I'll leave it at that. Sadly, he has passed from this world now, but his examples remain with me.

Most of all, thanks to the bears and their wonderful spirit. What they gave me is beyond anything I've done for them. I'm so grateful to the many people dedicating their time and knowledge to ensure there will always be a place for bears. Can you imagine a world without them? Naturalist William Beebe said, "When the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass until such a one can be seen again."



Sally Maughan

September, 2014

# INTRODUCTION

Since 1989 Fish and Game departments in Idaho and surrounding states placed their orphaned black bear cubs in the rehab program. They ranged in age from 3 weeks to 7 years old. They arrived from January through December. We have two methods of release. With spring arrivals we generally release the cubs by starting them in hibernation in the enclosure and then placing them in dens in the mountains to continue hibernation. Fall arrivals usually require holding until May and doing a spring release after hunting season.

Once released, rehab cubs must face the same difficulties and challenges that all bears face. Hunting season, fires, droughts, starvation, habitat loss, cars, other bears, and poaching all pose threats to a bear's survival whether a rehab cub or not. Generally, rehab cubs avoid people, don't become problem bears and will take their place in the population as expected. The most dangerous time for yearlings is after their mother sends them off on their own and they must survive until hibernation. It's a frightening new world and we consider it a successful release if the rehab bears don't become involved in a human-bear conflict situation and make it past those few months on their own.

There are a variety of opinions on the success of rehab with cubs. Some individuals don't believe in wildlife rehab for any species. Some expect that every rehab cub will always become nuisance bear or starve to death. For those willing to try rehab, finding a rehabilitator with facilities and experience to handle cubs until release can be difficult. Just some of the reasons for placing orphaned cubs in a rehab program are:

- 1) Wildlife rehabilitators focus on the individual. Wildlife managers and biologists focus on populations. That makes us a perfect team. We all recognize that saving a few cubs will not affect the population. However, a rehab program will provide us with the knowledge to make a difference when it counts. When you have a low bear population or a threatened or endangered population every individual makes a difference. Others can adapt what we learn each year to place cubs back in their populations. To start learning when the population is already low or threatened puts us at a disadvantage.
- 2) Imprinting is always a concern in wildlife rehab, both with some species and some individuals. However, adult bears are not social animals like some species. They live a solitary life and that makes them an ideal candidate for rehab as a species. During the rehab process, they are social with other cubs as they would be with their own siblings in the wild. Playing and wrestling together helps them develop skills needed later on. Except for the time they spend together as cubs they don't need or depend on the socializing that can create problems for some wild animals in rehab. There is a degree of nurturing that takes place with young bottle babies, but that doesn't present a problem. Once weaned the bears are far more interested in being with the other bears than their human foster mother.
- 3) The public doesn't know or care that the individual won't make a difference. They aren't aware of the logistics of caring for and placing the cubs back into the population. However, the negative publicity from euthanizing an orphaned cub can quickly and easily create the picture of an uncaring and unfeeling wildlife department. On the other hand, the favorable publicity resulting from the rescue and rehab of a cub generates good will and public support for all concerned. There aren't that many orphaned cubs found and it's not as though there are huge numbers every year. We need to incorporate bear rehab into our state wildlife management plans. It's also important to educate the public on the financial and practical requirements of raising and releasing orphaned cubs so they can contribute to the process.
- 4) The goal is a successful release. For a wildlife manager or biologist that means a bear that survives and does not become a nuisance. For a wildlife rehabilitator that means an animal in good health, wild instincts developing normally, and one who can survive on its own. As a wildlife rehabilitator since 1978 and having worked with cubs since 1989, I believe that goal is attainable with most orphaned cubs and we have proven it works. What we learned in the past and continue to learn will help others develop a successful rehab program for orphaned bear cubs. Educating the public on living with bears can also contribute to a successful rehab program.



# STATISTICS ON REHABILITATED CUBS

**Rehab period:** 1989 - September 2014

**Number of bears:** 217

**Age on arrival:** 3 weeks to 7 years

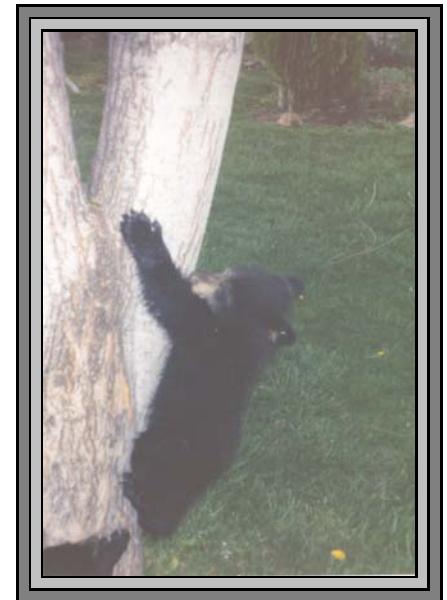
**Sex:** 120 male - 97 female

**Release period:** November 18 - December 27  
January 1 - July 27

**Release weights:** 50 lbs - 214 lbs

**Bears by State:**  
4 - California  
131 - Idaho  
3 - Michigan  
6 - Nevada  
10 - Oregon  
32 - Utah  
27 - Washington  
4 - Wyoming

**Release Results:**  
154 - still alive - radio collars or ear tags not turned in or found to indicate bears dead  
52 - 4 euthanized in human- bear conflicts, rest killed by hunters, predators, cars, poachers, unknown  
1 - placed in permanent captive facility - final disposition unknown (won't do again)  
9 - died of injuries or illness while in rehab  
1 - still in rehab as of September, 2014



September, 2014



# FACILITIES AND THEIR USE

## Period of use: 2009 to present - indoor enclosure

### Description:

3' high x 4' wide x 4' long  
Welded wire wood frame  
Plastic tray inside to hold hay and keep moisture off floor - can be cleaned daily  
Door on front 2' tall and 1 ½' wide

### Purpose:

Used for very young cubs until they are ready for outdoor

enclosures - maybe 8 weeks or so. When ready for outdoor enclosure we generally move them to the deck enclosure & graduate to larger enclosures from there. This is also used short term for intensive care cubs with injuries or medical issues if they are small or inactive enough.



## Period of use: 2000 to present - deck enclosure:

### Description:

3 ½' high x 4' wide x 5' long  
Wood frame - 2" x 2" welded wire  
1 entrance opening from bottom to top & 2 separate small window doors opening on side to reach either end of enclosure  
Plastic tray fits entire floor filled with hay to capture moisture that we can pull out daily to clean and change daily  
1 ½' circular metal water tub  
Vari-kennel with hay  
One tree branch and two log stumps for climbing and playing  
We can also place heat lamps on top if needed  
1 camera monitoring from front to back



### Purpose:

Newborns, very young cubs, or intensive care cubs are kept in a large vari-kennel or in our indoor enclosure at night until they are ready for the deck enclosure or larger outdoor enclosure. During the day they spend their time in the deck enclosure or one of the smaller outdoor enclosures. This allows them to adjust to being out of the presence of their foster mom for short periods of time. If they become frightened or bawl for help, Sally can be there in seconds. It only takes a day or two for them to feel secure and safe by themselves as long as they know Sally is close by & responds when they bawl. Dictated by their needs and amount of activity, we then transfer them to one of the three cub enclosures where they have plenty of room. They learn to climb and fall without hurting themselves in these enclosures. Each day they become more adept at climbing and falling on their own. During 1999 we also completed two additional cub enclosures. These new enclosures can be used either for young cubs, older cubs that are sick or need to be isolated, and for cubs ready to start hibernation.

# FACILITIES AND THEIR USE - CONTINUED

**Period of use: 1994 to present - smaller outdoor or winter/hibernation enclosure**

**Description:**

6' high x 8' wide x 24' long  
Chain link  
Insulated dens  
Water tub  
Logs for climbing  
One entrance - double entryway  
Chain link roof with solid roof  
    above chain link  
Dirt floor - chain link buried 2' deep and  
    3' inside  
2 cameras monitor front and back area



**Purpose:**

This is an enclosure that replaces two others we dismantled during remodeling. Cubs will stay in this enclosure until we are ready to move them to the main enclosure. A chain link divider about 7' from the back lets us section off the youngest cubs until they learn to climb and fall without hurting themselves. We usually only use this small section when the young cubs are first placed outside or are unsupervised. This enclosure is now enclosed with a wood wall on both the North and South side with the East and West remaining open but protected so it does make a good enclosure for bears who are ready to hibernate.

We use the winter enclosure for two purposes. The primary use is for cubs arriving in fall that do not have enough weight to go into hibernation. They must continue to eat while other cubs in the main enclosure will be preparing for hibernation and eventually stop eating. Since we cannot feed selectively in the same enclosure, we can keep underweight fall arrivals in the winter enclosure. It is well protected from the elements, allows the cubs to be as active as they wish and if so inclined can start a late hibernation in February. Our winter enclosure is also used as the last step before moving cubs to the main enclosure. The cubs graduate



from one enclosure to a larger one as their needs dictate. Timing of the move depends on the individual bears, their age, and their development. The openness and size of the larger enclosure can frighten the cubs. The chance of injury from falling off the 8' wire increases if the cubs panic. For a day or two, Sally or one of the bear caretakers will stay with the cubs for longer periods during this introductory time. Once they feel secure in their new surroundings, they stay in this enclosure until June when we move them into the main enclosure. They will remain in main enclosure until their release. We also use this enclosure to house cubs arriving in fall. They will need additional feeding time after the others have started hibernation. In March we will move the fall cubs from the winter enclosure to the main enclosure. They will stay in the main enclosure until their release in late May or early June.

September, 2014

# FACILITIES AND THEIR USE - CONTINUED

**Period of use: 1994 to present - side enclosure**

**Description:**

5'9" high x 6' wide x 24 long  
Chain link  
Wood dens  
Water tub  
Logs for climbing  
One entrance - double entryway  
Chain link roof with solid roof above  
Dirt floor with chain link covering entire floor under dirt  
Chain link door that opens to the enclosure above  
2 cameras monitor from back and front  
2 Wood dens



**Purpose:**

This enclosure is sometimes used for cubs after the deck enclosure or to isolate new arrivals for a period until we merge them with other bears. This enclosure has a chain link door that we can open to let cubs use both this enclosure and the winter/hibernation enclosure or to get cubs acquainted before merging them. It's also good for merging a cub who is very shy with other cubs as there is limited room to avoid each other so they merge fairly easily after a few tentative attempts.



**Period of use: 1989 to present - Coyote enclosure - rarely used for bears now**

**Description:**

6' high x 14' wide x 27' long enclosure  
Chain link  
One side solid wood wall  
Chain link divider with door so enclosure can be sectioned in two



**Purpose:**

Used when needed as a temporary interim facility before placing cubs in the main enclosure. We seldom use it for the bears now for other than a few days as it has a cement floor instead of dirt. With an injured bear 2yrs or older we might use this enclosure temporarily if we need to confine the bear in a smaller area for medical treatment.

September, 2014

## **FACILITIES AND THEIR USE - continued**

### **Period of use: 1989 to present - front small enclosure**

#### **Description:**

6' high x 10' wide x 10' long  
Chain link panels - buried 1' in ground  
One side solid wood wall behind chain link panel in back with window view into this enclosure  
One entry - no double entryway on this enclosure  
Dirt floor with welded wire buried under that  
Chain link roof with wood roof above that  
No cameras in this enclosure

#### **Purpose:**

Was used for coyote pups originally. We use it for cubs now only to quarantine new arrivals for a short period before merging them with other cubs. We can also use it for an injured or ill cub that needs a smaller confinement area.

### **Period of use: 1989 to present - front back enclosure**

#### **Description:**

6' high x 10' wide x 24' long  
Chain link buried 1' down  
Welded wire floor covered with dirt  
Chain link roof with wood roof over that  
Wood panels on west side to protect from weather  
One entry - double entryway  
1 Large insulated den in back area  
Chain link divider 3/4 of the way back to contain cubs when needed  
One camera

#### **Purpose:**

Used initially for bear cubs, but in later years mostly for injured coyotes.

## FACILITIES AND THEIR USE - continued

### Main enclosure - completed spring, 2000

#### Description:

10' high x 40' wide x 100' long enclosure

Chain link

Two entrances

Main entrance 12' wide x 10' high chain link sliding door

Chain link door behind storage area leads into feeding area which can also be sectioned off from the main area

Second entryway goes directly into back part of the main enclosure - also has a double entryway

Chain link roof over entire enclosure - reinforced seams with chain link overlap & metal poles woven through both sections of chain link - 2001 added solid roof too

Dirt floor - chain link buried 3' inside

160 gallon swim tub

Large tree trunks cemented in the ground for climbing

Smaller tree trunks & logs positioned for climbing & playing

8 4 x 4 wood dens & 3 culvert dens which are half buried in ground & covered with logs and branches

Two 3' high x 3' wide x 5' long permanent dog feeder -

holds 100 lbs of dog food that is dispensed on front & back side

2 storage sheds sit in front of the main double entryway - has 2 of the 6 freezers, 4 refrigerators, and dog food

storage container that holds 50 bags of dog food

Sprinkler system covers inside enclosure & trees & shrubs surrounding the enclosure

40' shade netting on West & South side to provide protection from sun and heat along with trees & shrubs on 3 sides

Three one-way mirrors positioned along east side for visual use to observe bears without them observing us. Not used so much since monitor cameras around the enclosure were added

The 2 storage sheds are connected to the enclosure through another chain link area or double entryway so we can isolate each of the cubs to weigh them or provide individual medical treatment

Plenty of vegetation and grasses for the bears to eat

The main enclosure will allow us to rehab more cubs and separate spring and fall arrivals.

Divider gate to separate front and back section creating a 25' smaller area up front to use as needed

7 monitor cameras throughout the enclosure



3 One way mirrors to observe bears

September, 2014

## FACILITIES AND THEIR USE - continued



In the spring of 2001, we built a wooden deck area over the dens. The bears used the back den area so much even the strong pasture grass would obviously never recover. We were left with mud and a big mess. The bears would carry much of the mud into the dens with them. On top of the deck area, we added a wood roof so the bears could use the deck too if they wanted to stay out of the weather. The deck area really solved the problem of the mud since the dirt stayed dry, the bears stayed dry and did not carry the mud into the dens. What surprised us was how much they loved the roof. Although only a foot below the chain link roof, the bears easily climbed on top of the roof. Being high up, it was frequently their favorite spot. They were very creative

in figuring out ways to get on top. Like a firefighter, the cubs also learn to shinny down the poles when they wanted to come down. They played and slept on the deck area during the day, used the roof if startled and the dens at night.

In 2002, we made some modifications to the roof area. Some chain link seams were separating slightly with the weight of the bears if they climbed up and pulled on the chain link covering the roof. A couple of the bears were athletic enough to walk upside down on the chain link roof. Hog rings used were not as strong as they should have been. We replaced all the hog rings along the seams with the strongest gauge we could find. Also, some seams did not overlap as much as they should. Rather than redo the whole roof, we stretched a 3' wide strip of chain link across the length of each 100' long seam. We wove slender round metal poles through both the upper and lower chain link sections. By reinforcing both sides of the seams, it is unlikely the bears could separate the seams.



Before reinforcing the chain link roof



On the roof again

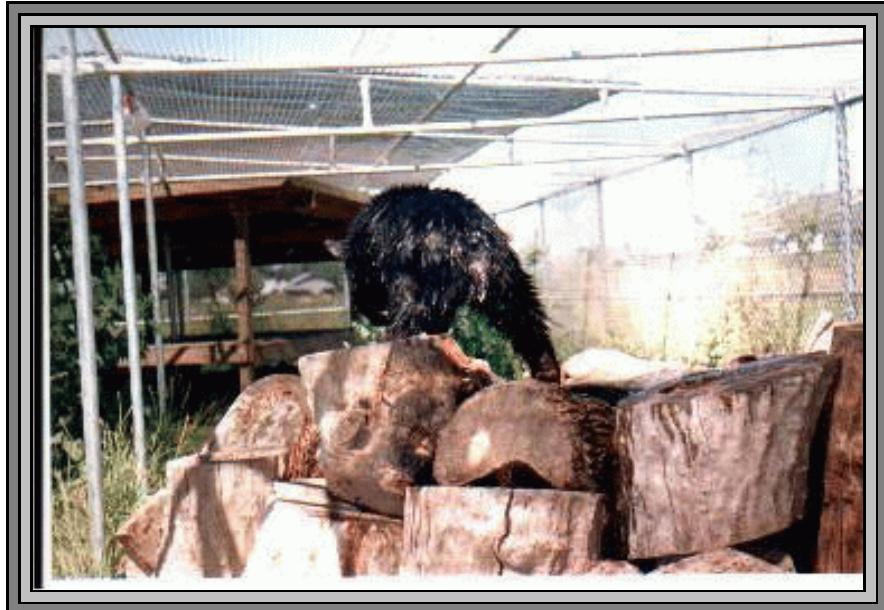
September, 2014

## FACILITIES AND THEIR USE - continued

The bears began to make their own doorways to the wood roof. As expected, bears can rip apart even the most hardy structure. We built the upper roof and deck flooring with wafer board. We expected it would last about two years depending on how much the bears worked on it. In June 2003 all but a two-foot area of the wood roof was gone. We completely rebuilt the roof. This time we left them two sections to act as open windows to the roof. We thought that might deter their destructive tendency. They left the lower floor above the dens alone except for one small area just large enough to squeeze through. It's a favorite spot for bears to play - one on the top and one underneath by the dens.

In 2002 we refined the water setup to the swim tub. We have water running into the swim tub from the roof and draining out into the nearby ditch at the same flow rate. Despite the huge log stumps surrounding the swim tub, the bears drag a lot of dirt and debris in the water with them. It frequently clogged up if we closed the valve. In the fall of 2002 when our main well pump gave out after 20 years, we also upgraded the pump and a device that allows us to run water 24 hours a day without damaging the pump. That kept the water clean and meant the bears had fresh drinking water all the time. In 2003 we winterized part of the current water system to the enclosure so we have access to water for any bears we might have in the enclosure during winter. We also made some additional repairs to the drain system and upgraded the valves from plastic (which broke constantly) to metal.

The 2002 bears were an especially destructive group and constantly pulled or pushed the heavy plastic swim tub inward. This created a wonderful waterfall effect which promptly flooded the whole enclosure. We put a very temporary fix on that until the bears were released, but during their antics they cracked the swim tub in one or two places. Not only did we replace the whole swim tub, we had to replace the plumbing and rebuild the stand the tub rested on under the logs. We hauled in dirt to cover the dens again, planted new pasture grass, and replaced several of the metal rods strengthening the chain link roof. It's amazing how the cubs manipulated those rods free enough to bend them on the ends!



**Out of the swim tub soaked with water, race to the deck, climb up the logs, and run across the roof. Typical behavior on hot days.**

## MAIN ENCLOSURE PICTURES

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



September, 2014

## MAIN ENCLOSURE PICTURES - continued

Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



September, 2014

## Main Enclosure Pictures - continued

Figure 1

Looking to the West - dens buried beneath wooden structure on right - black screening on roof lowers temperature in enclosure since it's in full sun most of the day - plenty of vegetation to eat & logs to climb

Figure 2

Separate front section of enclosure on East - large chain link gate closes between this section of the enclosure & the back section - front section used mostly for separating cubs to treat or capture - dog food holder in corner holds about 100 pounds of dog food - plastic dog kennel used in front section only when new cub arrives & is in process of merging with others - three one way mirrors visible on wooden fence on East side of enclosure - picture taken from main entry into enclosure

Figure 3

Deck area in back - dens are buried underneath the lower floor - bears spend a lot of time playing on the lower floor and around the dens - hole in lower floor allows access to den area - can also board up part of the lower floor area & create even more dens for hibernation if needed

Figure 4

Looking East to West from front section of enclosure - swim tub was buried lower in ground & surrounded by stumps - bears destroyed old swim tub & the new tub sits higher - eventually we'll have it surrounded by stumps again - PVC pipe comes across chain link on top & to center of swim tub - water flows into tub at same rate as it flows out lower PVC pipe at base of tub - PVC pipe near top of tub is to prevent any overflow - constant stream of water provides fresh drinking water until tub has time to recycle the dirty water if cubs playing in the tub - also on top running parallel with the side panels East to West is a PVC pipe sprinkler system that waters the interior of the enclosure

Figure 5

Looking North to South - large mound on left is den buried in the ground

Figure 6

Looking Northeast to Southwest from front of enclosure

Figure 7

Looking from front of enclosure across center to Southwest corner - most of the logs are buried in cement in the ground so bears can't move them - some they dig up and we have to redo the following year

Figure 8

Looking West - taken from gate that separates the front section from the back section

Figure 9

Looking East to one way mirrors used for education programs - entry to enclosure just to right of picture

Figure 10

Sliding gate that separates the enclosure is just behind the chain link panel on the left of the picture - front section is only about 28 feet across as two storage sheds sit parallel to the front of the enclosure shown in this picture

Figure 11

Looking across the center of the enclosure South to North - fencing (wood & barbed wire) separate us from the housing developments on both sides - neighbors don't spend any time in back yards so "bear watching" hasn't been a problem

Figure 12

Looking to back section - sliding gate to close off front section visible in this picture - water pump for swim tub just to right of gate outside enclosure - during winter a small water tub sits in the corner to the right of gate area & is used for daily water as swim tub is drained for winter

## New Roof on Main Enclosure

Thanks to funding from WSPA (now WPA) and The Poachers Club donating labor & time to build it, in 2001 IBBR completed a new solid roof over the chain link roof on the main enclosure. Half is covered by darker panels to provide shade during the summer and half by clear roofing to allow the light through. We completed it Just in time as it would have been another nightmare with so many bears in later years and weather making everything a mess.



September, 2014

## USE OF THE MAIN ENCLOSURE

Due to the large size of the enclosure, we found that adding bears throughout the year presented new problems. In the smaller enclosure, bears merged within a few days. With more room it was often up to two weeks or more before they really merged as a group.

In the smaller enclosure the cubs frequently ran into each other and soon learned that no one wanted to fight. Within days they were all eating, sleeping, and playing together. In the large enclosure they had room to avoid each other and did so which delayed the socialization with other cubs that is so important. The cubs now had to make a point of greeting the other bears and it took much longer for that to happen. The situation also presented a problem with providing food and shelter until everyone merged. New arrivals tend to stay in the front section where there is food and refused to go in the back area where there is shelter. Cubs in the back refused to come to the front section where there was food. As a temporary solution we added plastic dog houses filled with hay for shelter in the front and fed in both the front and back areas. The swim tub and running water for drinking sat in the middle of the enclosure and both groups used it. In later years we added 3 dens to the front section.



dog houses filled with hay for shelter in the front and fed in both the front and back areas. The swim tub and running water for drinking sat in the middle of the enclosure and both groups used it. In later years we added 3 dens to the front section.

Without exception, every bush or weed that stood more than a foot high was taken down. We have a plant similar to large sunflowers that grows 10-12 feet high. This plant covered all the den areas before we built the deck and looked like a mini forest. The first day we put cubs in the enclosure, one of them (not to name names, but it was Tas), pushed and pulled every single plant down. It looked like the forests after Mt. St. Helen's erupted. The berry bushes planted never stood a chance. The pasture grass held firm, but took a beating, even with the sprinkler system frequently watering it. When the bears in the main enclosure were moved to dens in the mountains, we moved the others from the hibernation enclosure into this one. As yearlings they put a lot of pressure on the remaining grass. Every area was used, large patches of grass eaten down or trampled & died in a few areas. They punctured holes in the swim tub, caused the wire roof to sag a bit, tore up every log and tree in the enclosure except those buried in cement. It was an eye-opener to see the abuse the enclosure took with these yearlings, compared to the cubs denned in Dec. However, the structure itself proved strong. We had interior repairs and many smaller repairs, but as for the structure itself, we only replaced a rod woven through the chain link overlap here and there in the chain roof.



We contacted Teufel Nursery (503-646-1111) in Portland, Oregon and ordered some sections of a sun screen material. It's a black netting material which allowed the light through, but kept the rays of the sun out and the temperature down by about ten degrees. We put it on the roof until we built a solid roof above the chain link later on. Sometimes we hang it on the South and West sides as the sun hits the enclosure from noon until dark which really heats things up in summer. The bears never bothered it at all until the rambunctious group from 2002. During the spring of 2003 after they came out of hibernation they began pulling it through the chain link and chewing a hole here and there.

September, 2014

## USE OF THE MAIN ENCLOSURE - continued

By the time we release any yearlings held through winter, the spring cubs are about ready to move into the main enclosure. It's a bit overwhelming for them at first, but they gain courage from each other and within the day they have investigated every corner. For a lone cub it is intimidating and that cub tends to find the dens & stay there. It takes a week for a lone cub to check out the whole inclosure. Obviously a concern is that the cubs will find any weak areas and work on them. Interestingly enough, they do thoroughly check out every nook and cranny when they first enter the enclosure. However, once satisfied, they never bother to look again. Should a weak spot turn up later, they only seem to find it accidentally.

Although we keep the dog food holder at the front of the enclosure full at all times, we scatter fruit, acorns, fish, & willows around the enclosure for the bears to find. Honey or peanut butter spread on one of the logs is a favorite find. The bears use all parts of the enclosure until they start becoming lethargic in fall. At that point they aren't very active and remain in



the den area most of the time. Even though the spring cubs are now 60-80 pounds and quite large, we can put more cubs in the enclosure when orphans start to arrive in fall. Since the bears are using very little of the enclosure by this time they aren't crowded. It's just a matter of more scat to pick up each day.



Eventually all enclosures including the main one were covered with a solid roof to protect it from the weather. Spring rains made everything a mud bath if the bears ate all the grass. We have a sprinkler system set up to keep specific areas of the enclosure with grass. How successful we are with the grassy areas depends on when the last bear leaves the enclosure the next group arrives. We also now have cameras installed in all the enclosures to monitor the bear activity. Prior to

that it depended on us taking a video camera out & trying to film. Then we became the focus of the bears' attention and the behavior we were trying to film would stop or change. We tested the locations of the cameras by using a plastic milk jug. If any bear could get to the cameras it would be the infamous, very athletic and agile, Tas. She tried, but wasn't successful and eventually stopped paying any attention to the jug. However, her future cousin, Makana (also from Utah) did manage to get the milk jug down during December, 2002. We're still puzzling over how she did it.

Once all the cameras were in place, we planned to add live video feed to our web site. Unfortunately, the expense was prohibitive and we haven't been able to do that. As of 2010 we are recording video and adding some to our web site.

September, 2014

# FORMULA

We fed our first cub a formula of Esbilac, mixed three parts water with one part powder. We added Karo Syrup, honey or Gerbers #3 jars of strained fruit baby cereal for flavor. Although the cub did very well on the formula, feeding it was expensive. Even the largest size of powdered Esbilac was impractical for the amount we needed.

After denning the first cub, we began looking for ways to extend the formula without cutting the nutritional value. We contacted Pet Ag (Borden), the company who makes Esbilac. Their veterinarian recommended a combination of Esbilac and Multi-Milk. The formula we put together was one the cubs liked and provided the nutrition we needed for them. We sent the information to IBBR's veterinarian, Dr. C. Leon Johnson plus Charlie Robbins at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. Both had positive comments so we switched to the new formula.

We have used this formula since 1991 with excellent results. The cubs' growth and development improved as did the condition of their coats. Another advantage was cutting down the frequency of the feedings. Pet Ag recommended mixing the formula as follows:

75% Multi-Milk powder - 25% Esbilac powder - Mix one part powder with one part water

The bears did not like the thicker consistency of the one to one mixture. Rather than struggle to get them to take the formula, we changed it to one part powder and two parts water. We blend and refrigerate enough formula for twenty-four hours. Using very hot water in the blender mixes the formula better. The cubs do not seem to like freshly made formula. They definitely prefer the refrigerated formula heated for each feeding. We also learned some bears prefer lukewarm formula, others much hotter. Sometimes we add Karo syrup or honey. However, the bears' preference is always a blend of fresh fruit or Gerbers number 3 jar of strained fruit baby cereal. We also add Gerbers rice cereal (flakes) if needed. It helps firm up the stools when first starting the formula. We continue using it while on formula as it helps extend the formula and helps give it the consistency the bears like. After the cubs are about four months old, we add some yogurt. We also added a fine grinding of puppy chow to get them used to the taste in hopes of making the transition to dog food easier. It did not seem to make much difference and we stopped doing that.

In 2010 Gerbers changed the #3 jars to smaller pudding size containers and it took twice as much work and baby cereal. They also changed the Blueberry Buckle to Apple/Blueberry and the bears did not like that. You can still use it if you like, but will probably take 2 of the containers for the mix below. We switched to using Wilderness (or whatever brand you want) Blueberry Pie filling. We did have to strain out the blueberries if bottle feeding. Even running the whole can through a blender left tiny pieces of the blueberry skin that jammed the nipples on the bottles. The strained blueberries are a real favorite for cubs just starting to eat solids so they don't go to waste. If feeding formula in a dish you don't need to strain them out & you can blend blueberries & all with your formula. We suggest the taste test - add blueberry to water, taste it yourself, then add the powder. If cubs give you a problem, add more blueberry as the formula can be sour tasting otherwise.

## Formula ingredients today:

25% Esbilac

75% Multi-Milk (also called Milk Matrix  
30 / 55)

Mix powders together then add one part  
mixed powder with two parts water

Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  can of Wilderness

Blueberry Pie filling (strained if bottle feeding - blended if dish feeding) per 2 cups of liquid &  
then add powder.

1-2 tablespoons Gerbers baby rice cereal (dry) per 2-3 cups of liquid  
Vionate as directed based on weight



September, 2014

## FORMULA - continued

We usually mix the powders together in a large batch so we do not have to mix them each time. Since the blend is 1 part Esbilac to 2 parts 30/55 (or MultiMilk) and UPCO offers 5 lbs of Esbilac & 15 lbs of 30/55 (or MultiMilk) the mix is perfect. It used to be 20 lbs of 30/55 so we were measuring. We always sift all the powders together after finding tiny granules in the powder. While it's likely they won't do any harm, we don't want the bottle babies getting any tiny granules of something else in their formula. We also found we can blend a batch of formula and freeze it for use later. It thaws well and after shaking the jug it is the same consistency as if just blended. The bears do not seem to notice any difference. This helps a lot when we have to use a large amount of formula and are limited on time each day. Frequently, we will blend a batch on the weekend and freeze for use throughout the week. Whether mixed or not keep your Esbilac and Multi-Milk in the freezer to keep bacteria out. Milk Matrix 30 / 55 is also a substitute for Multi-Milk. It is the same as Multi Milk, but a bit less expensive. Order both Esbilac and Multi Milk or Milk Matrix 30 / 55 from UPCO:

UPCO  
P. O. Box 969  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502  
(800) 254-8726  
Web site: [www.upco.com](http://www.upco.com)

Multi-Milk & Milk Matrix can be ordered by phone or on their web site. Milk Matrix 30 / 55 is available in 24oz / 6lb / 15lb. Esbilac is available in 28oz / 5lb. If you are a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and have your license number to give them, you can ask for the 10% rehab discount.

We also use this formula for starved cubs that arrive late in the fall and even injured cubs who need that extra nutrition. It's proven to help cubs regain their normal weight and health much quicker when we provide it along with other food. We've had cub after cub arriving in a starved condition in late fall that improved dramatically when we added the formula to their diet.

In one case, a spring cub was weaned at 3 months by someone who didn't know they nursed until at least 6 months old. The cub was sent to us about a month after his two siblings. He was half the size he should have been. We immediately added formula to his diet and in a month and a half he was as big as our spring cubs who had been on formula all along. We also used it on a two year old male that had his jaw shot off & could only eat soft foods until healed. A starved two year old female weighing only 40 lbs choose only the formula



September, 2014

## FORMULA - continued

for over a week even though other foods were available. She gained her strength & some weight & then began eating other foods.

In May, 2013 IBBR accepted a 7 year old injured adult and her yearling cub. Mom, Kapiolani had been shot in the front leg and the leg was useless. She was 60lbs underweight and

probably wouldn't have survived much longer. Her yearling cub Shadow was in good shape. While the vets worked on the opened wounds and took X-rays and Cat scans to see if the shattered bones could be repaired, we dealt with her overall condition and health. Having lost so much weight, we used our bear formula to help build her up. As with most bears, she seemed to know immediately that the formula was a good



thing. For the first week or so she drank almost a gallon a day and as she got stronger she began eating other food. We continued giving her some formula each day. Not only did it help her gain weight, but her overall health was better, her coat in better shape and we also expected it would help strengthen or repair the bones in her injured leg. Although the vets weren't able to repair her leg, the open wounds healed, her remaining 3 legs were strong and she and her cub were released to give her a second chance at freedom. See more of their story on pages 35-35f.



As previously stated, we switched to Wilderness Blueberry Pie filling for the formula. Applesauce is another good one to add, but we buy regular natural applesauce rather than the baby cereal in small jars. Oddly, the cubs did not like honey in the formula. Aside from mixing it in the formula, we use it on bread or cereal when the cub starts eating some solid food. Once blended, the formula lasts in a refrigerator for 24 hours. However, we have gone beyond that period for a while without the formula spoiling.

September, 2014

## BOTTLE FEEDING

Whether we bottle feed the cubs or start them on formula in a dish, it makes little difference as far as a successful release. We have done both. It is less time consuming to feed formula in a dish, but messier with more of the formula wasted. Bears turn dishes and tubs over immediately unless secured somehow. We prefer bottle feeding unless the cub seems to do well with formula in a dish. All babies need some nurturing - nurturing doesn't necessarily mean imprinting them. It means a routine feeding schedule, a secure environment in which they feel protected, the awareness that if they bawl for help you are there.

We are trying to simulate a natural course of events as the cubs grow, and bottle feeding is part of that, as is



a small pillow of fake fur stuffed with hand towels. Leave one corner of the pillow open slightly so you can pull the towels out for washing along with the fake fur. The cubs love these pillows, especially a lone cub. By the time they start pulling the towel out of the open hole, they no longer need the pillows. A favorite of most cubs is a teddy bear - they sleep with it, drag it around, wrestle with it, and treat it like another bear. Of course we remove the button eyes so the cubs don't swallow them.

Creating the right size hole in the nipple can be a bit of a challenge. Even when you find just the right size hole, the bears can act as though the flow is too little and tug and yank on the nipple. The choking or gagging can be either because the flow is too great or that they haven't learned to suck properly with the bottle. If one cub is having trouble sucking properly yet the other is doing fine, that could be an indication the size of the hole is fine or it could be that one cub sucks better than the other. It can take time, trial and error to get it just right for each cub and there is no sure way to know except trial and error.

First time feedings are usually a frenzy of activity no matter what the age of the cubs. Some take right to it and some cubs take longer to learn to suck on a bottle. A few cubs will want to nurse on your arm instead of the bottle. Sally starts them on a syringe (minus the needle) to get the taste of the formula & then lets them suck on her arm or hand and after a minute slips the nipple in their mouth. It usually works, but you might have to start the feeding that way for the first few times. Consistency is important and once you find what works don't keep changing it. The cubs will change it often enough without you



physical contact with a live body. Except in cases of an emergency, Sally is the only one that bottle feeds the cubs. It does not imprint them in a negative way. Instead, it gives them a sense of normalcy and security. Nursing on the bottle satisfies the need to suckle and prevents nursing on the sibling's ear or their own paw and they will tend to nurse on the skin of your arm or hand while falling asleep after finishing the bottle. We also provide them with



## BOTTLE FEEDING - continued

doing the same. Until you have a routine, the slightest appearance of the bottle being withdrawn sends them into instant turmoil. They are very aggressive in taking the bottle. Be sure to have the second bottle waiting when you reach they age where one bottle isn't enough. Wear heavy clothes to protect you from the claws and maybe even glasses when the cubs are about 7-8 weeks to protect your eyes from flailing claws.



Eyes just opening at 4-5 weeks

During the first few feedings, we take our cue from the cubs. They let us know the best way to give them the bottles. Our youngest cub yet arrived 2/20/04 at 3-4 weeks of age. After using the syringe for the first few feedings, she immediately took to the bottle and sucked without any problem. We've never had a cub overeat, but with cubs this young it could be possible. She would continue sucking until her little tummy bulged. We tried feeding hourly and less formula, but that didn't work for her. She was better on a 2 hour schedule and more formula. However, we left her always wanting more - how much more she would have taken is the question. She still seemed to be the one to decide how much time between feedings, but we were cautious about the amount of formula.

After the eyes open at 4-5 weeks there seems to be a dominant or sibling order in the way they eat. Sometimes one cub must always be on the right or left of the other cub. As they get older, insignificant details like a different bottle or nipple will create problems. They even show a preference for the color of the cap on the bottle. They probably associate that with the particular nipple they like. On more than one occasion we have switched nipples or the colored cap to solve this problem. If you watch the behavior for clues, you will find the feeding process is smoother.

Sometimes, the formula is too warm or too cool. We had one cub that wanted it almost cold instead of warm. Some cubs will suck quite well. Others pull, tug, suck, yank, and a variety of other actions that will eventually get the milk down their throats. On occasion they will choke and gag, but usually clear it out themselves. If alarmed, pat them on the back as if burping them or gently rub the throat. They seldom need help if the nipple hole isn't too big. If the cubs are not sucking well, try positioning your hand under the chin, supporting the chin & bottle. Another trick is to cup the bear's jaw in your hand - the sense of something touching either or both sides of the jaw will often encourage the sucking action. Try gently slipping the nipple slowly in and out of the cub's mouth. Their sense of possibly losing the food will sometimes get them to start sucking by grasping the nipple and pulling on it.

Sometimes a cub will "gape" while nursing. The bear opens and closes his mouth wide like a sucker fish without ever sucking. Squeezing the bottle to get a little formula in the cub's mouth will work, but frequently they do not bother swallowing. The milk will just slide down the throat. The 3 week old cub took the bottle lying on her stomach and just holding her mouth up to the bottle. To get some idea of their strength even at that age, she would hold her head down on the table & it would take all Sally's strength to get her head up just enough to slip in the nipple.



## BOTTLE FEEDING - continued

As she got older, she insisted on being held with her back to Sally's chest & the bottle held in front of her. Her grip was so tight it was often impossible to keep hold of the bottle if she happened to knock it sideways even slightly. At 8 weeks she was already standing up and leaning against Sally's leg and taking the bottle that way. Try all the tricks - one will finally work. If you let the cub show you, they will usually make it clear what position they prefer to take the bottle & it does change with age. After finishing the bottle the cubs will burp quite often. If they do not, burp them like any baby. Hiccups can happen frequently even when burped. If formula goes down the wrong way or too fast, they will gag, but are pretty good about clearing it out themselves.



3-4 weeks old - eyes shut

Generally the cubs will bawl when hungry and while we do set routine, we let them tell us how long to go during the night as they get older. They will wake you up.

At six weeks old, we feed every two hours with night feedings. For three month old cubs, we feed every 3 - 4 hours with no night feedings unless they bawl. As they get older, the length of time between feedings increases until we are down to two feedings a day as the cubs reach 5 ½ to 6 mo old. For older cubs, let the cubs determine the length of time between feedings. They will tell you when they are hungry. Some will go longer than others, depending on when they were born. Since bears are generally born sometime in January and February, one cub

may go longer than another. We have never had a cub go beyond six months old unless they were a runt or very small when they came in.

In 2010 most of the cubs were smaller than normal so they remained on formula until the middle of August. There have been reports of bears in the wild still nursing at 8 or 9 months old. Bottle-fed cubs will wean themselves, but cubs fed formula in dishes will continue wanting formula forever and will readily take it whenever offered.

We have never had any older cub overeat, but be cautious of the amount if feeding cubs with eyes still closed. Otherwise, the amount of formula consumed remained consistent even when we went an hour or two past the normal feeding time. At six weeks old the cubs took 2 to 3oz of formula every two hours. At three months they took over 10oz every three hours. At four months, 9 - 16oz every four hours and by five months were well on their way to consuming sometimes 4 to 6 10oz bottles each feeding with two feedings a day. The amount of formula varied with the individuals and with the amount of solid food consumed once the cubs start eating some solids. Obviously, the more solids the bears eat the less formula they will take.

Some take right to the bottle and others get so frantic they have a hard time. You will know when it's time to start wearing gloves - even with no teeth their claws can rip your arms and hands up pretty quickly just out of the franticness of feeding. Generally, they suck quickly and the formula is consumed in a brief amount of time. Then they want to nurse on your arm or hand for a few minutes to keep satisfying that need to suckle. It may all seem like a struggle, but just be patient and keep trying. If they aren't dehydrated there is time. Try adding a little extra fruit flavoring at first until they really get the hang of it. Also try using a 3 cc syringe or larger (without the needle) to get formula in their mouth for the first time. The formula tastes different from what they are used to and it may take a little time

September, 2014

## BOTTLE FEEDING - continued

for them to accept it. It may be too sour tasting if there is not enough sweetening flavor in it. When mixing the formula put whatever sweetener used with the water & taste it yourself. (Hint - tasting it with the powder formula already mixed in is not the most pleasant experience). Use a syringe and insert a little of the formula in the cub's mouth. Usually once they get used to the taste, they readily accept the bottle & then it is just a matter of getting them to suck on the nipple.

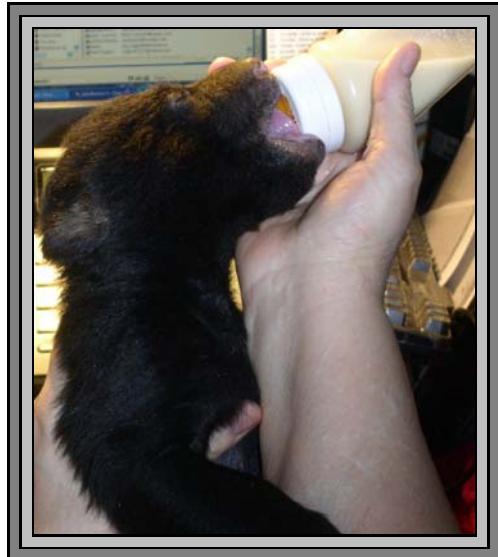


Even if it's a struggle for a day or two, just get some formula down them using the syringe and watch that they do not get dehydrated. To check for dehydration, just pinch the skin on the nape of the neck and pull it up. It should immediately slide back down into place. If it continues to stand up, the cub is dehydrated. Contact your veterinarian for help.

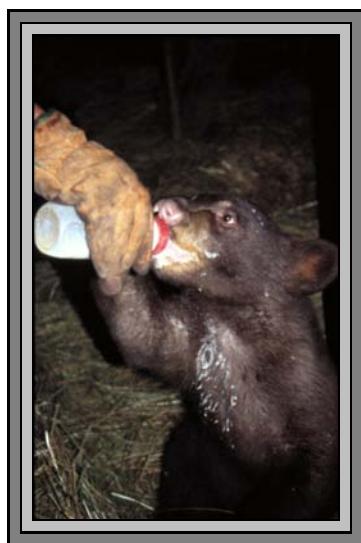
Whether they are bottle feeding or not, if the cubs feel safe, they will develop normally. They are more manageable if bottle fed. Whenever Sally needs to medicate or treat a wound, she does not need to tranquilize the bear in most cases. They see her as foster mom so unlike the other bear caretakers, she can often handle them during emergencies. That does not mean they are tame or imprinted. It simply means

they don't consider her a threat even when they are scared or hurt. It benefits both the cubs and Sally as their caretaker. From that standpoint alone, bottle feedings are well worth it.

Besides the benefits already mentioned, there is one other difference in behavior between bottle fed cubs and those that had little or no bottle feeding. After weaning, bottle-fed cubs have a much stronger sense of self confidence and independence. They can handle stressful situations and overall have a much stronger sense of what being a bear is all about. They are always the ones in charge within a group of cubs, the ones the other cubs look to for protection & security. Cubs who were not bottle fed or only received a few bottle feedings were insecure, frightened, shy, and



uncertain how to handle some situations. That sounds exactly like the behavior most people expect from bears and want to see as an indication they are not "friendly" with people. However, with the rehab cubs this is not a positive behavior and is not happening for the reason everyone thinks. The behavior everyone expects will come later as their wild instincts began to mature. There should be no doubt the more confident cubs have a much easier time adapting to surviving on their own and still do not become problem bears.



September, 2014

## FEEDING FORMULA IN A DISH

Some cubs, if old enough will do just fine taking formula from a dish. We use very heavy ceramic dishes so they aren't so easy for younger cubs to tip over (at least we pretend that is the case). Always keep in mind that to be a real bear it is a requirement that anything that can be turned over should be turned over. No matter how hungry they are the first course of action seems to be "turn over the dish" and then become frantic when they can't find the formula. As for us, we are watching formula soak away in the

hay and thinking how much money that just cost. Save the heartache & hold the dish down with your hand until they finish - have more formula ready to add to the dish as your hand becomes fair game if they are still hungry and run out of formula. Otherwise, figure out a way to solidly anchor the dish - it's amazing how strong they are and determined when they really want something to happen.



**Wooden frame holding formula dish**

As the cubs get older, it becomes more difficult to keep from losing formula when feeding it in a dish. Eventually, we built a heavy square wood frame out of 2 x 4 & slid the dish inside the frame. The metal dish fit just slightly under the top

piece of wood on each side so the bears couldn't lift it out the top. The side boards and board in the back keeps the dish from sliding out that way. We padlocked the wood panel on the front side where we slid the dish into the frame. We also put legs on it and bury it in the ground at different levels. Or we wire it to the chain link near a den or someplace they can crawl up on to reach the dish. It works most of the time, but nothing is guaranteed with bears except possible destruction. Since any formula just by the sheer volume used can be expensive, it is one of the reasons we prefer to bottle feed. All the formula is used, none is spilled or lost, and we know exactly how much they actually ate as opposed to how much they got on them instead of in them.

Whether bottle feeding or using a dish one thing is certain. At some point when everyone is eating nicely, a fight will break out. One cub will decide the other is getting more formula and try to take over that dish or bottle. They sort it out quickly, but as you can guess, formula in a dish may go flying during the turmoil and it can be a pretty violent sounding few seconds.



**Formula dish**

September, 2014

## INTRODUCING SOLID FOOD

We introduce solid foods at nine to ten weeks, a bit earlier if they will eat it. Start with soft foods like canned peaches, oatmeal, cottage cheese, fruit flavored yogurt, or dry cereal soaked in formula. At first they experiment with it, but do not eat much. Leave some with them between bottle feedings. The cubs like a thick mush. When starting them on solids we alternate formula with either oatmeal, fruit flavored yogurt (their favorite), dry cereal soaked in formula, bread covered with Gerbers fruit baby cereal (same as we used previously in formula), canned peaches/pears/fruit cocktail, or cottage cheese.

First solid food - canned peaches



bears seldom eat the vegetables. The cubs will often scatter the solid food, cereals and mush about the facility. Sometimes there is more on the cubs than in them. However, be persistent. They may play with it, but they will eventually start eating it. This is the time when much of the food goes to waste and they can be very sneaky about when they eat it.

Some cubs will drink formula out of a dish from the beginning. Others take a long time before starting this. Even if they drink formula from a dish, they may still need the bottle. Weaning them from the bottle too early or cutting back too often on bottle feedings has some risks. The cubs will nurse on their pads or each other's ears to satisfy the need to suckle. Sores can result. We always offer formula in a bowl with normal bottle feedings. If the cubs drink the formula we will drop one bottle feeding.

Around four months old, the cubs should be eating some dry dog food. At times it appears that will never happen. Continue to make dry dog food available at all times. They will begin to eat it at their own pace. At first it looks as though they just scatter the kernels everywhere without eating any of the dog food. Chances are they do eat more than it appears. We once observed a cub that was almost six months old and as far as we knew

As they get older, we switch from the mush to dry dog food mixed with a little formula in a bowl. We used to blend in some ground puppy chow with the formula in their bottle. We thought it might make the transition easier because they are already familiar with the taste and smell of the dog food. However, it didn't seem to make any difference and we stopped doing that. We also mix the dog food with formula, fruit or Gerbers baby fruit cereal to soften it. As they get closer to weaning we give them fresh fruits and vegetables. The



## **INTRODUCING SOLID FOOD - continued**

had yet to eat any dog food. We worried that he was eating only fruit. Then one morning we saw him take one kernel as he walked past. That is all we needed to see to know that he was eating the dog food too. He was just not obvious about it.

After the cubs wean themselves from the bottle at about five to six months of age, we continue providing formula in bowls for a short period. Combined with the solid food, it aids their growth and development. Their diet after weaning consists of fruits, (avocados when we can get them - an all time favorite food of bears) dry dog food, vegetation, fish, willows, acorns, bees, wasps, ants, and an occasional mouse who tries to join the picnic. In fall before starting hibernation we will offer deer or elk on a carcass when available. Offering it during summer months is not practical due to the massive amounts of wasps that collect and the heat which spoils the meat so quickly. If we offered pieces of meat only they will usually ignore it, but will always eat meat if the carcass is presented. Some cubs love fish. Some will not eat fish at all and when they do, it is always salmon or trout. Like people, their preferences vary with each individual. Bears rarely eat any vegetables. However, carrots are favorites of most of the bears.



We also provide grasses & willows. The cubs prefer the leaves off one of three willow trees on the property. The willows seem to affect the cubs almost like a mild tranquilizer. In the main enclosure they eat lots of vegetation and dig for worms and bugs.

September , 2014

## INTRODUCING CUBS TO THE MAIN REHAB ENCLOSURE

Introduction to the main enclosure takes place over a few days. The size and openness of the enclosure intimidates the cubs. Sally starts by spending several hours with them the first day they are introduced into the main enclosure. With this period of adjustment they adapt better than if just left alone. If there are storms brewing, it can be very frightening for them. One single cub bawled for two hours during a thunderstorm. Sally ended up spending the night, but the next day the cub was fine by herself.

The initial reaction is both curiosity and fear. They will investigate everything, always keeping an eye on Sally. If frightened they climb to the top of the wire or try to climb on their foster mom. If left alone while inspecting their new home, they pay little attention to her departure until alarmed or they realize she is not there. Then they plant themselves in one spot and start to bawl. Once reassured Sally has not abandoned them they continue playing & investigating.

Weather may create a problem on occasion. A severe thunderstorm during the first week can frighten them badly. Sometimes the cubs will stay hidden in the hollow log. Other times they will panic and run frantically around the enclosure. If that happens, we return them to one of the more protected enclosures until the storm passes. After a period of about two weeks, they feel secure in their new home and the storms no longer bother them.

In time they begin to express their curiosity and interest in the world outside the enclosure. The cubs are quick to comprehend the wire keeps them in and it also keeps everything else out.



As their security level increases with each day, their curiosity level also increases. This does not mean they are tame or imprinted. If we let them wander around outside the enclosure, their behavior would be quite different. The cubs would be much more cautious and alert than we see in the protection of the enclosure. In fact, within the first 2-3 minutes outside the enclosure, they would quickly make their way 30 feet up the nearest tree. The full maturing of their wild instinct takes place later in the fall. Their behavior then will reflect much of what everyone often expects to see at too early an age. Until that time they feel safe and



secure and will therefore express a more relaxed interest in their surroundings.

## WEANING

If we are only giving formula in a bowl and not bottle feeding, cubs will continue to accept formula right up to hibernation if we let them. Although they wean themselves off the bottle, we will wean them off the formula when it comes to feeding formula in a bowl. If bottle feeding, the cubs will tell us when they are ready to stop nursing. Usually they wean themselves around six months of age. Keep in mind the estimate of their age can be 3-4 weeks off as cubs are born in January and February. Do not be alarmed if the cub does not wean when you expect. Assume the age estimate is a few weeks off and continue until sure the cub is at least six months old. Also, with smaller cubs or runts, you don't want to wean too early. The formula is the key to their growth during a very important time. When down to two bottle feedings a day they will suddenly stop wanting a bottle for one feeding. They will anxiously accept the bottle once a day for about another week. Then they show little interest in bottle feedings. We continue offering formula in a dish for about two weeks after we stop bottle feedings.

We've only had one cub that appeared ready to take a bottle with her when denned. She continued demanding an evening bottle until almost seven months old. She was a small cub and we felt the extra formula could help her growth and that she probably needed the extra time. We were about to enforce weaning when she rejected bottle feedings.

The value of the formula to their growth became obvious in several situations. An inexperienced individual weaned some cubs when three months old. We received them at the age of five months.

Although the same age as other cubs weaned at the normal time, they were a third the size they should be. They were too small and their fur was not in good condition. We supplemented their daily food intake with formula for four weeks. Their growth shot up dramatically and they appeared much healthier. Their coat took on a new shine and overall development seemed to increase rapidly as if to make up for lost time.

In the second situation, a man used the two cubs to train hounds. The experience left the male bear injured. They were in the care of another rehabilitator for about three weeks. He transferred the cubs to us after the wounds healed. Undoubtedly, the cubs did not get the proper nourishment during their ordeal with the houndsman. They were still quite small for their age so we added formula to the diet. A month and a half later they were the same size as the two bottle-fed cubs. Within three months the male weighed more than our bottle-fed male.



In 2007 we had a two year old male with his left jaw either shot off or ripped off in a fight. The nasal cavity was wide open from just behind his nose to almost the corner of his eye. Upper teeth were gone on that side as was the gums. Obviously eating was extremely painful even if he used the other side of his jaw. He lived on mostly formula, cottage cheese, and yogurt until his jaw healed enough that he could eat grapes, apples, and eventually dry dog food. His fur and his overall health improved with the formula intake. We believe the formula also contributed to how quickly his injuries healed so we could perform the necessary surgery to give him back his freedom.

## WEANING - continued

During the same time we received a two year old female weighing only 40 lbs. She was just bones and fur. We gave her all sorts of food including fruit, dog food, cottage cheese, yogurt, and formula. She refused the other food and took over a gallon of formula a day for several days before she began slowly eating the other food. Interesting that she seemed to know exactly what she needed most to regain her weight and health and went right for the formula instead of the other food. When released in the spring of 2008, she weighed a good 152 pounds & was so ready to go (see picture) as she ripped open the metal door when we were too slow to open it.



These situations clearly show what a difference the proper formula can make in the bears growth and development. The nutrition offered by the proper formula gives the cubs a good start toward gaining and maintaining their weight during the growth period. As expensive as it can be, don't short change on the formula. Aside from growth and development you also risk other health issues by using a formula of lesser quality or one that doesn't address the nutritional needs of bears.

By five months old, the cubs are eating all kinds of solid foods. We keep a permanent dog food dispenser full of dry dog food so we don't have to enter the enclosure so often & can clean, scatter fruit, and get out as quickly as possible. The bears have their own likes and dislikes. We consistently tried various kinds of dog food. The cubs clearly preferred Albertsons brand chunk style over all other brands tried. Second choice is Purina Dog Chow. When Albertsons changed their dog food to be small kernels, we switched to Fred Meyer Premium Chunk style and still used that in 2014. In reality, any balanced dog food they are willing to eat will work - it just depends on their preferences. We had little success feeding Iams, Science Diet, and other brands of premium dog food with some bears. The size of the pellets seem to make a difference as well - they do not like the smaller kernels and spend more time scattering them than eating the dog food which causes a lot of waste. We also tried the Mazuri Omnivore Biscuits in place of dog food, but the bears didn't eat it. Funds permitting, I would probably try again starting earlier and offering it with their first solid food.

By late October a group of four cubs will easily consume more than forty pounds of dry dog food in two days. Each day they eat enough fruit to fill two five gallon buckets. When available, the cubs will consume most of the acorns we give them and eat lots of vegetation that is available in the enclosure.

An average size deer will last about two days. They do not often eat meat unless it is on a carcass. Packaged meat draws little interest except occasionally in spring as they come out of hibernation. Put a carcass in and it immediately attracts the cubs. One year someone donated a sheep carcass. The cubs checked it out, but would not eat any of it. After two days we had to dispose of it ourselves. Fish is an individual preference. Some bears will eat as much fish as we offer. Others will not eat fish at all. Rarely will the bears eat any type of fish except salmon or trout. We thought rejection of a food item was due to neglect in offering it when young. However, that was not so. When provided the food items at a young age, the same likes and dislikes held true during the rehab period. Frozen grapes, avocados (when donated), and acorns are their favorites.



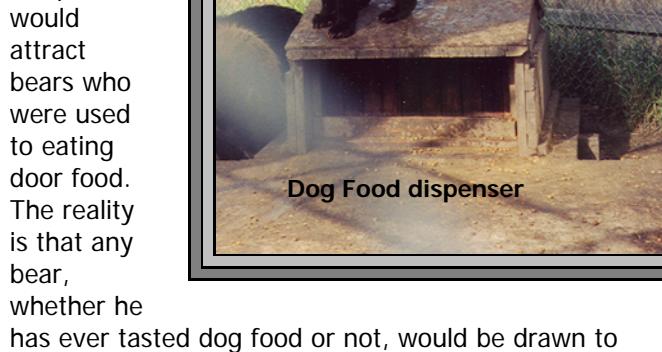
Road kill deer offered to bears

## WEANING - continued

The grocery stores will save the fresh fruit from the displays as they clean them each afternoon. Relying on this is not practical if we have more than one or two bears. Too often we get foods the bears will not eat or we do not get enough to feed all the cubs. However, we make a pick up when possible and now have enough refrigerators & a walk-in cooler to store extra fruit. During the summer months, we sometimes get enough to fill our needs without buying fruit. As the fruit season ends so does our supply. We begin stocking up early by buying in bulk from fruit stands and produce companies. We freeze some fruit for use in spring when fruit is not available or is too expensive to buy. Now we rely on the community and people with fruit trees to supply fruit, but still have to buy produce a fair amount of the time. Some years a freeze makes the fruit trees barren so we end up buying most of the fruit.

The cubs readily eat grasses and willows. There are a variety of wild grasses and vegetation available inside the main enclosure at times. When they have eaten it or tromped it down, the entire main enclosure has grass growing around it so they just reach through the chain link & get that grass and vegetation. They eat bees, wasps, ants and an occasional mouse. During the rehab process we offered a variety of fruit and vegetables after weaning. The chart on the following page shows the food items and the frequency the bears ate that food item. We don't offer Twinkies, donuts, or sweet treats like that. If we have to give an oral medication, we will offer it with a sweet roll, bread & jelly, or a Hostess type pie. However, that is the only time the cubs are given this kind of food.

Many times we are asked about feeding the bears dog food by park officials or wildlife agencies. Granted, dog food is not a natural food source. In rehab we don't have all the food sources available to us that bears would naturally eat. We can on occasion get some of the wild berries or onions they eat, but generally, we have to rely on what's available to us as substitutions for some of the natural food. The concern seemed to be that people with cabins who have dogs & put the dog food on their porches



Dog Food dispenser



Searching out wild berries

would attract bears who were used to eating door food. The reality is that any bear, whether he has ever tasted dog food or not, would be drawn to anything he thought was a source of food. Frankly, although it is just our opinion, it appears the bears are quite happy to have all their natural food sources when they are released. That may account for why spring

released cubs don't immediately become involved in human-bear conflict situations with the campers, cabins, or alternate food sources that might be easily available to them when people don't bear proof trash cans or leave foods out where bears can get to them.

September, 2014

## Food List

FOOD ITEM	FREQUENCY	FOOD ITEM	FREQUENCY
Apples	Always	Cabbage	Frequently
Grapes	Always	Leaf Lettuce	Always
Raisins	Always	Celery	Seldom
Plums	Always	Corn on the Cob (Corn)	Always
Oranges	Always *	Parsley	Frequently
Bananas	Seldom	Potatoes	Seldom
Watermelons	Frequently	Tomatoes	Seldom
Cantaloupes & melons	Frequently	Radishes	Frequently
Strawberries	Seldom	Spinach	Frequently
Blueberries	Always	Rhubarb	Seldom
Blackberries	Always	Zucchini	Seldom
Cranberries	Frequently	Turnips	Seldom
Peaches	Always	Cucumbers	Sometimes
Apricots	Always	Dry Dog Food	Always
Cherries	Always	Willows	Always
Pears	Always	Grass	Always
Raspberries	Seldom	Dandelions	Always
Tangerines	Frequently	Insects	Always
Avocado	Always	Mice	Always
Carrots	Always	Salmon	Always **
Cauliflower	Seldom	Trout	Always **
Asparagus	Seldom	Other Fish	Seldom
Green Beans	Young cubs like them	Beef	Seldom
Peas	Seldom	Deer Carcass	Always
Acorns	Always	Birds	Always
Wild berries	Always	Vegetation	Always
Pumpkin	Frequently	Pineapple	Seldom

\* Although the bears will always eat oranges, we only give them on rare occasions

\*\* Bears who like fish will always eat the fish - bears who don't like fish seldom eat even the salmon or trout

September 2014

## IMPRINTING - HANDLING CUBS

Imprinting is a concern of every wildlife rehabilitator. However, it is only one of several concerns. Focusing solely on handling or the exposure to people as a cause of imprinting is a mistake. It is our experience that bears are not adversely imprinted by handling or from exposure to people during rehab. If taming or domesticating the animal is the goal, excessive handling will result in imprinting. In rehab, imprinting is a concern, not a goal. Several conditions can increase the chance of imprinting. To avoid imprinting, a rehabilitator must consider all factors when handling the cubs.

- 1) What are the circumstances surrounding the bear before receiving it? Did someone have it for an extended length of time during which they handled or treated it like a domestic pet?
- 2) What are the circumstances that brought the orphan to you? Was it orphaned, abandoned, hurt, or confiscated by Fish and Game?
- 3) How old is the cub? Age determines the degree of development and the cub's vulnerability to imprinting.
- 4) Was the cub injured and required handling to treat the injuries? How severe were the injuries? How much handling will the animal require in the future? How long will treatment last?
- 5) What is the individual personality of the bear?

Handling alone is not the sole cause of imprinting. However, we should look at each factor above as a possible concern for imprinting. With orphaned cubs personality seems to be a major factor in whether the cub will become involved in a human-bear conflict situation when released combined with food availability. Two of three cubs that did become involved in a human-bear conflict when released had very extreme personalities. Their personalities were very different from each other, but extreme in every way. One cub was very hyperactive and never sat still for more than five minutes at a time. She was interested in everything going on around her and had an unusual curiosity about everything. She was difficult to handle, insisted on interfering with any cleaning or feeding. Two other cubs we think were orphaned in a traumatic way and/or held and handled long term by people until they became too difficult to handle & were then just dumped out. Either of those situations impacted their behavior in a negative way. They were very needy bears, always wanting attention, never satisfied, seldom indicating they felt any sense of security no matter how hard Sally tried. One would bawl constantly if he couldn't see her at all times. He expressed his needs by getting frustrated and angry. Even the normal calming and happy playfulness that takes place after bottle feeding was turned into a very rough angry attempt at playing with hard swats and powerful bites.



Asleep at Sally's feet by her desk

When working with cubs, be aware that nurturing is important when young. Nurturing doesn't necessarily mean playing with a cub as you would a puppy or any other pet. It means establishing an environment in which the cub feels safe and secure. Keeping to a routine throughout the day when feeding and cleaning the bedding is one way to do that. With nursing cubs, especially cubs

under 9 weeks old, it is inevitable that they will see the person feeding them as the foster mother. That is why only Sally does all the bottle feeding. She doesn't want the cubs to identify with "people" in general as their foster mother. Their security comes from knowing that Sally is around. They don't need constant handling or touching, but do need to feel that mom is close by. For example, after feeding

September, 2014

## Imprinting - continued

and immediately placing a cub back in a carrier, the cub will bawl until exhausted. Yet that same cub will fall sound asleep in two minutes at Sally's feet, just a paw touching a leg or foot or if allowed to play with hands and wrestle for a few minutes. That is the security they need and if there is a sibling, even less of that is needed - just knowing "mom" is nearby is often enough. With each week the cub will need and want less handling and contact and be more interested in checking out the surroundings. You'll know by the unexpected little nip you get when you try to pick up the cub or handle it when it has no desire to be handled.

A human infant is not likely to develop normally if just fed and left in the crib without any nurturing. It is the same with all youngsters, including the cubs. We can provide a nurturing atmosphere without imprinting. Sally's first bear caused concern because the cub turned from a quiet, gentle teddy bear into a hurricane on four feet. It was a complete and instant behavior change unlike anything previously experienced with other wildlife. When she discussed it with John Beecham, his comments proved to be true with every cub. The cub's change in behavior meant it felt safe and secure enough to be what it was - a bear. We were doing something right. That's the basis of bear rehab. Just give them the time and the security to be what they are, let them go through their stages of development normally, and they will go about the business of being a bear.

After working with cubs for a few years, one thing is certain. Of all the wildlife previously handled, there is none more knowing of who they are and what they are about than bears. If we give them the time to develop and the security to feel safe while doing it, it is unlikely the result will be a nuisance bear.



However, the average person without experience handling wildlife or the unique demands associated with that is not the person raising these bears. We are talking about experienced wildlife rehabilitators who know and understand the techniques of working with wild animals. Our experience with these cubs shows the risk of imprinting and creating a nuisance bear is minimal. Of course it can happen - there are no guarantees, but the likelihood is minimal and hinges on personality and sometimes that combined with food availability after released. We have rehabbed some cubs whose personality was such they would probably have starved to death before seeking

food from people.

The time when we can affect their behavior to imprint them is when their wild instinct starts to mature late in the year. By then we have little contact anyway. Once weaned, for the most part the cubs have little interest in their human caretakers or foster mother other than initial greetings when they see "mom". The caretakers involvement is limited to providing food, water, observing behavior and health, and cleaning.

September 2014

## Imprinting - continued

Another factor to consider is that bears are not social animals like some species. As adults they are solitary animals by nature. That makes bears even better candidates for rehab than other species. Being social with other cubs in rehab and being dependent on their human foster mother is quite normal for young cubs. The cubs will always identify Sally as their foster mother. However, once they wean themselves, they do not have the same need for her as a security blanket that they did when younger. They no longer need to socialize with her and prefer the company of the other cubs. In the same vein, when released, it is even more unlikely they will seek humans out for company. Even siblings, when first released will sometimes part company immediately and begin their solitary life.



This cub came in during fall weighing about 15 pounds. At release he weighed about 140 - does he look underweight or stunted in growth?

Wildlife agencies' main concern about bear rehab are bears that become used to getting food from people. Caring individuals often place food out for orphaned cubs. Wildlife officers may be reluctant to consider rehab in those situations. They expect the cub will become involved in a human-bear conflict situation due to the experience of receiving food from humans. Persuading agencies that a cub taken from this kind of situation is still a good candidate for rehab can be very difficult due to preconceived ideas.

When making these decisions, it is critical to differentiate between "habituated" bears and "food conditioned" bears.

Scientific literature defines habituation as "a waning response to a repeated, neutral

stimulus." (Thorpe 1956, Whitaker and Knight 1998, Gilbert 1989, Smith et al. 2005. Herrero et al. 2005, Stringham 2009). Thus, "[b]ears that are fully habituated to humans ignore them" and habituated bears would not necessarily be attracted to humans for food and other needs. (Whitaker and Knight 1998).

Habituated bears DO NOT necessarily result in human-bear conflicts.. "Habituation is a normal response to people in bears' human-inhabited environments, and habituated bears have not shown themselves to be a greater threat to public safety than non-habituated bears." (Rogers, Human-Wildlife Interactions 5(2): 287-295, Fall 2011).

Food conditioned bears warrant some concern; however, non-lethal remedies are available. In many locations it is nearly impossible for a bear to make its daily excursions looking for food without walking through someone's property, or a campground in the mountains. A bear in an inhabited area could be simply passing through. If this behavior is reoccurring, this generally means something is attracting the bear. "Food conditioning occurs when a bear learns that certain locations, situations, or humans, may provide food." (Rogers, Human-Wildlife Interactions 5(2): 287-295, Fall 2011). Remove the attraction and the bear will most likely go away. Relocation is also a remedy and/or placement of orphaned cubs into a rehabilitation program, with the plan for future release when the cubs are able to care for themselves. Cubs exposed to food conditioned behaviors do not necessarily continue those behaviors when the initial attractions are removed, and/or after added maturity and new environments when later released from a rehabilitation program.

Several of the more than 200 bears IBBR received since 1989 were cubs found in fall, underweight and coming from situations where people fed them. We never lost a single cub to starvation. Some of those cubs weighed only 10 pounds. Given the proper care and diet, they doubled their weight in no time,

## IMPRINTING - continued

continuing to regain their strength and health daily with no side effects. Orphaned cubs are almost always underweight unless found immediately. Even when found right away, in poor food years they can still be underweight. Bears are amazingly quick to bounce back, even if anemic or dealing with other issues. Unless the organs have started to shut down, no matter how thin the cubs might be, they recover. There is no reason not to give them a chance to survive, especially knowing how resilient they can be.

Habituation is one of the biggest misconceptions we face in bear rehab. Orphaned cubs are not adult bears and do not think or act like adult bears - just as our own kids do not think or act like adults until they and their brains are developed as an adult. These cubs go through stages of development and their behavior changes accordingly. Black bear cubs are dependent on their mother for the first 16-17 months

of their life. Their behavior is one of dependency. However, a cub in rehab becomes independent shortly after weaning. Although they rely on us for their supply of food and water, they become very independent of us in all other ways. They identify with the enclosure in the same way as a cub playing near his sleeping mother. Once they feel safe in the enclosure, that



enclosure becomes their security blanket. As they get older, there is less need for that security blanket. Bears are naturally curious and unless threatened are going to express that curiosity. Depending on the stage of development, cubs may not run in fear of humans and will show curiosity. However, put that cub outside the enclosure and that same bear will be up a tree in the blink of an eye, woofing and clapping his lips all the way.



An orphaned cub is hungry, looking for food more than security. To survive, a cub will do what is necessary by temporarily sidelining their fears. Humans too would take risks and do things we would never consider if we were not starving. Although the need for food alters the degree of wariness toward humans for a period, it does not mean the cubs will become problem bears after release. Over the years we have taken cubs into the rehab program that people fed for a month or more. Sometimes, people were even hand feeding the cub. Once taken out of that situation, placed in rehab, provided with a sufficient food supply the cubs behavior reverted to the same as other cubs in rehab.

We released these cubs in late spring. **Without exception, none of our cubs taken from those situations became involved in human-bear conflict situations!** Occasionally other factors may also come into play to create a nuisance bear. However, to assume cubs are going to become involved in human-bear conflicts because they were starving, ate food left out by people, or do not run in terror at the sight of a human is unrealistic.

In 2001, we accepted two cubs from Yosemite National Park. Their mother was visiting the campgrounds for food people left out. She became increasingly aggressive. Despite relocation and aversive actions by the park rangers, she continued to bring her cubs into the campgrounds searching for food. Everyone was concerned that the cubs would learn that behavior and repeat it. Since no one knew how much they retained of that experience, IBBR took extra precautions when the cubs arrived for rehab. For the first few weeks, we reduced our daily work to a minimum so contact was also kept to a minimum. We returned the cubs to Yosemite in January 2002. As of 2007, they had not shown any inclination to repeat the nuisance behavior of their mother. They have become part of the normal population living in the park who do not seek our people and campgrounds.

September, 2014

## **IMPRINTING - continued**

We can isolate them totally from all humans, or from all except the caretaker. We can choose to bottle feed or feed in a bowl. We can do a few education programs for schools with the very young cubs, or none at all. Either way, if we just allow them to go through their stages of development they will become the bear they are meant to be and not the problem bear everyone expects. Placing the cubs in dens during hibernation offers the bears additional time to adjust to their new surroundings and lessons the risk of running into people. Although we have done several spring releases with only one bear getting into trouble, denning was the preferred method when possible. It is a difficult release due to weather and conditions on the mountain and today more agencies prefer spring releases which have proven just as successful.

One question often asked is, how do we train them to be bears? We do not need to teach bears to be bears. They are very instinctive animals. It may take a little longer to get there without mom, but they will get there. Ideally, if we lived in a wooded area, we could make daily excursions in the woods. We could show them natural foods and give them the experience of being in the woods. Ben Kilham in New Hampshire has the opportunity to do just that. IBBR is here in suburbia, sandwiched between housing developments. Yet both programs work and both continue to successfully release orphaned cubs without the bears becoming problem bears. That makes a statement in itself as to the mind set that a human cannot raise and successfully release orphaned bear cubs.



September, 2014

## BEHAVIOR DURING REHAB

When cubs first arrive, they may be afraid and stay at a distance. If orphaned for a longer period, they will quickly turn to Sally for food and attention. Although accepting of us, they remained wary of strangers. We keep human contact to a minimum with only Sally bottle feeding the cubs and one of the caretakers as an emergency back-up if needed.

Stress is sometimes a problem. The cubs express it in several ways. Usually, they will bawl if left alone. Some cubs will jump up and down against a wall or fence as if trying to climb it. They may act erratic at feeding time, alternating between refusal and acceptance of the bottle. Restlessness could also be a sign of stress.

To lessen the stress give the cubs a quiet area in which to hide. A dog kennel is perfect for this. Put in a few blankets or towels. Quite by accident we found the cubs immediately attracted to a bedding of fake fur. We tried grass hay, towels, blankets, and shredded paper (courtesy of the cubs). Although they used these items, they always took the fake fur blanket with them wherever they slept. When feeding, Sally will often drape the fake fur over her. It not only serves as protection from the claws and the mess, but the cubs seem to nurse more quietly. They seem more content during the whole feeding process.



Start a routine and stick with it. The security they feel from their surroundings, the routine, and acceptance of the caretaker will reduce the stress. One sign that the cubs are feeling secure is the purring or chortling sound they display. However, they can also start this when stressed to reassure themselves. Telling whether it is stress or contentment is depends on the situation. They will also knead

a blanket or pillow as cats do. Another sign they are feeling secure is when that mellow "teddy bear" turns into a tornado on four feet. Their aggressiveness and exaggerated swats, bites, and nips let us know they are content and feel safe in being a bear around us.



The cubs wean themselves from Sally as the caretaker about the same time they stop taking a bottle. When that happens, wrestling and playing with each other becomes more important. Although subtle at this point, it is the first stage of the wild instinct developing. Between the age of five and eight months they distance themselves even more.

Often the cubs will display shyness around people unless the caretaker is present. Some cubs however, are unafraid and will express their curiosity and interest to the fullest degree. After much practice (during which she often sounded like a wounded dog), Sally mastered the woof that sends them to the top of the enclosure. When necessary, she will send them up the tree or wire panel as the female often does with her cubs. Her ability to do this diminishes rapidly once weaned and she has to perfect it again each year.

September, 2014

## BEHAVIOR DURING REHAB - continued

By seven months of age their lack of interest in us is obvious. They only show any interest in us or what we do when bored. Except for veterinarians or Fish & Game, Sally or the caretakers are the only ones allowed to go in with the bears. Most of the time once they are in the main enclosure, we separate the cubs into another section while we scatter fruit and clean. There are times when we mix freely with the cubs while cleaning and repairing any damage done to the enclosure. Some cubs will sniff at us as we work, some keep their distance, some try to steal whatever we bring in with us, but their interest rarely lasts very long before they get back to wrestling and chasing games or finding the fruit.

Sometimes a bear will get wired up and like the siblings, we run for cover. None of the bears ever posed a serious threat or hurt any of us. Due to their strength, the occasional bear with a strong mind set may cause us to vacate the enclosure in a hurry. Like people, they have moods and display them. Pay attention and respect their moods and the cubs will not pose a threat. With 4-5 month old cubs, we are often on the receiving end of the erratic swats or bites. As they get older, they become calmer. The intent may be to reach out with a paw and wrap it around your leg or arm, but now they put more thought into it & aren't as quick to react on that thought. By the time they act, we can easily step aside and they seldom persist in the attempt.

Oddly, when they have the weight and power to do serious damage, they are less dangerous than the wired up cubs of 4-5 months old. If Sally has scratches, bites, black and blue marks, it is more often from the younger cubs than the 60 pound plus bears.



Play behavior is typical of that with wild cubs. They wrestle, chase, bite, swat, and exhibit general rowdiness. We provide various items to prevent boredom. They will haul them around the enclosure and demolish them before losing interest. It is a continuing challenge to provide interesting items and situations to prevent boredom. Thankfully, their favorite toy is one of the other bears.



Their favorite item in the enclosure is the hollow log & the swim tub. They spend several hours each day in play. This log is usually the center of play activity. The 160-gallon swim tub is also a favorite. They alternate taking possession of it and preventing the other cubs from getting in. Sometimes they work as a team to distract the reigning bear. This allows one or more of them to get in the tub. Then they all exit in a mad leap, taking buckets of water with them.

During the afternoon they congregate in one spot, nap together or in pairs. If it is hot, they will sleep later in the evening,

but are active by 6pm or 7pm. After dark, they retire to the hollow log or a dens for the night, but we still see them often during the night wrestling and chasing around.

Starting late August, the cubs will taper off eating for a few days and then pick up the heavy eating again. They will do this several times for a month or more. Each spurt lasts a few days before they resume normal eating habits. The heat could be the cause of the changes.

September, 2014

## **BEHAVIOR DURING REHAB - continued**

Around the middle of September, they become very destructive. The cubs tear down logs, move dens around the enclosure, everything rearranged. They dig up the ground and play havoc with the enclosure. We constantly check the wire for weak spots. Their wild instincts start to mature about a month later and this behavior could be related to that as well. By



this behavior could be related to that as well. By mid November, they become lethargic, moving around only a bit and using very little of the enclosure. As the weather turns colder, they become first more active, then quieter and less active.

During 1994 we received cubs late in the fall. They were half the size of the cubs in the enclosure, but we put them together. Merging cubs at different times and different sizes has never been a problem. It took only a few days for the cubs to adjust. The new arrivals remain wary of each other, but there are no fights or confrontations. They just avoided contact for the first few days. Within a week they were playing and sleeping together. At first, the

cubs arriving in the fall ran from us. As they adjusted to the routine, they would simply avoid contact with us. By now the wild instinct was also maturing in the cubs already with us. Any of the cubs could cause all the other cubs to race up the side of the enclosure clapping their lips and making their woofing sounds. In the main enclosure used now, it can take up to two weeks for them to fully adjust and the merge to take place. Once that happens, regardless of age or size, even biologists are surprised to hear we never have any fights. Grumpy bears on occasion will grumble a little here and there, but no fighting. In fact they get more scrapes from the wrestling and playing they do than anything else.

Personalities vary with every bear. Some are shy and very mellow. Some are aggressive and demanding. A few are playful and mischievous. One set of twins had completely opposite personalities. One was very shy, the other very outgoing. One bear is usually the obvious one in charge. The others look to him or her for security and mirror the reactions of this bear to whatever is going on around them.



Jaws - lost upper jaw - surgery repaired & released following year.

Most of the illnesses we encounter are slight colds, pneumonia, or minor wounds. Treating the cubs for wounds or colds is easy. We avoid tranquilizing when possible by giving antibiotics orally on bread and jelly, a fruit pie, or a sweet roll. We can give shots to the bottle-fed cubs without any problem. However, it can be stressful on both bear and human. Diagnosing the problem can sometimes be interesting. On one occasion we had a cub in apparent distress. She kept trying to move between Sally's legs and would position her body so she could rub her stomach area against the legs. Her behavior seemed to hint that she wanted her stomach rubbed. Sally thought maybe she was constipated so gently rubbed her stomach and bowels. She obviously liked that so silly as it seemed, the actions seemed to indicate an upset stomach. The vet suggested we give her  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a tum for a day or two. She took the tums and let us rub her stomach area for a few minutes each time. By the next evening she was fine. She never



displayed that behavior again.

September, 2014

## DAILY ROUTINE

Once the feeding schedule is set, our daily routine seldom varies. We repeat most of the routine at each feeding. By the time we wean the cubs, we are down to cleaning the enclosure twice a day. We continue doing that until it's time to prepare the bears for hibernation. Then we clean and feed only once a day (depending on the number of bears).

- Wash and disinfect bottles and nipples
- Clean any toys
- Clean and refill food and water containers
- Prepare solid foods for the rest of the day
- Check the enclosure for needed repairs
- Clean the enclosure
- Pick up scat (2 - 3 times a day)
- Turn over dirt in areas used for urinating
- Change bedding and hay if used
- Thaw frozen meat, fish, or fruits needed for next feeding
- Prepare formula for the rest of the day (sometimes we prepare several days formula and freeze it)
- Take out any destroyed items and replace with new items
- Collect grass and willows (for cubs not in the main enclosure where they are already available)
- Drain & refill the swim tub
- Refill dry dog food dispenser as needed

We spend a lot of time preparing the formula and fresh fruit we provide daily. Five freezers and a walk-in cooler hold excess fruit, fish, pieces of deer carcass, and powdered formula. Often the grocery stores and produce companies will give us boxes of fruit. During the summer, we pick up fruit daily and freeze whatever we do not use that day. The bears like the thawed mushy fruit, but it takes more to equal the bulk of fresh fruit.

Keeping the enclosure clean is a constant chore. During the hot summer months we pick up scat three times a day. A sprinkler system will spray parts of the main enclosure that we program as needed.

We use it to treat the bears to a shower or to wash down the enclosure & keep the vegetation going. Once every two or three weeks we will rearrange some of the logs and structures. This gives the bears a chance to express their curiosity. It challenges them to take apart what we put together - a challenge they always conquer with ease.



**Tas & Willow greet David Soul & Sally. As long as Sally is there, the bears remain calm with a stranger nearby.**

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

During the first three or four years of this program, people who saw the cubs were always surprised. Whether eight weeks old or six months old, they expected to see the bears run in total fear as they approached - the expression "flight or fight". Despite her experience as a wildlife rehabilitator of many years, Sally lacked experience during the earlier years to address this absence of "wild behavior".

For the first five years of this program, Sally watched the cubs every day, for eight or nine months each year. She spent a minimum of three hours a day, at all hours just watching their actions and reactions to the world around them. Some days started at 7AM, others at noon, 6pm, or 10PM. At least twice a week she would go out between midnight and 5AM. She came to know the cubs during the first year of their life in a way others can't. Yes, they were in rehab and not in the wild. However, it is doubtful anyone would have been able to observe them in the same way or as consistently in the wild.

Over time, from those thousands of hours came a clear understanding of the bears development during the first year. Cubs, just as other wildlife and our own children go through various stages of development. We don't expect two year old children to act like teenagers. Yet for some unknown reason, we expect five month old cubs to act like adult bears. Our expectations are simply unrealistic. Bear cubs go through comparable stages of development similar to children. The difference is that it happens over a period of months rather than years. Sally has narrowed it down to four main stages of development:

**Infant Stage - from birth to about eight weeks.** The cubs need nurturing, closeness, security, formula, some very primitive play, and sleep. It's all about feeding every one to two hours around the clock, stimulating bowel movements, responding to cries of need. Surprisingly, even with eyes closed, the cubs display some play behavior. It's mostly through twisting body movements, legs kicking, and mouth opening in a gape of sorts while tossing the head from side to side that this play behavior exhibits itself. Imagine a baby gurgling



3-4 weeks old

and smiling and the body movements that go with it. That is pretty much what you see in the cubs trying to play when their eyes are still closed and for a period right after the eyes open at 4-5 weeks. When the eyes open, play consists of gumming your hand or their own paws, kicking and pushing, and a lot of tossing of the head. They love being placed on their back on a soft bed or chair and playing footsie or having their tummy tickled or rubbed while they twist and kick trying to stop it. It is a time for play even at this age. Play behavior is just a gentler version of that between two



Trying to play

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

older bear cubs. It consists of gentle ear tugs, mouthing the paws (only with a hand & not your mouth), grabbing a bit of fur on the neck or shoulder and using your hands to roll the cub around as another cub might do when lying on top or pushing the other cub. All that type of behavior is easy to simulate even if you aren't a bear.



Stool at 3-4 weeks

Even at this early stage, stools can be formed or loose. The color can vary from bright yellow to a greenish-blue, to a brown. It really depends on what you put in the formula. Blueberry creates the greenish-blue color - peach creates yellow or brown. Sally stimulates both before and after feeding to keep the carrier and the bedding cleaner. Just rub a warm wet cloth softly in a circular motion and urine will usually flow quickly. Stools generally won't come with each feeding until later when the bear is more active.

The pads on the feet have grey coloring where fur will soon appear. By twelve weeks, the black fur is in place on all the pads and the baby pink skin has turned dark and

toughened up.



Until the eyes open, Sally will always burp the bear cubs. Once the eyes open, it depends on how active the cub is after that. Continue burping the cub as you would a baby until you see that the cub burps without your help after each feeding. Despite burping, hiccups can be a common occurrence even after the bear is active. Based on Sally's observations the eyes open anywhere from 5-6 weeks. In previous years, Sally had cubs aged at 5 weeks with eyes clearly having just opened that day or the day before. The cubs were still wincing and the

outside corner of each eye was still slightly sealed. In 2004, we estimate the cub who arrived with eyes still closed to be 3-4 weeks on arrival 2/20/04. It's always possible to be a week or so off. The eyes started to open 3/01/04 which would be at 4-5 weeks. One eye started to slit open about midnight and by 11am was open all the way across. The other eye started opening about 3am and by 5pm was fully open. She winced for a day or two, but all her activities increased. Within 4-5 days of eyes opening it was clear she was focusing better & seeing at least some detail. She



Eyes just opened

would study Sally's face as if trying to figure out what that funny looking thing was that stared down at her - probably worried she was going to look like that too! She started reaching for things, but probably just seeing shapes rather than a lot of detail.



Upper canine just peeking through

The teeth on the upper and lower back jaws can be felt like little mountain ranges under the skin. At about five weeks, the front canines start to poke their way through the skin and you can feel the sharpness of the upper and lower back teeth even though they take longer to poke through. The upper and lower front teeth will poke through the skin, but don't seem to continue pushing through, probably because nursing would be painful for mom if they did. By 6 weeks the upper & lower back teeth were through the skin slightly.

September, 2014

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

### The Terrible Twos - from about eight to twelve weeks

The cubs are walking around, still sometimes falling over. They check things out, they lie on the floor under the desk and spend half an hour just playing with a pant leg or a boot while Sally is working. Naps are still frequent, but not as long and play during the early stage is still gentle. Cute behavior is the norm and everything is going along nicely.



Attacking the boot

The terrible twos just sneak in without warning. It starts innocently with the gentle nips turning into a hard bite followed by a wired up bear or even one that is obviously angry. It is probably the most trying time of the rehab process. The cubs take about a week after the eyes open before they become determined to be active, learn to walk, sit, stand, and even climb. Despite the fact they fall all over themselves half the time, they

keep trying and by eight weeks they pretty much have it mastered. They are running around getting into all kinds of trouble. Keeping one eye on them and constant supervision when not in a carrier is a must. The world is their playground and they intend to check out every corner and destroy much of it. Nothing is safe. Sally lets the cubs run around her home office as she works, but everything has to be put up high out of reach.



A short nap

Bears are not welcome in some areas so those must be blocked off. Here's a tip - use large plastic bins one stacked on top of another to block for height and width. Put something a little heavy inside like some books. The claws are useless at this stage against the slick plastic so the bears can't climb it or get enough grip to tip it over. Actually, if they are determined and the bins have any raised areas on the lids, they probably could move them. However, they get bored easily. If things don't happen quickly at this stage, they are on to something else.

Suddenly and without warning, the first temper tantrum hits. Maybe it's because the formula isn't ready immediately or the cub is bored with the pant leg. Maybe it's because they want that door that was always shut before to be open. Or, it's time for bed and the cub has no intention of calling it a night. Always be prepared for the bite or nip or swat during this time and don't assume it is going to be a gentle one. Play gets very rough now and the sweet little cub that barely clamped on your hand before will now clamp hard and start to shake your hand. Sally would never compare an adorable cub to a shark, but she says it reminds her of how sharks grab and shake their food....only in her case, it just happens to be her hand. The cubs insist on going wherever they aren't supposed to go. They want what they want, when they want it and they definitely want whatever Sally has made clear is off limits. They test Sally constantly and if they don't get their way, the cubs are quick to bite, claw, get mad and swat or just plain attack. Usually it's Sally's leg that gets the full attack, but claws and bites go right through even heavy denim. The bears still play nicely, but the minute they feel you are going to make them do something they don't want to do (like sleep) or you are going to keep something from them that they want, the temper comes out. It's usually over in minutes, but if you aren't watching for it or prepared, you will get some vicious bites



Getting ready to climb

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

and bruises. Personality can also dictate how difficult this period will be. Depending on the cubs personalities, the tantrums may be frequent and very bad. Other times less frequent or much milder.

Discipline - we like to think we are in control of a situation, but like coyotes, bears don't accept discipline. Instead, discipline consists of using tactics like distraction, gruff voice, sudden noises, a favorite or new toy to sideline the bear from whatever negative behavior is happening. Control is in getting through the terrible twos with as few wounds as possible and hair intact. Sally says pulling hair and grinding teeth were invented just to get her through this stage. Mother bears will simply swat the cub and send it rolling when it gets obnoxious. Sally did this a couple of times early on while trying to simulate what the mother bear would do. The guilt she felt far outweighed the almost imperceptible temporary

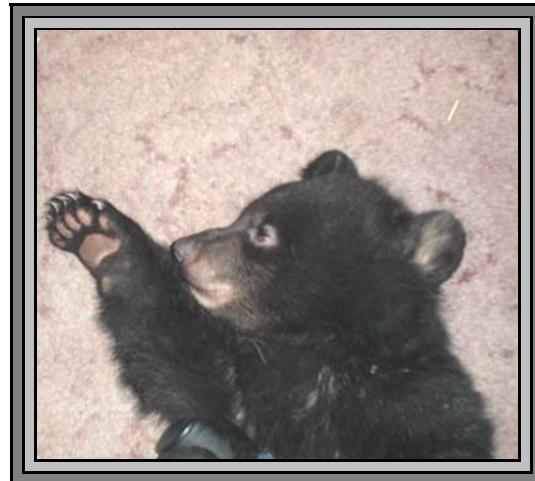
improvement in the cubs behavior. The only difference was the cubs didn't seem to get mad and come back at her as quickly for telling them no. Other than that the behavior didn't change much. Now she uses gruff warnings and the slap of a glove on the desk to get their attention. They do listen, but as the terrible twos progress, the warnings are not always effective. When that happens Sally has to physically pick them up or shoo them away from trouble. That usually results in a brief tantrum followed by an immediate run back to the same trouble area. The cubs can repeat this process over and over and each time they get angrier and the attempted bites get harder when you try to stop them. Having thick gloves to grab quickly are a must during this time. Sally wears leather gloves with a thick inner wool lining, but the pressure from the bite can still leave bruises. You can

purchase them at a hardware store, but make sure they have a thick lining or they will be useless. If the cub wanted, it could probably break fingers from the pressure in the jaws when they clamp.

Possibly the worst part is the misguided belief that once exhausted the cubs will sleep. It just doesn't happen that way most of the time. The cubs seem to have found unlimited energy & just don't fall asleep easily. In fact, even exhausted, they fight sleep. If Sally puts them back in the carrier while they are still awake they will bawl for two hours. She waits until they settle down and start stretching out on the floor as if dozing. If the cub goes into a sound sleep she can move them to the carrier. Don't be fooled - cubs can sleep soundly with their eyes open so watch the body movements. They kick and jerk just as we do in our sleep. If not in a deep sleep, the least movement or sound seems to alert them. They come alive instantly. Then the grouchiness sets in and they are ready to do battle - serious battle. The grouchiness indicating they are fighting sleep is accompanied by low moans and groans for half an hour or so. Sally calls it bear grumbling.



Finally - a bear sound asleep



Sleeping with eyes wide open

September, 2014

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

During the terrible twos with a single cub, Sally introduced Lelani, her German Shepherd to the cub. Having been in the room while the cub was housed in a vari-kennel, the bear is already familiar with the site and smell of Lelani and knows she is not a threat. Lelani acted as a surrogate sibling until another cub arrived. Wrestling and playing is very important and Lelani could both take and give the nips and tugs that are so much a part of bear play. It might seem odd considering hound hunters use dogs to hunt bear, but bears are very smart. Bear expert John Beecham suggested it with a single cub after having raised cubs during his bear studies.

The cubs can easily differentiate between dogs. Ronin, the police dog was not receptive to bear play and prefers to be left alone. The bears clearly recognize Ronin was not a playmate. However, the temptation was just too great at times to keep them from purposely tormenting him. They were selective and careful about how and when they did it. In the picture below, it took this cub half an hour to work her way over to Ronin using various "What dog?" tactics. Finally, just as Ronin decided this little monster wasn't going to bother him, the cub rolled over and grabbed him. The look of disgust in Ronin's face is quite obvious. He would never hurt the bear, but being a police dog, if the bear startled him, he reacted quickly and loudly



The black you see on Lelani's back is a bear



Can't resist tormenting Ronin



A break between wrestling matches

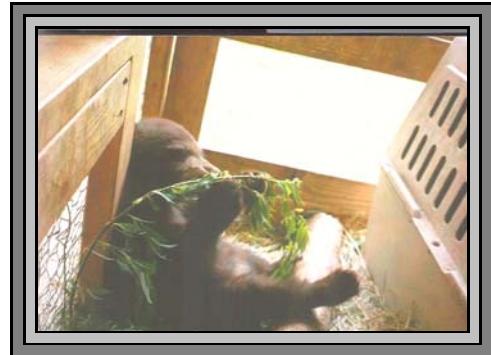
sending the bear running for cover. The cubs were all over Lelani, pulling ears, biting legs or a tail. She was usually gentle with them, but could get rough if the cubs get too obnoxious. Strangely, during the terrible twos even when the cubs are wired up, they were generally gentle with Lelani while Sally got the hard bites. Lelani never hurt any of the cubs and they seemed to adore her. Once in an outdoor enclosure, Lelani remained with the single cubs 24 hours a day until another cub arrived. When moved to the main enclosure sometime in June, her service as pseudo bear ended even if another cub hadn't arrived. At this stage, the cub hangs on her hips while playing and that could result in an unintentional injury to her.

Later in the rehab process, Ronin became something to run from along with any other dog that might happen to come into sight. They always recognized Lelani as non-threatening, but there is no physical contact with her once another cub arrived. After Ronin passed and then Lelani, it became a struggle once again with single cubs feeling abandoned if Sally wasn't always with them. Sierra replaced Ronin as the police dog and after Sierra's passing, Zen replaced Sierra as the police dog. She has yet to have the opportunity to experience a young cub. Zen is a gentle dog so hoping she can take Lelani's place too and be a pseudo bear for single cubs..

September, 2014

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

At about 10 weeks, weather permitting, Sally puts the cubs in an outside enclosure on the deck outside her office during the day. At first the cubs are scared, but they adjust quickly. However, they bawl if left out at night so they spend the nights in the vari-kennel inside. In 2009 we replaced the vari-kennel with an indoor cage which allows them plenty of room when they first start moving around. The enclosure on the deck isn't large enough for Lelani. If it is a single cub in that enclosure, Sally becomes the substitute sibling when it comes to wrestling. After each feeding, she will let the cub chew and wrestle with her hands. This lasts about 20 minutes and then the cub settles down for a nap. After that the cub plays with logs and in the small water tub and is quite content being alone in the enclosure. If more than one cub, there is no need for Sally to participate in any play sessions. After about a week of being outside during the day, Sally will leave them outside all the time unless it's very cold. At this age, they would still bawl if either Lelani or Sally wasn't around. During the day, Sally can talk to them from her office and the dog was always nearby. At night, Lelani sleeps beside the deck enclosure and comes in after the bears are asleep. The cubs will then sleep until morning.



First outdoor experience

### Teenage months - from four to seven months



Around four months old, for the most part they stop the temper tantrums and focus on just being youngsters. If they get mad, it's usually associated with formula - running out before they are full - not having the right nipple - formula too hot or cold, etc. Sleeping, playing, and eating are what they are

all about. Although they play hard and tear around at top speed, they are much gentler in their play than the previous weeks.

At five months old, the cubs are really roughhousing and need to be moved to the next largest enclosure. We have 3 different enclosures to use but generally it's one of the 10 x 12 or 10 x 20 enclosures. The cubs will be very active at this stage, running and jumping and climbing everything. Climbing chain link is not



September 2014

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

the same as a tree because it's slick, especially if the cubs are playing in the water tubs. Cubs love the water and from about three months on, they will be in it every chance they get. They have to learn to climb the chain link safely without falling. An interesting tidbit - at about 4 months they start paying attention to their coat. Although they may get dirty, they play in the water and clean up. If formula happens to spill on their fur, unless really hungry, they will sometimes stop nursing and lick the formula off their coat until it's clean.

They are eating more solids now in the form of fresh fruit, apples, peaches, pears, plums, and grapes. Even though you may only see dry dog food scattered around, chances are they are eating some of it. Each cub is different as to when it starts eating dry dog food. If only one cub it may take longer as cubs tend to do what the other cubs are doing. It's always great if one of the cubs starts eating the dry dog food early because you can count on the others following suit. They will also continue to eat most of the canned fruit, oatmeal, cereal, cottage cheese, bread with yogurt, and any soft foods we still offer. Sally provides the solid food twice a day along with formula feedings. The cubs will take about 20oz of formula about every four hours or three times a day.



Tom Robb moves tranquilized cub into main enclosure after health check

accidents are going to happen, it's probably at this stage. By the end of June or into July, the cubs will wean themselves off the bottle. Sally does continue to provide formula once a day in a dish for a week or two after that if the cubs want it.

The bears are quick to lose interest in their foster mom at this point. The days consist of playing, wrestling, chasing, napping, playing in the swim tub, and eating. They become independent of Sally within about two weeks of moving into the main enclosure. Although they will greet Sally and seem glad to see her, she is

At six months old, we move the cubs into the main enclosure. Usually we just coax the cubs into a carrier or we may tranquilize the cubs and do a health check with our vet. It just depends on the situation and the number of cubs we need to move. The main enclosure is very intimidating at first, especially for just one cub. The cubs will inspect every inch of each new enclosure & test it. Once done, they usually won't test it again. At this stage, it's almost like having a teenager around. At times, they don't use good judgement and seem to feel invincible. They get a bit wild and reckless. If



September 2014

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued



The cubs actually mellow out at this point. The once wired up cubs who could easily swat before you could see it coming, are now even gentler in their actions. They still have that mischievous streak, but by the time they decide to wrap a paw around Sally's leg, she sees it coming and just steps aside. Now and then there will be a bear that has a very determined mind set. Sally had one of those trip her and then sit on her back before she could get up. The cub was just playing, but because Sally knows each bear's personality so intimately and has studied each one, she can avoid any serious problems when this happens. The cubs still respect her as their foster mom and react to her moods. If she is nervous or uneasy, they reflect that. If she is stressed or upset, they react by being very pensive and will sit quietly keeping their movements to a minimum.

This is a time of destruction, mostly during play. Anything is fair game and it seems to be all about moving things around, undoing, ripping apart, turning over, and rearranging everything. The cubs will frequently pick one item and just demolish it. It may be a plastic dog house used as a den or it could be the swim tub, the deck area, or the roof.

### College months - from eight months to release

At eight months, you can breath a sigh of relief. The cubs seem to have made it through the teenage stage. Now it is almost like having a college student around. They take an interest in their surroundings

no longer their security. The enclosure has now taken her place. The cubs feel quite safe since they are aware that no one else comes in and they can't go out. The cubs are far more interested in playing with each other than in spending time with Sally.

The swim tub is a major attraction even during the cooler days in fall. The cubs not only swim and play, but enjoy lunging out of the tub carrying gallons of water with them and racing around the enclosure getting everyone and everything soaking wet. Once in a while they will pull a log into the tub and then spend part of the day dunking it or pushing it around in the tub.



## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

and start to investigate to figure out what makes everything tick. Why exactly does this move the way it does? What is inside this? What happens if I tear this apart? The same behavior at four or five months was just curious play. Now it's as if they are experimenting with different ways to learn. They are

precise in their actions. They are careful and deliberate. They have a purpose and a mind set that wasn't apparent before. Put a cardboard box in with them during the previous stage of development and the bears immediately rip it apart with no thought of anything but playing. Now, they will investigate the box, turning it over, looking for what might be inside before they destroy it. Once they determine there is nothing else to find, they will rip it apart and play with it.



At nine months their behavior changes dramatically. They start to take notice of everything - sights, smells, sounds, and movement. They are always alert and cautious. There is little that escapes their notice. It's a time for caution and wariness. It's a time to run, to show fear, to make a hasty

retreat. Their wild instincts are maturing and finally the cubs display the very behavior everyone wanted and expected to see all along. As the weather turns colder and hibernation is on their minds, the bears slow down and don't react as quickly as before. They still spook, they still run, woof and clap their lips. However, they are more inclined to stop, intently studying whatever imagined threat is upon them. They appear to use more discretion or judgement as to whether they will continue running.



By the end of November, they are close to hibernation. Everything at this time of year is quieter and so are the bears. There is little activity to spook them. If the weather is cooperative, they easily start the hibernation process in the enclosure. There is every reason to believe their behavior coming out of the den will be just what everyone expects to see in a bear.

It's important also, to remember that cubs take their cue from their mother. If she is relaxed, they aren't

September, 2014

## STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - continued

going to be frightened and running away. They sense danger and display fear because she alerts them to it. For a period of time at least, cubs in rehab, have the same security or sense of danger, from Sally, from their environment, and from the dominant bear. If someone came by at time when Sally was in the enclosure with the cubs and the dominant bear or Sally remained calm and unconcerned, so did the other cubs. If either acted nervous or uncertain, the cubs mimicked that behavior.

Quite by accident, during a stressful time in Sally's life, she realized the cubs were also reacting to her tensions. Their restless and irritable nature at first baffled her. It continued over a period of three or four weeks. There was no apparent reason for it. Squabbles broke out easily. Before this, the cubs rarely displayed any irritation with each other. Now, they followed Sally around while she cleaned instead of ignoring her as they had previously. As her situation began to ease, so did the tension and so did their behavior. It was clear they sensed the stress and were reacting to it. It was equally clear they sensed the end of it as well.

It's very important to allow these cubs to go through the various stages of development. We will see the behavior everyone wants and expects to see when their wild instincts start to mature in late fall. Until then, just let the bear's behavior develop naturally until it's time for them to den.



September, 2014

## MATURING OF THE BEARS' WILD INSTINCT

After the first few years, we came to realize some of the behavior we saw late in the year was due to the development or maturing of the cubs' wild instinct. In wildlife rehab, we often release the animals at an age that does not permit us to witness the full development of this instinct. On occasion, when wintering through a wild animal, we have the opportunity to see this happen and watch their behavior change accordingly.



This behavior was first observed when we completed the larger enclosure in 1990. Around the first week of October, their behavior changes dramatically. They spook at everything including us during our normal routine. They run wildly to the other end of the enclosure as if some bizarre event were happening. Only when visual recognition takes place will they settle down.

As we clean, any small noise such as kicking over a bucket or dropping something will cause the same reaction. They startle at anything and everything. They scatter wildly and climb to the top of the enclosure. During the summer, the horses in the pasture next to us would often race around kicking and bucking. The bears stared at them in boredom. In fall, even a whinny would send the cubs up the wire, woofing and clapping their lips.

During this period they remain nervous and restless much of the time. It begins to taper off as the weather changes and they become more lethargic in preparation for hibernation. Some of the behavior is no doubt related to the time of year. However, it is such a dramatic change and duplicates some of what we see in other wildlife as their wild instinct develops.

Their behavior is typical of other wild orphans that arrived late in fall. Cubs that arrived in September would at first woof and threaten. As they adjusted, this behavior stopped. They didn't run or spook constantly. Yet in October, their behavior again changed to match that of the cubs in rehab since spring. We did not see this behavior in previous years. Probably because we kept the cubs in a more isolated, less open area. Although the cubs are born with a wild instinct, as they age, those instincts develop, mature, and play a more significant part in their day to day lives.

The cubs behavior after coming out of hibernation out will be much the same. They are now in new surroundings and everything seems threatening. After they adjust, they will merge into the population of other bears.



September , 2014

## PREPARATION FOR DENNING AND HIBERNATION

Denning takes place sometime between the end of November and late December. If we release in November, the bears will not be as lethargic and ready for hibernation. Therefore, we try to schedule the release for December. Once we know if we are going to have an early winter or late fall, we start preparing the bears for hibernation.

The first step is to decrease the food gradually. Starting in November, we feed once a day in the morning. They still have dry dog food available to them at all times. We continue cleaning each day. We keep all other activities to a minimum. As the weather gets colder, the bears first become more active, then start to slow down and become sluggish. They sleep later each morning and retire earlier each evening.

After decreasing the food to once day, we gradually cut back on the amount of food. When we have an estimated date for denning the bears, we stop feeding during the day and give only a little dog food late at night. Then we stop feeding entirely.



**Swim tub now becomes a den**

day to night. The last few days before we stop feeding entirely, we gave them only dog food at night. This seemed to cause them to reverse their activity and remain active only at night. Also, they figured out that the coyotes were fed after dark - talk about observant!

They display some low key signs of hunger, but it usually doesn't last long. If we stop feeding 2 weeks before denning, the bears will usually start hibernation in the facility. If we shorten the time, they may become lethargic and less active, but do not hibernate in the enclosure. Weather plays a big part of getting them into hibernation. During winters when the weather was mild, it was increasingly difficult to get them to start hibernation, despite the lack of food. They became aggressive with each other, irritable, frequently getting into spats. In general, we saw aggressive and intolerant behavior rarely witnessed at any other time.

During the final feeding, we clean, make one last check for any weak areas, and repair damage to the dens, etc. This is the last time we will enter the enclosure. From then on, all activity ceases around the bears and we keep stimulation to a minimum. We do sneak in quietly to check on them once they are in hibernation.

Restricting the food supply simulates the situation they face in the wild before hibernation. Lack of food and weather triggers the instinct to hibernate. They become lethargic and eventually den for the winter. Rehab cubs follow a similar pattern when we stop feeding. The first week, the bears remain active during the day and much of the night. Then they sleep all day, but are active at night. We finally figured out the reason for the change in activity from

September, 2014

## **PREPARATION FOR DENNING AND HIBERNATION - continued**

Weather definitely impacts our ability to start them in hibernation. If the weather is not cold enough, it isn't easy to get or keep the cubs in hibernation. They will become active every few days. In 1996 we had 60 degree weather that played havoc with the hibernation process. We stopped feeding a bit earlier that year to take them out earlier. After we stopped feeding the cubs, they were active for about two weeks. When they finally went in, they came out every few days. We started the process the first part of November and it wasn't until the end of December the cubs remained in the dens for more than a week.

In the past, they were never aggressive after we stopped feeding. We could still go in the enclosure without risk. However, this time their behavior changed and they were quite aggressive. They lost more weight than they should have even though they were still in good shape for hibernation. During 1998 we faced the same problem. The weather was only cold for a few days at a time with little snowfall. Although the cubs remained lethargic, they were active for an hour or two each day. It was interesting to note that on those days when it was cold or wet and rainy they stayed in the dens, despite the availability of food. If the weather isn't cooperating, they will remain semi-active. Attempting to force hibernation by cutting off the food supply without the appropriate weather will result in additional weight loss and just doesn't start the hibernation process as we need it to happen.

During the first snow of the year the cubs always come out and see what this new white stuff is on the ground. They play and wrestle and have a great time. After that, they just remain in the dens when it snows. One year we were puzzled that the 6 bears were coming out of the dens for about half an hour each day. Even during snowstorms, they were spotted wandering around the enclosure. All six chose to den together in a four foot square den. There were plenty of dens available, but we can't force the bears to den when or where we want them to. They will normally all den together or split into small groups. In January, we

returned

three of the cubs to California. While preparing them for transport it became obvious why they were coming out so frequently. Two of the bears weighed 146 and 173 pounds - add those huge mounds of fur and body mass to the other four bears and they were probably so kinked and hot each day that they had to come out just to unwind and cool off.

Water is still available after we stop feeding. We drain and refill the swim tub. Since it is so large, the water does not freeze solid as it does in the smaller tub. As it gets colder, we keep the water flow in and out the same amount to keep the drain pipes from freezing. We also insulate the drain pipes and use a heat lamp above the area between the pipes on the inside of the enclosure and the chain link where we

can't put insulation. However, we seldom see the bears drinking the water. Today we have a new swim tub that is heated so the pipes & tub don't freeze in winter if we need to keep it running.

At this point the cubs usually weigh anywhere between 65 - 100 pounds and are the size of a yearling.



**Bear pulled hay inside for bedding & then pulled more hay to cover the**

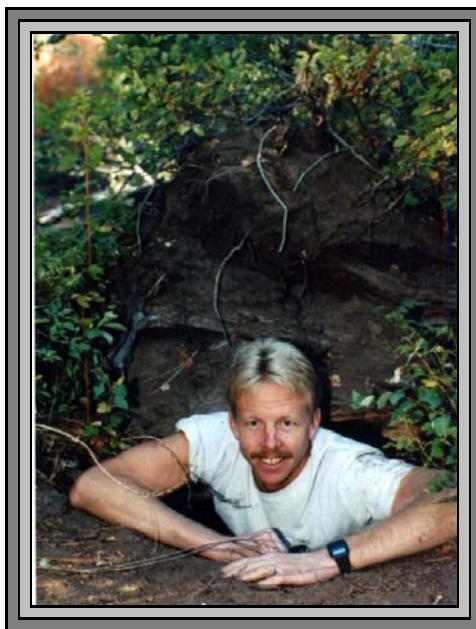


**Pulling in hay to get dens ready**

September, 2014

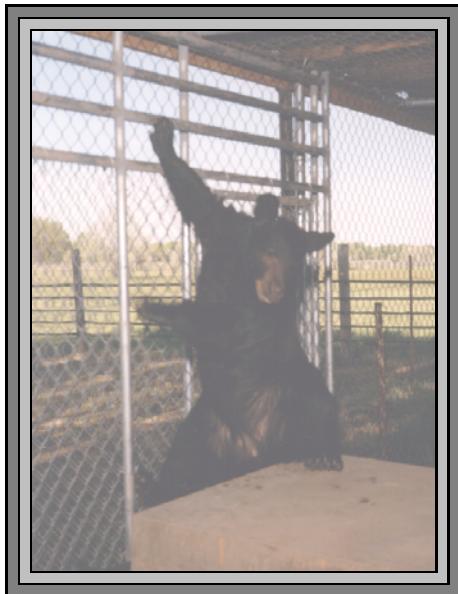
## DENNING

In the earlier years, two or three days before we transport the bears, Regional Wildlife Manager, Jeff Rohlman goes in search of dens. Most of the bears are in dens by the time we take the rehab cubs. However, we often have an extra site located in case another bear uses one of our den sites. In 1994 we built 3 artificial dens to use. We had so many bears we filled all the natural and artificial dens.



**Jeff Rohlman points out a bear's den & then climbs in one den to show the size**

Capturing the bears for transport is one of the easier parts of the whole procedure. We employ a technique developed for use with coyotes. The cubs (whether in hibernation or still active) are often in the hollow log or one of the dens. We slide the metal carrier up to the entrance and by various means encourage the cubs to enter it. Once in the carrier, we slip a board over the entrance, move the carrier back, and shut the door while pulling the board free. If the cubs are very active, we can coax them into the carrier with grapes, sometimes using additional encouragement in the form of a gentle boost on the rump.



**You aren't coming near me with that needle!**

Using these methods, we don't have to tranquilize the bears until we are at the den site. At times, the number of bears or the deadline we are facing requires us to tranquilize before going to the den sites. The bears seem to instinctively know they want to get as far away from the jab stick with the needle as they can.

At the den site, the wildlife biologist will tranquilize them using Ketamine and Rompun. We check the teeth, take measurements of the neck and chest, ear tag and sometimes radio collar the bears. The officer crawls into the den to clean and prepare it. Squeezing one person and two or three very large cubs into a den can be a real challenge. The tranquilizer will keep the bears out for two or three hours. Pine boughs and snow cover the den entrance.

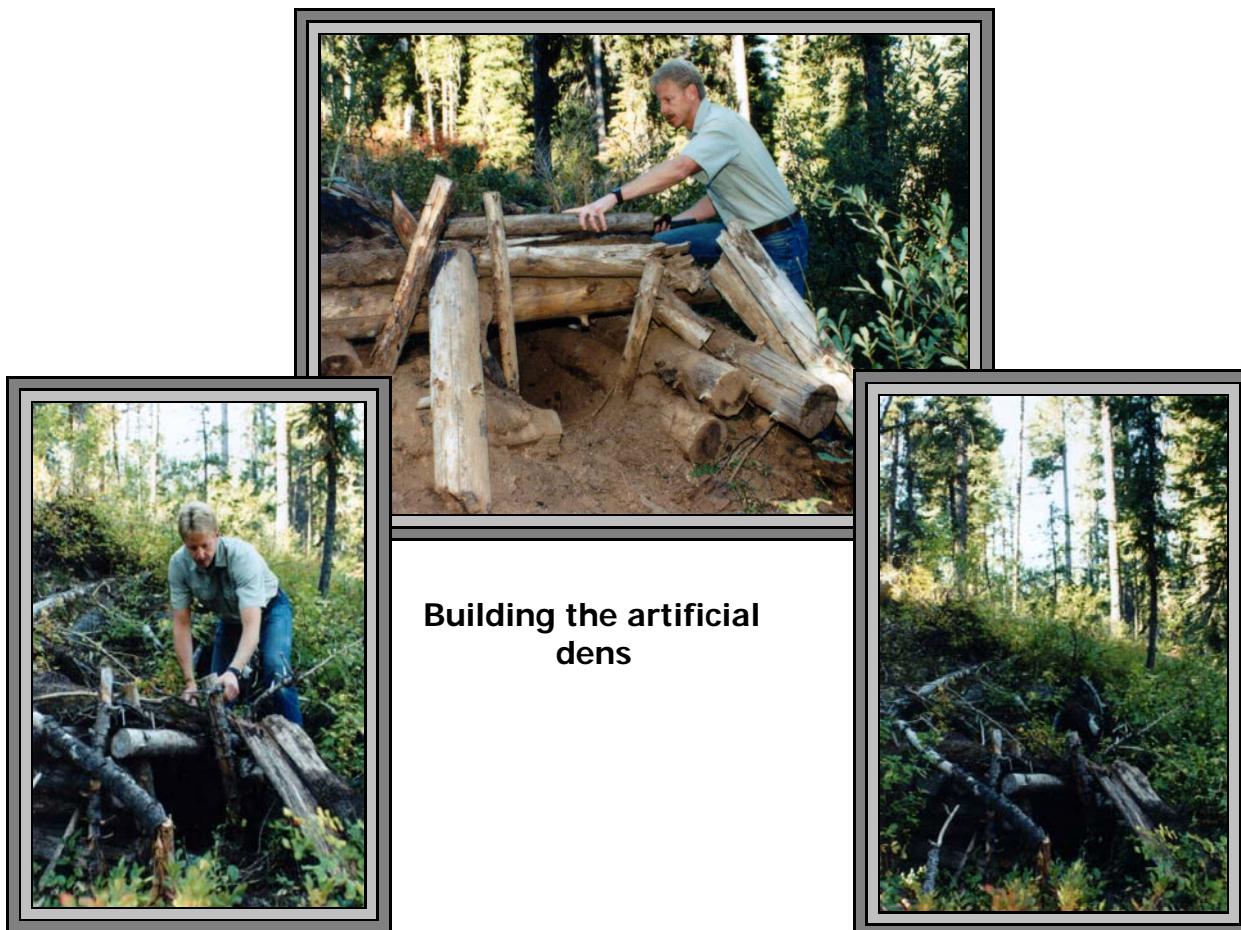
September, 2014

## DENNING - continued

Within a few days, the biologist will check the dens again. In some cases the cubs have left to investigate their new world. They may wander a bit and find another den or return later to the same den. Considering their weight, they should come out of hibernation with enough fat reserve to last until food is available. This helps offset the fact they don't have the adult female to help them after hibernation. One cub trapped the following June was within 10 pounds of her weight when denned.

It's our hope the cubs stay in the dens once we place them there. However, there shouldn't be a great deal of concern if they don't. They will move around, investigate their new world, and den again in the same location or another den. In fact, Sally has concluded that it's probably quite natural and helpful if they wander around for a bit. The timing is good - other bears are in hibernation, no people around to bother them, the snow & weather discourage them from traveling long distances. Since we have already started the hibernation process, it's likely they will continue the process within a few days at most.

The rehab cubs are a bit like street wise kids. Once weaned, they become pretty independent (unlike their counterparts in the wild who rely on mom for 1 ½ years) & have the confidence to back it up. They are used to being on their own. There is no need to confine them to a man-made den. It can prove disastrous. Their instincts when confined will be to get free, whatever it takes. Most will put all efforts into that goal rather than go into hibernation. They are fully capable of finding their own dens if they choose. Since their weight & development are twice that of a cub the same age, they are capable of dealing with other predators once clear of the tranquilizer - probably better than any yearling facing the same predator. Place them in a den (man-made or otherwise) and you have given them the opportunity to use that shelter if they wish, but don't lock them in. Stay around to make sure they are coming out of the tranquilizer, but let them stay or leave as they choose.



**Building the artificial dens**

**IDaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc.**

Arrival Information						Release Information				
Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known		Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
1989 ID	Male	5/5/89	4 mo	10 lbs	Hunting	1 1 1 5 5	11/15/89	110 lbs	SF362	No data
	Female	5/27/91	4 1/2 mo	13 lbs	Hunting		12/8/91	90 lbs	EF181 / EG182	Relocated 3 times & then removed 6/12/92
	Female	4/18/92	3 mo	8 lbs	Hunting		Died 12/19/92	NA 80 lbs	NA SF341	NA - postmortem exam - complications from pneumonia
	Female	4/18/92	3 mo	7 lbs	Hunting		12/19/92	85 lbs	SF340	Alive as of 6/26/93 during population study
	Male	6/18/92	5 mo	35 lbs	Car		12/19/92	80 lbs	SF342	No data
1992 ID ID MI MI MI	Male	6/18/92	5 mo	30 lbs	Car		Died 12/19/92	60 lbs	NA	No data
	Male	8/14/92	7 mo	35 lbs	Car					NA - fell & landed wrong breaking neck
	Female	3/30/93	2 mo	4 lbs	Unk		Died 11/27/93	NA 105 lbs	NA U1337	NA - postmortem exam - no results - IBBR called it tetanus
	Male	4/30/93	3 mo	11 lbs	Poaching		11/27/93	95 lbs	U1336	No data
	Female	4/30/93	3 mo	9 lbs	Poaching		11/27/93	80 lbs	U1334	No data
1993 ID ID ID ID ID	Male	6/30/93	5 mo	30 lbs	Hounds		11/27/93	75 lbs	U1335	No data
	Female	6/30/93	5 mo	30 lbs	Hounds		Died 12/10/94	75 lbs	SF324 / C	No data
	Female	5/1/94	3 mo	7 lbs	Hunting		12/10/94	85 lbs	SF346 / C	No data
	Male	5/1/94	3 mo	9 lbs	Hunting		12/11/94	70 lbs	SF321 / C	No data
	Female	5/10/94	3 mo	8 lbs	Hunting		12/11/94	70 lbs	SF325 / C	No data
1994 ID ID ID ID ID ID ID ID ID ID ID ID ID	Female	5/10/94	3 mo	9 lbs	Hunting		Died 12/12/94	NA 65 lbs	NA SF348	NA - postmortem exam - no results - IBBR called it tetanus
	Male	5/10/94	3 mo	10 lbs	Hunting		12/12/94	60 lbs	SF344 / C	No data
	Male	9/24/94	8 mo	35 lbs	Unk		12/12/94	60 lbs	SF345 / C	No data
	Male	9/24/94	8 mo	35 lbs	Unk		12/11/94	60 lbs	SF319 / C	No data
	Male	9/24/94	8 mo	35 lbs	Unk		12/12/94	60 lbs	SF317 / C	No data
	Male	10/14/94	9 mo	35 lbs	Unk		12/11/94	60 lbs	SF322 / C	No data
	Male	9/25/94	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk		4/25/95	55 lbs	No tag	No data - no tags available so will not have update
	Female	11/12/94	10 mo	15 lbs	Unk		4/25/95	50 lbs	No tag	No data - no tags available so will not have update
	Female	11/25/94	10 mo	20 lbs	Unk					
1995 ID	Male	3/17/95	1 yr 2 mo	25 lbs	Unk	1 3 0	4/25/95	50 lbs	No tag	No data - no tags available so will not have update
	Female	3/20/96	1 mo	3 lbs	Logging		2/15/97	60 lbs	U1362	No data
	Male	3/20/96	1 mo	3 lbs	Logging		2/15/97	80 lbs	U1361	No data
	Male	5/23/96	4 mo	10 lbs	Unk		2/15/97	60 lbs	U1363	Alive as of 7/98 during population study
1997 None										

## **Arrival information**

## **Release Information**

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known	Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
1998	OR	Female	6/8/98	5 mo	12 lbs	Abandoned	12	No tags NA U1403 U1404 U1408 U1400 U1401 / C U1407 U1404 U1402 / C U1406	Returned to OR - no data Returned to OR - no data Fractured left femur but also blind - euthanized Killed by hunter 10/8/2000 Killed by hunter 8/31/2000 No data Triplet - Killed by hunter 4/23/2000 - good weight & body fat Triplet - no data Triplet - no data Returned to WA - no data No data No data
	OR	Female	6/8/98	5 mo	12 lbs	Abandoned			
	ID	Male	10/15/98	9 mo	20 lbs	Hit by car			
	ID	Male	10/25/98	9 mo	20 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Female	10/25/98	9 mo	15 lbs	Poacher			
	ID	Male	10/25/98	9 mo	25 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	10/25/98	9 mo	20 lbs	Mother shot			
	ID	Female	10/25/98	9 mo	15 lbs	Mother shot			
	ID	Female	10/25/98	9 mo	16 lbs	Mother shot			
	WA	Female	10/25/98	9 mo	20 lbs	Mother/sibling shot			
	ID	Female	12/4/98	11 mo	30 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	12/9/98	11 mo	35 lbs	Unk			
1999	UT	Female	3/17/99	7 wks	12	Abandoned	6	No tags No tags U1409 / C U1405 / C U1414 / C No tag #s	Returned to UT - no data Returned to UT - no data No data No data No data Returned to OR - Killed by OR hunter 6/2001
	UT	Male	3/17/99	7 wks		Abandoned			
	ID	Male	6/14/99	5 mo		Mother shot			
	ID	Male	6/14/99	5 mo		Mother shot			
	ID	Female	6/28/99	5 mo		Unk			
	OR	Male	6/29/99	5 mo		Unk			
2000	UT	Female	5/10/00	3 1/2 mo	8 lbs	Mother hit by car	22	110 lbs 90.4 lbs 90 lbs 106 lbs 120 lbs 66.7 lbs 97 lbs 95.6 lbs 115 lbs 83.6 lbs 79.1 lbs 82 lbs 106 lbs 1427 / C 1418 / C 1426 / C 1419 / C 1417 / C 1420 / C 1427 / C 1429 / C 1425 / C 1411 / C 1434 / C 1436 / C NA 120 lbs 101 lbs 130 lbs NA 120 lbs 101 lbs 82 lbs	Returned to UT - no data Returned to OR - no data Killed by hunter 5/17/03 Returned to Utah - no data Returned to Utah - no data Killed by another bear Apr/May 2001 Returned to Utah - no data Collar dropped 8/2001 - still alive - no further data Alive as of 8/2001 - killed by hunter 4/29/04 Alive as of 5/2001 & 8/19/2001 - shed collar - no further data Killed by hunter in OR 9/21/01 Found collar 9/2001 - no further data Killed by hunter 8/30/03 Shed collar 9/21/01 - no further data Killed 6/2001 in degradation situation Killed by hunter 9/13/01 Alive 8/19/01 - dropped collar - no further data Alive 8/19/01 - dropped collar - no further data Died of pneumonia shortly after arrival No data Alive 8/19/01 - dropped collar - shot by hunter fall 2006 Alive 8/19/01 - dropped collar - no further data
	OR	Female	5/10/00	3 mo	6.5 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Female	6/10/00	4 mo	6 lbs	Unk			
	UT	Female	7/25/00	5 1/2 mo	20 lbs	Unk			
	UT	Female	7/25/00	5 1/2 mo	18 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Female	8/23/00	6 1/2 mo	15lbs	Unk - prob. Fires			
	UT	Female	8/25/00	6 1/2 mo	20 lbs	Dogs chased			
	ID	Male	9/9/00	7 mo	25 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	9/21/00	7 mo	35 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	10/4/00	8 1/2 mo	25 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Female	10/5/00	8 1/2 mo	20 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Female	10/10/00	9 mo	40 lbs	Mother killed fire			
	ID	Male	10/13/00	9 mo	10.5 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	10/14/00	9 mo	25 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	10/24/00	9 mo	25 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	10/25/00	9 mo	35 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	10/25/00	9 mo	35 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	11/3/00	10 mo	25 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	11/17/00	10 mo	20 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Male	11/21/00	10 mo	36 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Female	11/25/00	10 mo	25 lbs	Unk			
	ID	Female	11/25/00	10 mo	20 lbs	Unk			
2001	CA	Male	5/7/01	3 mo	6 lbs	Mother shot	7	5/17/01 2/8/02 1/9/02 1/9/02 1/9/02 6/5/02 6/5/02	Alive 9/21/01 - dropped collar - shot by hunter 6/10/05 Hanging around cabins - relocated twice - euthanized 7/11/02
	CA	Female	6/22/01	4 mo	8 lbs	Unk			Returned to California - dropped collar April/May 2002
	CA	Male	6/22/01	5 mo	23 lbs	Mother killed			Returned to California - dropped collar - last seen summer 2002
	CA	Male	6/22/01	5 mo	27 lbs	Mother killed			Returned to California - dropped collar - last seen fall 2002
	WY	Male	7/18/01	6 mo	15 lbs	Mother shot			Returned to WY - no data
	WY	Male	7/18/01	6 mo	15 lbs	Mother shot			Returned to WY - Hit by car & killed following year
	UT	Female	5/29/02	3 1/2 mo	9 lbs	Mother shot			
2002	UT	Female	9/12/02	7 mo	40 lbs	Unk	6	6/9/03 6/8/03 6/9/03 6/8/03 6/9/03 6/8/03	Returned to UT - no data Killed by hunter 9/20/03
	ID	Female	9/20/02	7 mo	15 lbs	Unk			Returned to UT - no data
	ID	Female	9/23/02	7 mo	25 lbs	Unk			Killed by hunter 10/15/03
	UT	Female	10/2/02	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk			Returned to UT - no data
	ID	Male	10/5/02	8 mo	15 lbs	Unk			Killed by hunter 10/4/03

## Arrival information

## **Release Information**

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known	Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive	
2003 ID	Female	12/13/03	11 mo	20 lbs	Unk	1	6/2/04	60 lbs	Killed by hunter 9/14/05	
2004										
WA	Female	2/20/04	3 wks	2.8 lbs	Den disturbed	4/24/05	110 lbs	No tag #s / C	Returned to WA - Killed 11/8/14 - no data - probably hunter	
WA	Female	5/21/04	3 mo	9.7 lbs	Unk	4/24/05	138 lbs	Y11 / C	Returned to WA - no data	
ID	Female	7/20/04	5 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/23/05	89 lbs	U1440 / C	Dropped collar 9/14/05 - no further data	
ID	Male	8/16/04	6 mo	15 lbs	Mother hit by car	6/23/05	110 lbs	U1462 / C	Dropped collar 9/05 - killed by hunter 10/8/05	
ID	Female	8/16/04	6 mo	14 lbs	Mother hit by car	6/28/05	90 lbs	U1452 / C	Hit by car shortly after release	
UT	Male	8/19/04	6 mo	25 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	195 lbs	8040 / C	Died approximately 8/1/05 - cause of death undetermined	
UT	Male	8/19/04	6 mo	25 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	150 lbs	8186 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
UT	Male	8/27/04	6 1/2 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	195 lbs	8376 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
UT	Male	9/2/04	8 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	200 lbs	8475 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
UT	Male	9/2/04	8 mo	18 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	145 lbs	8567 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
UT	Female	9/8/04	8 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	90 lbs	8250 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
ID	Male	9/15/04	8 mo	19 lbs	Unk	6/28/05	108 lbs	U1442 / C	Last spotted 5/3/06 - no further data	
ID	Male	9/15/04	8 mo	15 lbs	Unk	5/24/05	115 lbs	U1443	No data	
UT	Female	9/21/04	7 mo	9 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	110 lbs	8270	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
UT	Female	9/23/04	8 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	70 lbs	8300	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
ID	Male	9/24/04	8 mo	14 lbs	Unk	5/24/05	98 lbs	U1441	No data	
OR	Female	9/30/04	8 mo	14 lbs	Unk	4/23/05	79.8 lbs	No tag #s / C	Returned to OR - no data	
WA	Male	10/2/04	8 1/2 mo	35 lbs	Unk	4/23/05	130 lbs	Y12 / C	Returned to WA - No data	
UT	Male	10/4/04	8 1/2 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	175 lbs	8663 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
ID	Male	10/7/04	8 1/2 mo	30 lbs	Unk	5/24/05	140 lbs	U1445	Killed by hunter in OR in 2005	
ID	Male	10/9/04	8 1/2 mo	28 lbs	Unk	5/24/05	60 lbs	U1459	No data	
ID	Male	10/9/04	8 1/2 mo	20 lbs	Unk	5/24/05	120 lbs	U1460	No data	
UT	Female	10/13/04	9 mo	30 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	90 lbs	8310 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
UT	Male	10/13/04	9 mo	28 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	195 lbs	8820 / C	Returned to UT - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - moved into Colorado	
UT	Male	10/13/04	9 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	205 lbs	8860 / C	Returned to Ut - Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
ID	Female	10/19/04	9 mo	25 lbs	Unk	6/23/05	115 lbs	U1463	Dropped collar 8/25/04 - no further data	
ID	Male	10/23/04	9 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/28/05	80 lbs	U1453	Killed by hunter 10/6/05	
ID	Female	10/28/04	9 mo	20 lbs	Unk	5/24/05	55 lbs	U1452 / C	Found 35 miles from IBBR & brought back - released again 6/23/05 - no further data	
ID	Male	10/29/04	9 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/23/05	50 lbs	U1448 / C	Dropped collar 9/6/05 - killed by hunter 5/13/07	
ID	Male	11/1/04	9 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/28/05	55 lbs	U1454 / C	Dropped collar 9/13/05 - killed by hunter 10/11/05 - good body fat	
WY	Female	11/2/04	9 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/3/05	45 lbs	No tag #s	Returned to WY - no data	
ID	Male	11/14/04	10 mon	35 lbs	Unk	6/28/05	85 lbs	U1464 / C	Tracked until 11/15/05 - no further data	
ID	Male	11/21/04	10 mon	25 lbs	Unk	6/30/05	50 lbs	U1456 / C	Tracked until 10/26/05 - no further data	
ID	Male	12/16/04	11 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/28/05	65 lbs	U1446 / C	Killed by hunter 9/8/05	
UT	Male	12/20/04	11 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	190 lbs	8016 / C	Returned to Ut - Killed by hunter 8/27/05	
ID	Male	12/22/04	11 mo	27.5 lbs	Unk	6/30/05	89 lbs	E434 / C	Tracked to 11/15/05 - no further data	
ID	Female	12/24/04	11 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/23/05	68 lbs	U1461 / C	No data	
*****						37	*****		Very excited to learn in 2012 that one of the UT females had 2 sets of cubs at a very young age - UT sent pictures of her two cubs which we have put on Facebook and our website.	
2005 ID	Male	1/27/05	1 yr	25 lbs	Bobcat trap	4	6/23/05	65 lbs	3747	Tracked to 11/15/05 - picked up collar 3/13/06 - no data
ID	Female	2/14/05	1 yr 1 mo	12 lbs	Unk	6/23/05	53 lbs	U1447 / C	Tracked to 8/25/05 - collar dropped - no futher data	
UT	Female	3/8/05	1 yr 1 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/1/05	110 lbs	8320 / C	Tracked thru Aug 2005 - no further data	
WA	Female	3/29/05	4 wks	4 lbs	Den disturbed	6/17/06	150 lbs	No tag #s	Returned to WA - Killed near campground	
2006						9	6/27/07	190 lbs	IBBR9 / 105 / C	Returned to WA - Killed - details not known
WA	Male	3/31/06	4 wks	10 lbs	Den disturbed	6/23/07	189 lbs	U1468	Shot by hunter 9/23/07	
ID	Male	5/3/06	3 mo	14 lbs	Unk	6/23/07	86.8 lbs	U1467 / C	Relocated 8/19/07 - killed in campground 9/20/07	
ID	Female	6/16/06	5 mo	7 lbs	Tornado	6/27/07	90 lbs	IBBR 6	Returned to Oregon - no further data	
OR	Female	8/30/06	7 mo	8 lbs	Unk	6/15/07	120 lbs	IBBR 5	Returned to Utah - no further data	
UT	Male	9/29/06	7 mo	15 lbs	Unk	6/23/07	142 lbs	E436	Killed by hunter 9/28/07	
ID	Male	11/9/06	10 mo	30 lbs	Unk	6/23/07	107 lbs	E432	Shot by hunter 9/2/08	
WA	Female	11/19/06	10 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/27/07	85 lbs	IBBR 9	Returned to WA - no data	
ID	Male	12/15/06	11 mo	40 lbs	Unk	6/23/07	117 lbs	U1466	Killed by hunter 9/21/07	

## Arrival information

## Release Information

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known	Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
2007									
ID	Female	4/20/07	8 wks	9 lbs	Mother shot	11/23/07		U1470 / C	Shot by hunter 10/23/08
ID	Female	4/20/07	8 wks	8 lbs	Mother shot	11/23/07		U1474 / C	Shot by hunter 10/22/08
ID	Male	4/20/07	8 wks	9 lbs	Mother shot	11/23/07		U1473 / C	Collar recovered 9/26/08 - small bear carcass nearby
ID	Female	5/21/07	3 mo	8 lbs	Mother shot	11/23/07		U1469 / C	No data
CA	Male	7/26/07	5 mo	12 lbs	Abandoned	6/3/08	214 lbs	Yes - # unk	Returned to CA - 7/4/08 was still doing fine - no data
NV	Male	8/12/07	7 mo	42 lbs	Mother killed	5/27/08	173 lbs	R74	Returned to NV - Died during tranquilizing 5/28/08 - airway blocked
NV	Female	8/12/07	7 mo	42 lbs	Mother killed	5/27/08	148 lbs	R75	Returned to NV - no data
ID	Male	8/21/07	6 mo	19.5 lbs	Unk	12/4/07		U1476	No data
ID	Female	8/26/07	6 mo	25 lbs	Unk	12/4/07		U1471	No data
NV	Female	8/29/07	6 mo	22 lbs	Unk	5/27/08	112 lbs	R83	Returned to NV - no data
ID	Male	9/8/07	7 mo	35 lbs	Unk	12/4/07		7327	Shot by hunter 10/19/08
NV	Male	9/12/07	8 mo	54 lbs	Unk	5/27/08	191 lbs	R90	Returned to NV - no data
ID	Male	9/14/07	7 mo	30 lbs	Mother shot	12/4/07		U1477 / 153.210	Shot by hunter 5/30/08
ID	Male	9/16/07	7 mo	22 lbs	Unk	11/23/07		U1472	Killed by hunter 4/24/08
ID	Female	9/19/07	7 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/17/08	115 lbs	8304	No data
UT	Female	9/20/07	8 mo	22 lbs	Unk	5/30/08	122 lbs	IBBR 10	Returned to UT - no data
ID	Female	9/20/07	Yearling	35 lbs	NA	6/15/08	142 lbs	7329	No data
ID	Male	9/21/07	7 mo	10 lbs	Unk	6/16/08	130 lbs	8190	No data
ID	Female	9/22/07	7 mo	30 lbs	Unk	12/4/07		U1479	No data
ID	Male	9/24/07	8 mo	40 lbs	Unk	11/23/07		U1475	No data
ID	Male	9/25/07	2 years	73 lbs	NA	6/16/08	200 lbs	7333 / C	Shot 8/16/08
ID	Male	9/26/07	7 mo	24.9 lbs	Unk	6/15/08	138 lbs	7348 / 153.372	Dead - no data as to how or when provided by F&G
ID	Female	9/27/07	7 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/16/08	57 lbs	IBBR 14	No data
NV	Female	9/29/07	2 years	40 lbs	NA	5/27/08	152 lbs	IBBR 11	Returned to NV - Hit by car approximately 6/19/08
ID	Male	10/1/07	8 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/17/08	130 lbs	8300	No data
ID	Female	10/1/07	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk	6/16/08	96 lbs	7328	No data
ID	Male	10/2/07	8 mo	25 lbs	Unk	12/13/07			Transferred to WARI in Lewiston to release in spring
ID	Male	10/2/07	8 mo	10 lbs	Unk	6/16/08	191 lbs	7346	No data
UT	Male	10/3/07	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk	5/30/08	174 lbs	UT1	Returned to UT - no data
UT	Male	10/3/07	8 mo	15 lbs	Unk	5/30/08	119 lbs	UT2	Returned to UT - no data
ID	Male	10/4/07	8 mo	25 lbs	Unk	12/13/07			Transferred to WARI in Lewiston - released May 2008 - no data
ID	Male	10/4/07	8 mo	35 lbs	Unk	12/4/07		U1478	No data
ID	Male	10/6/07	8 mo	25 lbs	Unk	12/13/07		7326	Transferred to WARI in Lewiston - released May 2008 - no data
ID	Male	10/8/07	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk	6/15/08	99.6 lbs	IBBR 12	Dead - no data as to how or when provided by F&G
ID	Male	10/10/07	8 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/17/08	112 lbs	8303	Broken shoulder - healed - no problems on release - no data
ID	Female	10/10/07	8 mo	25 lbs	Unk	6/15/08	92.9 lbs	U1476 / 153.236	No data
UT	Male	10/12/07	9 mo	37 lbs	Unk	5/30/08	148 lbs	UT3	Returned to UT - no data
ID	Male	10/12/07	8 mo	30 lbs	Mother shot	12/4/07		U1480	No data
ID	Female	10/15/07	8 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/17/08	70 lbs	7331	No data
ID	Female	10/17/07	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk	12/13/07			Transferred to WARI in Lewiston - released May 2008 - no data
ID	Female	10/18/07	8 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/16/08	107 lbs	8195 / C	Shot by hunter 9/18/08
ID	Male	10/19/07	8 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/16/08	135 lbs	7334	No Data
ID	Male	10/19/07	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk	12/13/07			Transferred to WARI in Lewiston - released May 2008 - no data
ID	Female	10/19/07	8 mo	25 lbs	Unk	12/13/07			Transferred to WARI in Lewiston - released May 2008 - no data
ID	Female	10/20/07	8 mo	30 lbs	Unk	12/13/07			Transferred to WARI in Lewiston - released May 2008 - no data
NV	Male	10/29/07	8 mo	22 lbs	Unk	5/30/08	147 lbs	White 12	Returned to NV - no data
ID	Female	11/8/07	9 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/15/08	87.3 lbs	7332 / 152.908	No Data
ID	Female	11/11/07	9 mo	30 lbs	Unk				Died 11/13/07
ID	Male	11/19/07	9 mo	25 lbs	Unk	6/15/08	102 lbs	8302	No Data
ID	Male	11/29/07	9 mo	30 lbs	Coyote trap	6/15/08	115 lbs	U1482 / 153.187	No data
ID	Male	12/6/07	10 mo	20 lbs	Unk	6/17/08	144 lbs	8301	No data
ID	Male	12/6/07	10 mo	30 lbs	Unk	6/15/08	99.8 lbs	U1481 / 153.346	No data
ID	Female	12/23/07	10 mo	35 lbs	Unk	6/15/08	97.3 lbs	U1477 / 153.398	No data

**Arrival information**

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known
2008 OR	Female	7/21/08	5 Mo	20 lbs	Mother killed
OR	Female	7/21/08	5 Mo	20 lbs	Mother killed
WA	Female	9/10/108	7 Mo	14.8 lbs	Unk
WA	Male	11/2/08	9 Mo	22.6 lbs	Unk
WA	Female	12/8/08	10 Mo	13 lbs	Unk
WA	Female	12/18/08	10 Mo	26 lbs	Unk

6

**Release Information**

Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
6/11/09	131 lbs	1	Returned to OR - no data
6/11/09	143 lbs	2	Returned to OR - no data
6/2/09	111 lbs	Both	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/09	106 lbs	128	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/09	93.8 lbs	137	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/09	85.3 lbs	135	Returned to WA - no data

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known
2009 WA	Female	1/4/09	11 Mo	11.5 lbs	Unk
WA	Male	1/23/09	Yearling	25 lbs	Unk
WA	Male	2/5/09	12 Mo	12.5 lbs	Unk
WA	Male	2/26/09	5 Weeks	3.5 lbs	Unk
WA	Male	2/26/09	5 Weeks	4 lbs	Unk
OR	Male	5/1/09	3 Mo	3 lbs	Unk
UT	Female	5/31/09	4 Mo	10 lbs	Hunter shot mom
UT	Female	5/31/09	4 Mo	10 lbs	Hunter shot mom
UT	Male	5/31/09	4 Mo	13 lbs	Hunter shot mom

9

Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
Died 6/5/09	170 lbs	Both	Died of pneumonia 1/11/09 Returned to WA - no data
Died 5/20/10	157 lbs	Both	Died of pneumonia 2/19/09 Returned to WA - no data
5/20/10	201 lbs	Both	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/10	116 lbs	C & 17	Returned to OR - no data
12/31/09	102 lbs	F109 / C	Returned to UT - no data
12/31/09	102 lbs	F209 / C	Returned to UT - no data
12/31/09	128 lbs	M09 / C	Returned to UT - no data

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known
2010 WA	Male	5/20/10	3 Mo	7 lbs	Mother shot
WA	Female	5/20/10	3 Mo	9 lbs	Mother shot
WA	Male	6/5/10	4 Mo	6 lbs	Unk
WA	Male	6/17/10	4 Mo	20 lbs	Mother hit by car
WA	Male	7/2/10	5 Mo	34 lbs	Mother shot
WA	Male	8/11/10	6 Mo	36.5 lbs	Unk
WA	Female	8/11/10	6 Mo	28.6 lbs	Unk
WA	Female	8/11/10	6 Mo	21.6 lbs	Unk

8

Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
6/2/11	157 lbs	C & R267	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/11	115 lbs	C & R263	Returned to WA - no data
6/6/11	140 lbs	C & R264	Returned to WA - Killed by camper 6/16/11
6/6/11	160 lbs	C & R266	Returned to WA - no data
6/6/11	157 lbs	C & R268L	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/11	186 lbs	C & R268R	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/11	132	C & R269	Returned to WA - no data
6/2/11	129 lbs	C & R270	Returned to WA - no data

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known
2011 OR	F	5/2/11	8 weeks	6 lbs	Mother killed
WA	M	5/5/11	Yearling	24.2 lbs	Orphan from 2010
UT	F	8/16/11	6 mo	20 lbs	Mother hit by car

3

Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
6/3/12	125 lbs	No	Returned to OR - Killed by hunter fall 2012
9/1/11	142.6 lbs	C - tag - Tatoo	Returned to WA - no data
6/3/12	114 lbs	C	Returned to UT - no data

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known
2012					
WA	F	10/30/12	8 mo	14.4 lbs	Unk
WA	M	11/10/12	9 mo	24.2 lbs	Unk

2

Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
6/5/13	115 lbs	C & tag - Tatoo	Returned to WA - Accidentally killed by rubber bullet during release
6/5/13	117 lbs	C - tag - Tatoo	Returned to WA - Killed during fall hunting season

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known
2013					
ID	F	2/6/13	7 yrs	80 lbs	Shot front leg
ID	M	2/6/13	Yearling	32 lbs	Cub with female

2

Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
5/13/13	210 lbs	C & Tag	Spotted in July - no further data
5/13/13	107 lbs	Tag only	no further data

Year State	Sex	Date	Approx Age	Approx Weight	Reason If Known
2014					
WY	M	9/4/14	7 mo	32 lbs	Unk

1

Date	Weight	Tag # C - Radio Collar	Status post release as of last update on chart No Data = not killed during hunting seasons - tags never turned in - not a nuisance - believe still alive
2015			

5

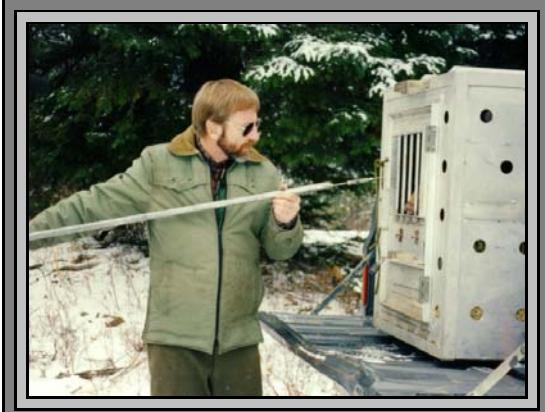
- 21e -

<b>Grand total</b>	<b>217</b>
Female	97
Male	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>
Still alive	154
Killed	52
Died in rehab	9
Cubs still in rehab	1
1 permanent capt.	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>
California	4
Idaho	131
Michigan	3
Nevada	6
Oregon	10
Utah	32
Washington	27
Wyoming	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>

## TRIP TO THE DENS



Arriving at the mountain location



Tranquilizing the cub



Checking the teeth



Putting on the ear tags



Fitting the radio collars



Closing up the den

September, 2014

# SPRING RELEASE

Jeff Rohlman prepares the tranquilizer



Lloyd Markus & Tom Robb bring out the first of 9 bears being released



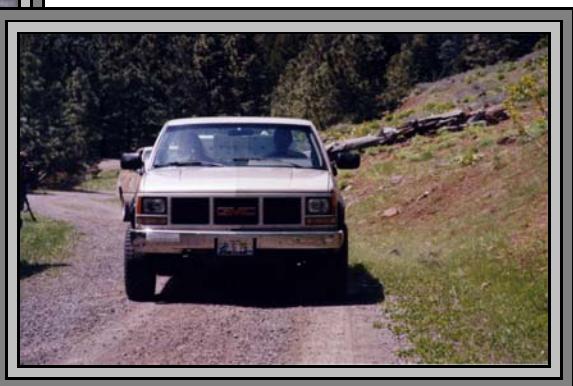
Lloyd Markus & Victor Watkins help as Jeff Rohlman puts the radio collar on the bear



John Beecham & Victor Watkins (WSPA now WAP) check on two of the cubs during a break on the way to the release site



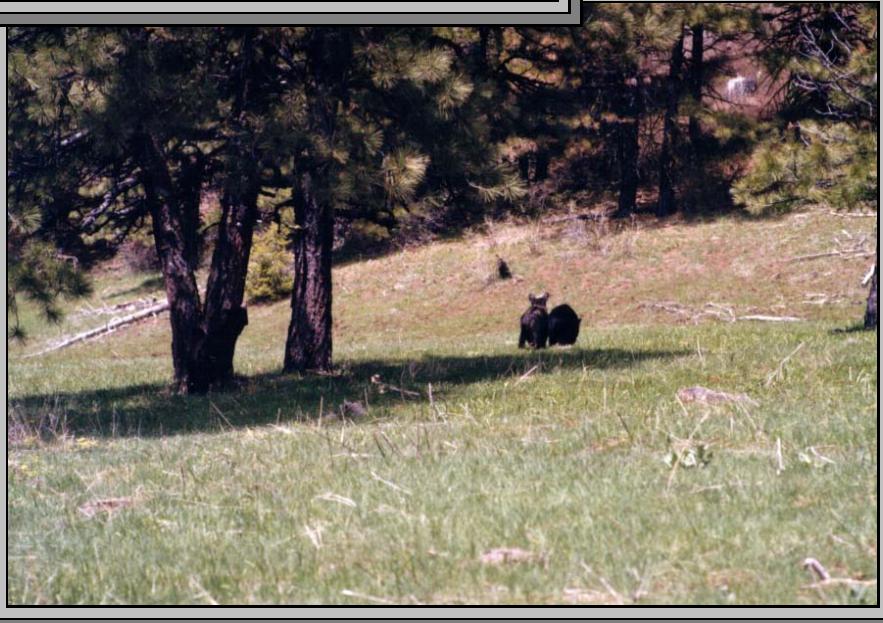
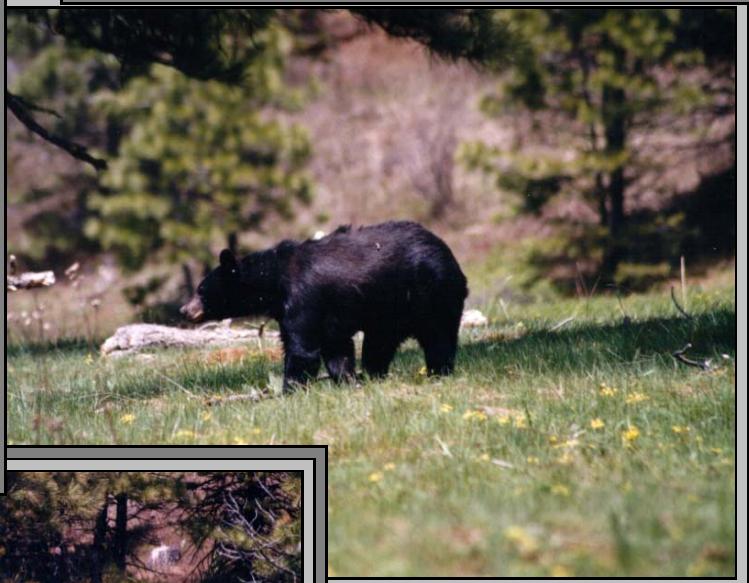
Takes 2 to lift this bear - Chris Isaacs & Sally Maughan take measurements



Arriving at the release site

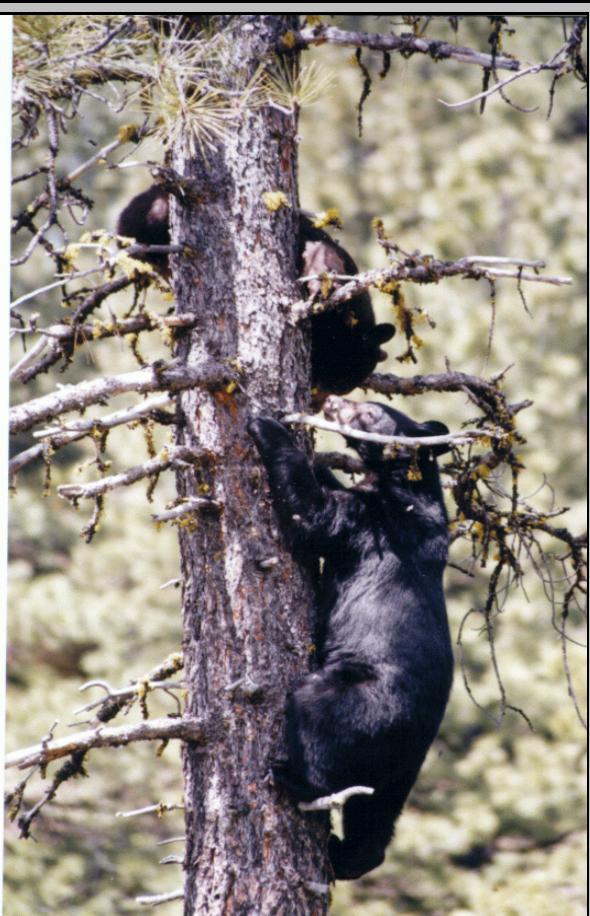
September, 2014

## SPRING RELEASE - continued



September, 2014

## SPRING RELEASE - continued



September, 2014

## SPRING RELEASE - continued

Here come the bears!



Getting measurements

Fitting the radio collar

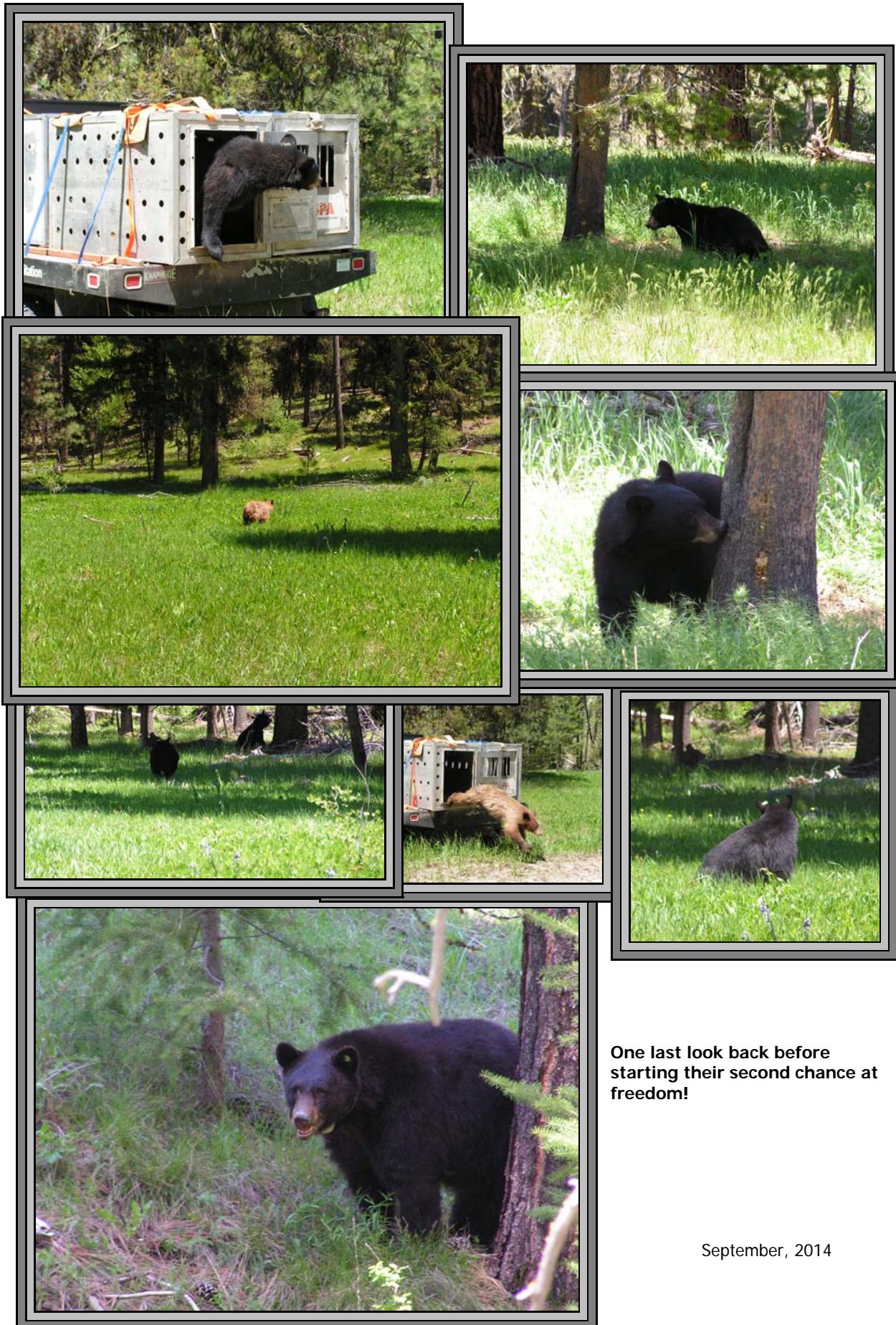


Their own swimming pool in the release area

Leslie Winton - Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears - Scotland

September, 2014

## SPRING RELEASE - continued



One last look back before starting their second chance at freedom!

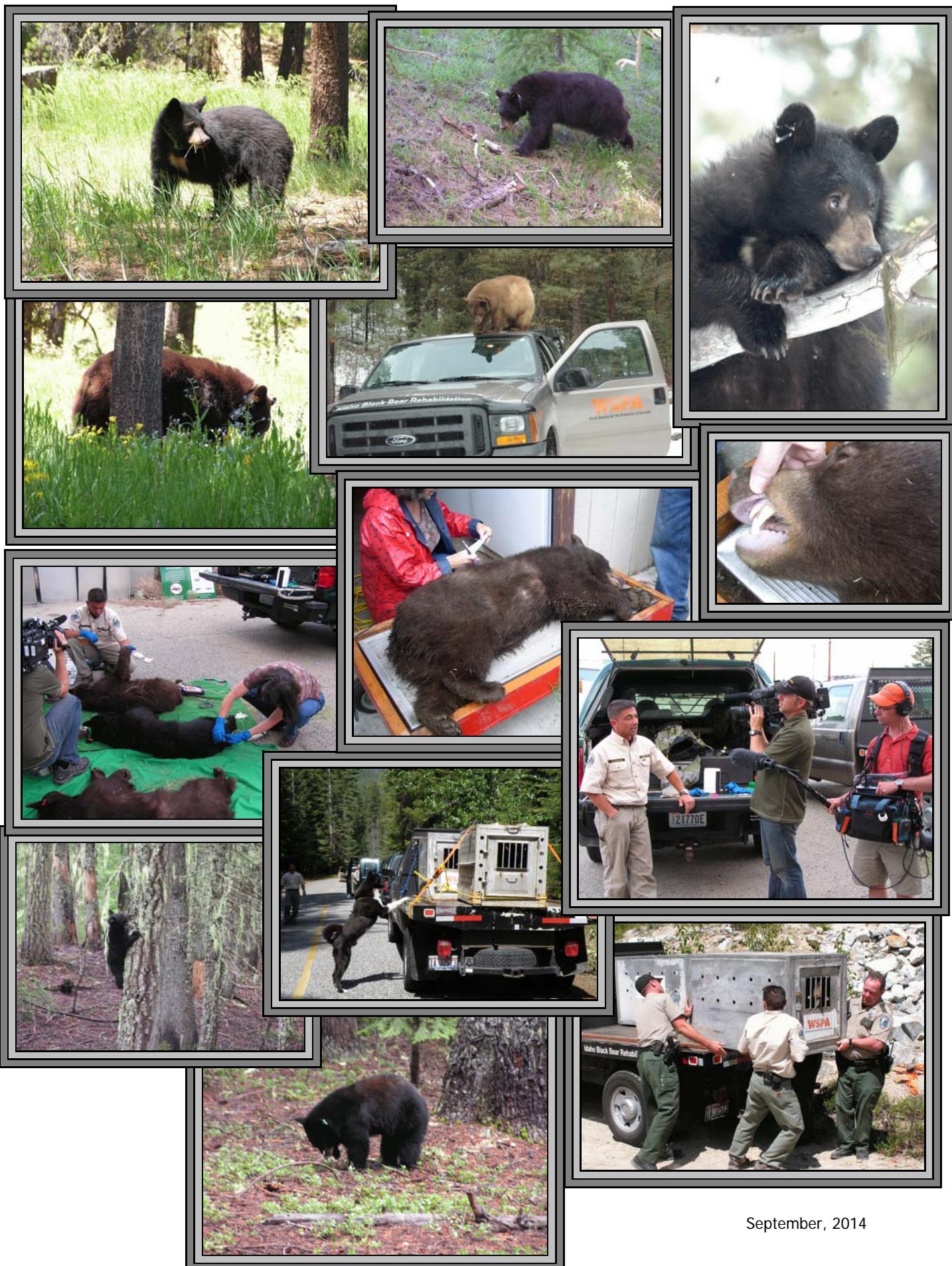
September, 2014

## WINTER & SPRING RELEASES THROUGH 2013 - continued



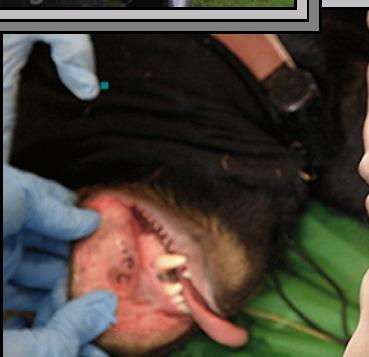
September, 2014

# WINTER & SPRING RELEASES THROUGH 2013 - continued



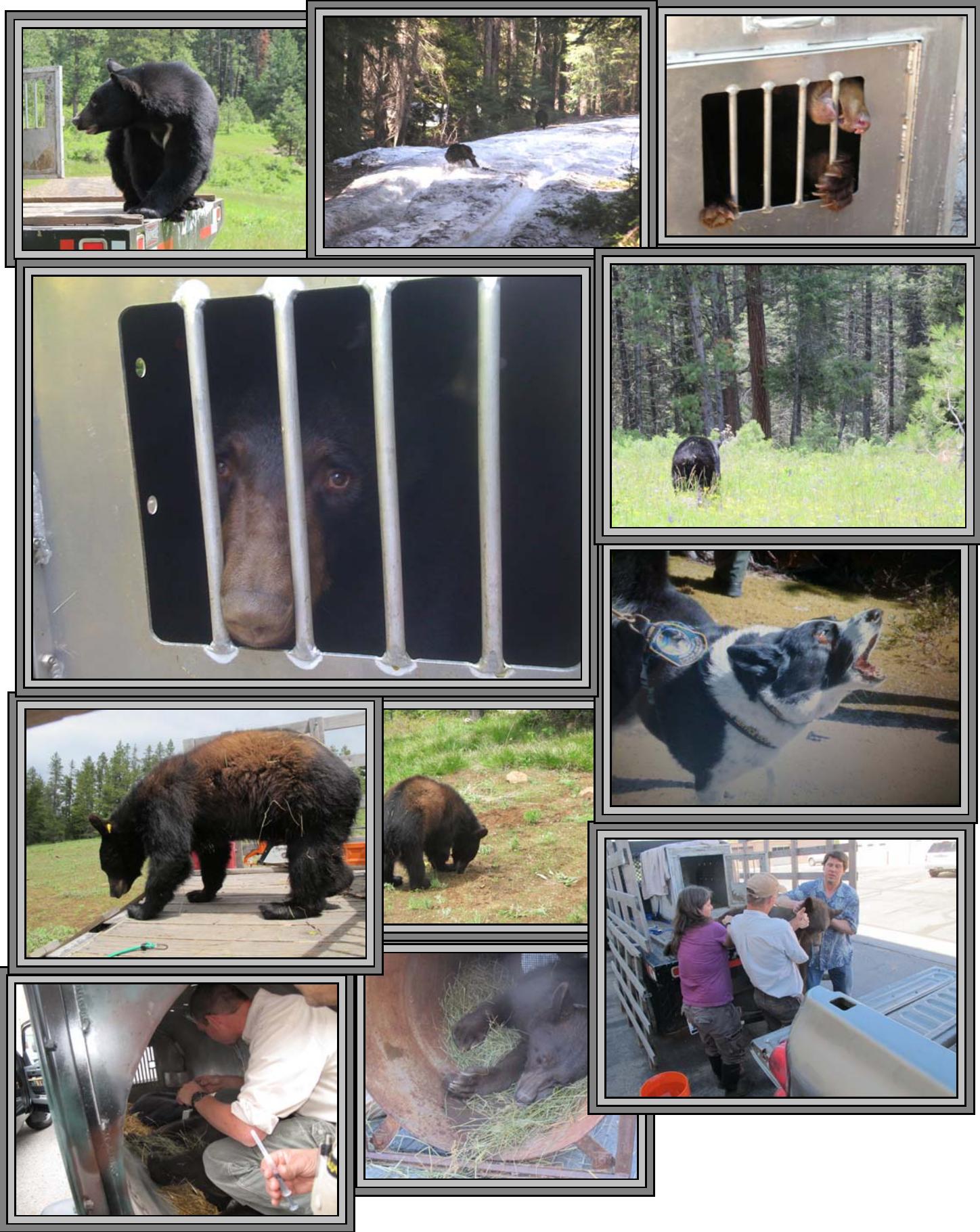
September, 2014

## WINTER & SPRING RELEASES THROUGH 2013 - continued



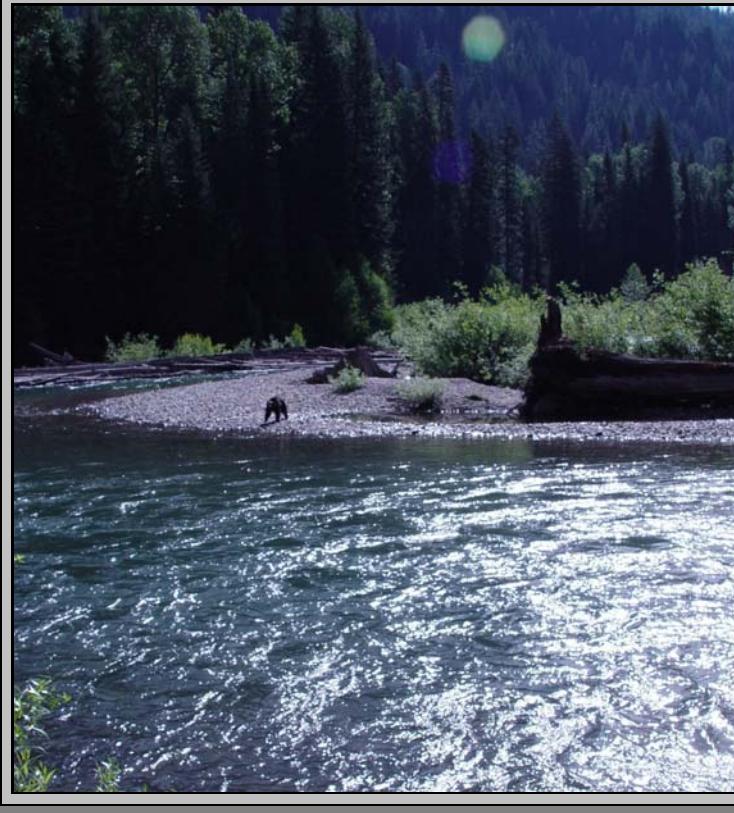
September, 2014

# WINTER & SPRING RELEASES THROUGH 2013 - continued



September, 2014

# WINTER & SPRING RELEASES THROUGH 2013 - continued



September, 2014

## WINTER & SPRING RELEASES THROUGH 2013 - continued



IBBR was honored to welcome two very special bears in 2013 - 7 year old Kapiolani & her yearling cub Shadow. Kapiolani was shot in the front leg - see their story on pages 35 through 35f.



September, 2014

## PREFERRED RELEASE - SPRING OR WINTER DENNING?

As you can see from the previous pictures, most of the releases in later years were done in spring, after hunting season. In 1999 due to circumstances beyond our control, for the first time we released nine bears late in May instead of denning them in December. With this release, we were able to observe their behavior right after release. It was both worrisome and exciting. Two at a time, the cubs leaped from the carriers and darted out into the onion beds. They climbed the trees, browsed in the onion bed, and investigated their new world. After about 20 minutes, one of the cubs slowly wandered up the slope into the woods. Within a few minutes, one by one or in groups of 2-3, the rest followed. It was quite exciting to see nine bears at the top of the hill, all heading in the same direction. The timing was a concern for all of us, especially since the Memorial weekend loomed just around the corner. With holiday visitors going to the mountains for a long weekend, the opportunity for the newly released bears to get into trouble was in the making. However, not one of the bears put in an appearance or caused any problems.

During the fall and winter of 2000, we received 11 cubs that were very underweight. It was a difficult year for bears due to the fires and droughts earlier in the year. The cubs didn't have sufficient weight to survive hibernation by Dec. when we normally returned them to mountain dens. We continued to feed them until the middle of Feb. when the cubs voluntarily went into semi-hibernation. Even with food available, most of the cubs remained in the dens for the next 3 weeks until the warmer weather of March brought them out. Two or three came out once a day to munch on some of the food and immediately returned to the dens. Even though we aren't out there all the time, the decrease in the amount of food taken and scat tells us how active the bears were on any given day.

The weather and our schedules didn't permit us to den them in the mountains in February after they started hibernation in the enclosure. Also, we wanted to radio collar some spring releases again to compare with those bears denned in December. After hunting season ended the middle of May, we released the 11 bears over a two day period. Most of the bears behaved in exactly the same way as those the year before.

On the first release day, the bears spent time checking out the area before disappearing into the woods. On the second day, the bears jumped out of the carriers and tore off at full speed, completely out of sight in seconds. I think the activities of the previous day, the obviously missing bears from the group, and the fact there were fewer bears on the second day all contributed to the difference in behavior. I doubt they were as secure with what was happening as the bears the previous day.

Since then, we have learned that each bear reacts differently to the release. Some will come out of the carriers very hesitantly and slowly survey their surroundings. Others tear out at full speed and are out of site in the blink of an eye. Some rush out, then stop a safe distance away to look around before deciding which direction to take. Some head for the first tree, climb it and stay there. How they react when released is not a determination of whether they might be in a human-bear conflict in the future. Some wildlife agencies use bear dogs, rubber bullets, and noise to hasten the bears departure. Others let the bears move out on their own.



Actor & singer David Soul carries Pele to the den site

September, 2014

## PREFERRED RELEASE - SPRING OR WINTER DENNING? - continued

After being a wildlife rehabilitator since 1978, I don't believe the bears or any wildlife would give up that freedom for one second to come back to the ideal world of rehab. Perhaps to them, even as pleasant as their days were in rehab, the sight of a human means the chance that freedom might be lost. Therefore, avoiding humans is a more powerful incentive than the easy food source. With the additional weight, they are able to live off their own built up fat reserves while finding food sources to sustain them. There is also probably something to be said for having new food sources not previously available to them in rehab - food sources their own instincts tell them to eat. Additionally, their maturity and instincts are beyond their age. Any or all of the above probably contribute in helping them avoid the temptations that create nuisance bears.

For us, it's nice to see the bears doing what bears do as opposed to putting them in a den and leaving. Releasing in May offers them the immediate awareness of all the hazards facing bears - people, finding food, other bears, droughts, fires, etc. The fact we have released many bears during May & June with few being involved in a human-bear conflict (see analysis 2009), shows a spring release method can also work. The bears adjust within a few days of release either way.

Even though it's a difficult method filled with challenges, for the bear's sake denning was still the preferable method in the early years. The other bears are in hibernation, there are few, if any people around at that time of year and they can investigate their new world without disturbance. Since they have been in hibernation for 2-3 weeks before we move them to mountain dens, they are already in the hibernation mode. They could come out of the den and return to it shortly afterwards. They could wander around for a few days and find another den. They could stay in the den until spring without even coming out once. The bears denning in December weigh an average of 80-120 pounds. The bears released in May weigh an average of 80-146 pounds.

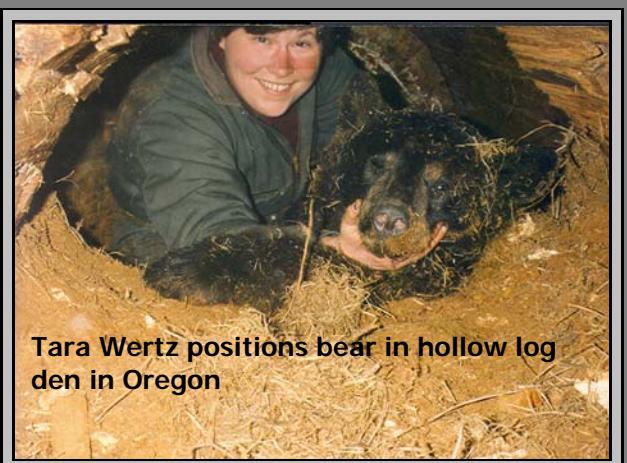


Getting to the den is difficult going

Today, most state wildlife agencies prefer to do a spring release. The logistics, weather, and equipment are all easier to manage. Tracking the bears after the release is also easier. Since it's been proven spring releases don't increase the chances of human-bear conflict situations, most releases are now done in spring.



Bears in den - just covered the den entrance with pine boughs & snow.



Tara Wertz positions bear in hollow log den in Oregon

September, 2014

# REHAB BEARS & HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS

Of all the cubs released to date, only five were involved in human-bear conflicts involving trash or food in campgrounds or mountain residences and one of those was questionable. Notice we said human-bear conflicts with the word "human" coming first instead of "problem" or "nuisance" bear. One of the bear managers we work with pointed out the most of the time it's the human that is the problem or causes a nuisance situation to develop. He is right so we try hard to no longer use the words problem or nuisance bear.

One of our human-bear conflicts involved a female that was a single cub orphaned during hunting season. After release we know she excavated the den, enlarged it, and remained there until spring. She wandered past a forest service camp and the people there began feeding her. They knew better, but wanted to keep her there as a sort of camp pet for their amusement. As indicated above - "human" being the problem, not the bear. As a result, when they left she began to pester other campers for food. She was trapped and relocated three times. Finally she was trapped for the last time & IBBR transported her to Charlie Robbins at Washington State University.

It was the first and only time IBBR has ever placed a rehab bear in a captive situation. Today our policy doesn't allow us to put any rehab bear in a permanent captive situation, no matter how ideal it might appear to be. Perhaps that sounds cruel, but even the most ideal captive situation can go bad - sanctuaries and/or zoos can go bankrupt or quit. Zoos frequently trade animals so who can say that the bear we put in an ideal situation for what we thought was life, didn't end up in a 4 x 5 roadside zoo or a hunting farm, or any of a multitude of horrible situations. After getting to know the spirit of these bears, Sally felt it was our responsibility to make sure that didn't happen to any of our bears. The only way to guarantee that was to not put them in a situation which could end up badly. If the bears can't be released for any reason, they will be euthanized.

However, a bear always deserves a second chance at freedom so unless a severe injury dictates the bear couldn't survive and prevents release, IBBR will release the bear. If the bear becomes involved in human-bear conflicts then we can re-capture the bear and euthanize it. It will never be subjected to cruelty, torture, trading, roadside zoos, or hunting farms.

We work hard to insure a successful release. When something goes wrong, we need to determine the cause so we can change the outcome if those same circumstances come together again. After reviewing notes on the bear, we determined the circumstances that we believed caused her to become a problem. To this day, she remains only one of a handful of cubs to be involved in a human-bear conflict.



- 1) She was a single cub.
- 2) People gave her food shortly after leaving the den. Worst of all, people who knew better put this bear at risk with no thought of the ramifications to her by feeding her daily at their camp
- 3) Her personality was different from any bears before or since. She was hyper-active and seldom still for more than a few minutes. She was very outgoing and aggressively interested in anything going on around her.
- 4) She never displayed the behavior other cubs did as their wild instincts developed.

## REHAB BEARS & HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS - continued

In May, 2000 we released 11 bears that arrived the previous fall. They didn't have sufficient weight to survive hibernation so we held until spring. One of the male yearlings discovered a rabbit hutch while passing by a mountain home. Rabbits are a natural food source for a bear and he attempted to get into the hutch. The bear was after a natural food source so that in itself wasn't surprising, but he wasn't easily discouraged. Before we had a chance to relocate him, the homeowners shot him. This bear's personality also played a large part in the problem. He was always the first one to do something or go somewhere in the enclosure - the leader of the pack. If he did it, the others were more likely to follow, but while they remained extremely cautious he was bold and continued to focus on whatever held his interest. He could be discouraged and sent running, but it took more effort than with the other bears. Knowing his personality, it's likely the various methods used today to haze a bear would have been successful in sending him on his way permanently. Once again, personality played a part in this bear's refusal to leave the rabbit hutch. Since we didn't have the opportunity to relocate this bear, we will never know if it was an isolated incident or if the behavior would have continued and put him in a human-bear conflict.

In 2002 we released a cub who had a very extreme personality. He was a very needy bear & whatever happened that made him an orphaned seemed to rob him of any sense of security. He was always demanding, always angry, always insecure, always on the offensive. When released, Sally felt he would either become the ruler of his territory or find trouble. Unfortunately, he chose the latter course. At first he just chased livestock or anything that would run. He never tried to catch them, just chased them. Knowing his personality, it was probably fun and games to amuse himself. He was trapped and relocated. Despite the distance from the original release site, he was back in no time. Then he began sitting on house porches staring in the windows. He never made any attempts to get in, but for those people inside, it was unnerving to say the least. Somewhat like watching a stalker doing nothing while you are waiting for him to make a move. When this behavior started, he was captured again and this time we had no choice but to euthanize the bear.

One 1994 cub made an appearance in a populated area. He might have moved on of his own accord. However, with holiday crowds coming, Fish & Game moved him before he had a chance to move on of his own accord. There were no further sightings involving this bear.



**A second chance**

Having a single cub is a disadvantage. That alone does not get a bear in trouble, but it doesn't help, especially when combined with other circumstances. The fact that the huge majority of the rehab cubs have not been involved in human-bear conflicts supports that theory.



**A new life of freedom**

In another situation, a bear wandered through a campground, never bothered anyone, never touched any food left out (or so we were told), yet the decision was to shoot him. He appeared to be heading to his old territory and we believe he was just passing through and didn't deserve to be shot.

## REHAB BEARS & HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS - continued

In wildlife rehab many animals are not candidates for release even if they recover from their injuries. An amputated wing means an eagle can't fly. Very few wild animals are happy or content in captivity. It is cruel to think we are caring and protecting them when the reality is we are just making prisoners of them. Sally said it was one of the hardest lessons to learn in her early rehab days. She had to recognize that sometimes euthanizing the animal was far kinder than "caring" for it by keeping it caged for life.

When it comes to the orphaned cubs, Sally also understands and shares the spirit of this beautiful creature. Caging a bear for life, even under the most ideal conditions is unacceptable to her. In many cases, ideal conditions never last. Bears need to be free and living in their own habitat, not one we try to simulate for them. Certainly there is a purpose and place for wildlife parks and zoos. How else would we learn and understand or teach our kids to appreciate some of these animals. There is also a place for the rare animal or bird who can't be released and is happy in captivity. Wildlife education programs are invaluable and for those animals that qualify, it also gives them a purpose in life.



Fitting the radio collar as we prepare for release

(even if we held them ourselves) would provide them with an ideal or even satisfactory place for them to live out their lives. Also, if we were to hold a bear permanently, an enclosure becomes unavailable for another bear that could be rehabbed & released. Knowing the spirit of these bears, Sally questions whether they would be happy in even the most ideal facility.

However, Sally feels very strongly that it is not our place to gamble with the lives of these cubs. We can't guarantee a captive situation

It is a hard decision for everyone involved, not one made lightly, and one that remains with all of us from that time forward. Perhaps in a way it makes us work even harder to be sure every cub is a successful release. Comparing the number of successful releases with the few that didn't work out, the odds are overwhelmingly in favor of rehab cubs not being involved in human-bear conflicts.



September, 2014

## TETANUS OR SOMETHING ELSE?

In 1993, a female cub 5 ½ months old died suddenly. In 1994, a male cub also died with the same symptoms. The cause of death remained elusive despite the work of our own vet and the state wildlife vet. By sharing this information here, it is our hope that if others working with bears see the symptoms they will contact us. As of this printing, we have not heard from anyone who experienced these symptoms in bears.

The female weighed about 20-25 pounds. She had a small build, was in good health, and there were no visible signs of injuries. She was still taking some formula, but eating a normal amount of fruit and dog food. The symptoms developed on a Tuesday morning: slight swelling around both eyes, obvious trouble swallowing, running wildly around the enclosure, hanging upside down from the roof. By that evening she was unable to swallow or eat. She would not open her jaw at all. The swelling around her eyes increased and saliva collected around the outer jaws. She moved normally when not running wildly, eyes blinked normally, normal bowel movements, and no signs of paralysis elsewhere. Wednesday morning she was much worse. She started having slight seizures which lasted up to 30 seconds. The seizures continued into Thursday with the cub sometimes comatose. She died that afternoon despite all attempts to save her.



The male was 6 ½ months old and weighed approximately 35-40 pounds. He had a larger build, same good health, no visible injuries. This cub was not on formula at the time, eating normally, normal bowel movements, and active. There was no indication of any problem. However, on Saturday morning there was an almost undetectable swelling around his right eye. He also seemed to have some slight difficulty in swallowing and chewing, imperceptible to all but Sally. He drank water without a problem. Sunday morning he would not open his jaw, still could blink normally, and showed no paralysis elsewhere. The swelling increased around both eyes, but there were no seizures. This cub died the next Friday despite intense medication and monitoring at the clinic.

The female who died the previous year had a small quarter size bump on the right jaw, probably from wrestling with the other cubs. There was no pus or open wound and the bump disappeared about two weeks before the other

symptoms began. No injuries of any kind were found on the male cub.

Both cubs were treated by Dr. C. Leon Johnson at the enclosure and his clinic. Both received penicillin and tetanus antitoxin. We hospitalized the male cub almost immediately. He was tranquilized and fed with a stomach tube. This is probably why he lasted longer than the female. Only the jaw muscles were locked and the tongue was paralyzed. Not long after the symptoms appeared, both had difficulty breathing.

We gave the 1996 cubs tetanus shots. Originally, the discussion centered around shots every three weeks. Instead, we gave them one shot, 750 units per cub. No cubs died during 1996. During 1998 we gave the spring cubs the same dosage. Since symptoms appeared in the summer months, we did not give shots to the fall cubs. None of the bears showed any signs of tetanus. Since that time we give all cubs arriving prior to July tetanus shots. We have not had a single case since. If anyone working with bears has further information, please contact us.

September, 2014

## TETANUS - CONTINUED

Although I don't have a medical background and prefer to leave that part of wildlife rehab to the veterinarian, I did suspect tetanus. When the cubs died, we turned them over to the state lab. Despite a thorough investigation, the lab could not definitely say the cause of death was tetanus. The preliminary necropsy report for the male cub reads as follows:

*Male bear carcass in good condition with no wounds of integument or oral cavity. An intravenous catheter was in place as was a gastric tube for feeding. No gross lesions were apparent in any organ, muscle, bone, or skin. The stomach was empty. Examinations will include bacteriology on CSF and histology on tissues including spinal cord and brain.*

*Idaho Fish and Game has examined the brain for rabies. Some brain pieces were frozen. Liver, kidney, stomach contents, lung, spleen, and heart blood were also taken for study by Idaho Fish and Game.*

*Microscopic examinations and bacterial culturing did not account for death and the described illness. Though tetanus is still suspected based on behavioral observations, a wound, even around the teeth, could not be found. Small punctures could have been present, and perhaps even detected if the entire carcass had been diced. Extensive palpation did not reveal any sign of inflammation that might have been produced by a puncture, small cut or torn claw, etc. According to experts, a wound may not be present by the time signs of tetanus distress occur. "Local" tetanus results in muscle spasm near the original wound site (which may have healed). So a healed wound in the mouth might result in lock jaw only and all other muscles would work well. Tooth abscess is the most common cause in humans.*

The diagnosis was cause of death unknown, with tetanus suspected. Rabies and other possibilities were eliminated. We suspected tetanus with both cubs. A neurologist advised us that tetanus in children often centers in the teeth and jaw if they are teething. The symptoms are different for kids than with adults and these cubs would be comparable to kids. So, is it tetanus? We continue to give tetanus shots each year on all spring arrivals. Since both cases happened before September, we felt the fall arrivals were probably less at risk and that has proven to be the case.

Because no wounds were found that might have been the cause, we have also taken steps to offset two other possible causes - the drinking water and the fruit. Despite our best efforts, the drinking tub water often became as dirty as the swim tub water. We could change it five times a day and at some point they would still be drinking dirty water. Nothing we did was successful in keeping the drinking water clean. With the new enclosure, we are able to have continual running water for most of the day. The water runs into the tub in a light stream from the top of the enclosure. An equal amount of water runs out at the bottom and into the pasture to water the nearby trees and bushes. In this way, the swim tub stays fairly clean despite heavy use and the bears can either drink that water or the water from the stream at the top.

The donated fruit sometimes has a fungus on it. We cleaned it as best we could, but some fungus no doubt managed to find its way into their diet. Ideally, we would like only the freshest fruit, but when you depend on donations, things aren't ideal at times. Considering the foraging bears do, you wouldn't think a little fungus on the fruit would not be a problem. However, despite the need for the fruit, we no longer feed out any fruit with fungus. If there is fungus, the fruit is tossed out rather than take a chance. No bears have died since we've taken these steps, so we believe we have eliminated the cause of the problem. If not, the tetanus shots continue to afford protection for the cubs.

September, 2014

# INJURIES AND ILLNESS

Most of the cubs are fairly healthy when they arrive. A few worms, mites, and ticks are common. Injuries are rare. Starvation is the most frequent cause of problems in fall arrivals. However, on occasion we've had serious injuries or illness that caused death. The tetanus question discussed previously seems to be a thing of the past.



We have had problems with parasites, but very little other health issues. During 1998, we had our first experience with a nasty little critter called the Sarcoptic mite which caused the bears to lose or rub their fur off. Charlie Robbins at Washington State University alerted us to this pesky nuisance and John Beecham shared his experiences involving this mite with bears in the wild. The cubs start rubbing off the fur on the rump, then the stomach, and eventually all over until they are left with the undercoat or patches of fur here and there. Based on their previous experience with this mite, we learned it

doesn't produce mange in the classical sense. It is present on bears all the time and surfaces in the fall or winter months in younger bears if they aren't in full hibernation. A biopsy will show some skin inflammation, but the skin remains healthy otherwise. By fall of the next year, the effects on the cubs will be minimal compared to what we experienced the first year. They will grow healthy new coats in the spring. By 3 years of age, they develop an immunity to the mites. In the meantime, they look horrible, but the bears are healthy. There can also be some fur loss from being too hot. Bears will den together and if it gets too warm they can lose the long hairs and end up the wooly undercoat - the Mohawk look as we call it. In spring their coat returns to its shiny and silky appearance.

We treated the mites (and worms) with Ivomec for cattle and swine (1 ml or cc per 110 pounds). Normally, given as an injection, we used it both orally and as injections depending on the situation. A little bread or muffin laced with Ivomec and covered in jelly did the trick. A shot didn't necessarily prove more effective. If shots aren't possible or too stressful on the cubs, the oral dose works if you are careful not to give less than the required dose. Today we repeat it every 3 weeks and double the dose we used to give. We are told it will kill the adult mite and definitely gets the worms out. We start the cubs on Ivomec at about 3-4 months old and continue it until hibernation. Coming out of hibernation they might show slight signs of some fur loss, but it is minimal. If they aren't fully in hibernation and are active at all, we will continue the Ivomec dosage.

We had one cub fall and break her neck. It wasn't a case of a long fall, just landing wrong. We suspect she had been playing in the water and jumped on the logs, which were then wet and slick. It was a freak accident that you wouldn't expect to happen very often, if at all.

One male cub hit by a car, had a broken hind leg that had already healed by the time it arrived. The vet decided after seeing the x-rays, that it was pointless to break it again as the bone had healed fairly straight. However, the bear refused to use the leg most of the time. There was also some concern that this bear was partially blind. When it was discovered there was additional bone infection in the broken leg and we determined the bear had limited sight, we euthanized the cub.



Getting weighed on our bear scale - one at a time please.

## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

Two males died of quick pneumonia. One arrived in July with no symptoms or signs of any problems. We spent all day one Sunday shortly after his arrival working on replacing the swim tub. During that time, we videotaped much of the bears activities that day. On Tuesday, we found the cub dead. There were no signs of fever, runny nose, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, or loss of appetite. When we reviewed the video, all we saw was a bear playing, eating, acting completely normal. The other male arrived in Dec. Due to the conditions, any cubs arriving during winter months are obvious candidates for pneumonia. We started him on antibiotics, but his body just shut down and wasn't able to fight it off. He died shortly after arrival.

In the fall of 2002 a cub arrived that had been sitting up in the top of a tree for days. He appeared to have a slight limp now and then, but otherwise was healthy. He was a very shy cub and stayed out of sight and in the dens whenever we were around. Although he didn't have enough weight to hibernate, he did remain in the den with the other cubs most of the day. In March when the cubs (now yearlings) became active, we noticed he had a strange sort of walk. It was almost like he was a little tipsy - stepping too high and his hind leg swinging outward a bit. Just when we called the vet to come and check him out, he took off running and there didn't seem to be a thing wrong with him. A few days later we watched as he climbed to the roof over the den area. It was obvious he was using his front paws to pull himself up the wooden poles rather than boosting himself with his rear legs. We also noticed he never jumped down off anything. Instead he would slowly maneuver his way down. As he spent more time out of the den, we were able to observe him more each day and decided there was definitely a problem. Our veterinarian, Dr. Tim Murphy came over to do a visual exam. Later Dr. Murphy brought over a portable X-Ray machine and took X-Rays. The yearling had a cracked hip in two places which was completely healed. However, it left him with his odd gait and an unwillingness to put pressure on his hindquarters. That caused concern for us when it came to releasing him and being able to climbing trees.



**Injured yearling is bear without the white markings**



**Portable X-Ray - getting X-Rays of the hips**

After a lot of soul searching, consulting with Dr. Murphy, Sally made the decision to give him a chance at release. We would have a radio collar on him and could go back in to trap him if problems arose. On the day of the release, he jumped down from the truck bed and walked over to the nearest

September, 2014

## **INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued**

tree. His buddy was already about 30' up sitting on a branch and he started climbing up towards him. After about 7', he apparently decided that was pointless as the other bear was sitting on the only available branch. Instead he slowly came down and walked off into the woods with his shuffling gate. Amazingly, the one bear we worried about most is the one that traveled the farthest distance after release. Four weeks later, we picked up his radio signal approximately 3 hours from the release site (about 75 air miles). Unfortunately, this yearling was shot during hunting season that fall. We were able to identify him when the hunter called in the ear tag number. The Fish and Game Reservist manning the check station was also familiar with our program and took note of the bear's condition. He had one broken toe, but otherwise was in good condition and did not appear to be thin or underweight. He weighed 101 when released so that was good news at least. Did we make the right decision in releasing him? How much of a struggle was it for him with the healed injury? Hard to say except that he had several months of freedom and considering his condition when shot, there is reason to believe he would have continued to do just fine.

Another injured cub arrived in the fall of 2000 that was limping and not using his front paw. At first it appeared to be just a wound on the paw. However, after letting him get settled, we had Dr. Murphy come out. We discovered what appeared to be a bullet hole in his shoulder. Dr. Murphy tranquilized the cub and pulled out some of the infected bone chips. We treated the wound with antibiotics and then oral antibiotics after that. Although the shoulder had an obvious dent in it, once the wound healed the bear never limped or had any trouble running or climbing. We released him with the other cubs the following spring.



**Yearling shot in shoulder - now healed  
Ready for release**

In July 2004 a 6 month old female arrived who had been hit by a car. She had a dislocated hip, shattered front leg, and lesions on the inside of her other hind leg. She arrived at the Animal Emergency Clinic after a kind passerby spotted her on a dark mountain pass about midnight as he was heading home. He called 911 and together he & the police transported the cub to the Emergency Clinic. They operated on her the next day using x-rays of the good leg to rebuild the shattered leg. They stitched up the lesions

September, 2014

## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

on the hind leg and put the dislocated hip back in place. The following day we brought her home to recover. We kept her confined in a 5' enclosure as the surgeon instructed. That lasted about 3 days and we were forced to move her to avoid further injury as she pulled at the wire and declared her total dislike of being confined to such a small area. Once moved, she settled in a hollow log with food and water nearby and did just what we wanted - stayed calm and didn't move around a lot.

After 8 weeks when we took out the stitches we discovered the hip had dislocated again. This was actually the third time as it happened at the clinic too. The surgeon who operated said that can frequently happen in dogs. Sometimes they go for years before it's discovered.



They don't seem to be impaired and there is no indication of pain. Hard to believe - a dislocated hip sounds very painful. Yet this cub never limped during the time prior to discovering it was dislocated again. In fact, several times she took

off running at full speed so it was very surprising to hear it was out again. At this point the surgeon said there is nothing more to do, but let her continue healing. We added our milk formula to her diet immediately even though she was probably weaned. The formula has proven itself time and again in helping starved and injured cubs heal quicker.

We moved her in with the other cubs during September when we knew the broken bones had healed sufficiently to tolerate the rough wrestling that is part of being a bear cub. She was eating fine and using the front paw. There was a slight drag at times and she probably won't have full movement of the front leg, but has enough that it shouldn't impair her movements. She did fine over the months to come and due to the likelihood of some arthritis in that front leg, we decided to winter her through here. She was released in spring and as far as we know is still out there.

Overall, bears have proven they are quite amazing at healing themselves and recovering from injuries or starvation. There is rarely a reason why an injured cub or orphaned cub who is underweight shouldn't be given a chance to recover. They are so resilient and given the time, nutrition, and a little extra help, they will often bounce back quickly.

September, 2014

## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

Although we've had cubs with a few burrs now and then, one year we received a cub with so many burrs stuck to his body & wrapped tightly in his fur that I'm sure it hurt him to breathe. He only

weighed about 16 pounds. We tranquilized him and it took 4 of us almost 45 minutes to cut off all the burrs. He had burrs in his ears, under his armpits, between his hind legs, under his tail, on his soft belly, under his chin, between his toes, on the sides of his nose & jaw, & stuck solidly to the skin all over his back & sides. We filled a gallon bucket with burrs. I'm sure when he woke up, it was the first time he could breathe, sit, move, or lie down without being in terrible pain.



Late in 2007 we received a cub with what appeared to be a tumor protruding about an inch out of the cub's side & about the width of a finger. After treating the wound our state wildlife vet, Dr. Mark Drew shaved the cub's rump and we found many bite wounds. It appeared he had been attacked or mauled by a canine. We treated the wounds and started the cub on antibiotics. Two days later we had the results on the tumor - it was a huge mass of scar tissue and not a tumor. What a relief! The wound eventually healed over the scar tissue and the cub did fine after that.



Although we have had cubs in the past with broken bones, gunshot wounds, or hip problems, this year for the first time we had a cub with a broken front shoulder. Our vet, Tim Murphy operated on him & put a pin in the shoulder. He did fine & was released.



We also had a cub for the first time with a temporary mysterious problem. Two cubs arrived close to midnight one evening. We got the first cub out of the metal carrier and he ran to the back of the enclosure. We then turned our attention to the second cub. He wouldn't come out of the carrier so it became a waiting game. While we were dealing with him, the first cub made his way to the water tub & swallowed about two gallons of water and air before we could stop him. He was obviously very thirsty and very frightened so he was sucking up both air and water as fast as he could. Although he had moved normally when coming out of the carrier & running to the back of the enclosure, he was now wobbling. We put him back in a vari-kennel & brought him inside to watch him.



September, 2014

## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

His abdominal cavity was swollen 2 times it's normal size & he looked like he was nine months pregnant. He was having difficulty breathing and was obviously very uncomfortable with such a big belly. It was also possible he still had some after affects from a tranquilizer if the officer had to use that to catch him. Since we didn't have that information at the time he arrived, we had our vet come and look at him. His heart sounded fine and he said liver problems might cause fluids in the abdominal cavity, but it could also be the air & water he gulped that was the problem. We decided to take him to the clinic in the morning, take x-rays and do blood work. In the meantime, he was miserable. So Sally introduced herself to the cub, told him she was going to get very personal with him, opened the door and dove in. What a sweet thing he was - for the first minute or so he was hesitant, but the minute her hands began gently rubbing his belly, he relaxed and gave her free rein to do whatever she wanted. She has emptied lots of bladders over the years without breaking them, but he was so swollen she couldn't even feel the bladder. Sally just gently massaged his belly every half hour for about 5 minutes. He was finally able to sleep a little so she went back to work while he slept. She continued that process all night. By 10 the next morning his belly was half the size - he was burping and expelling gas. Still no urine that we could see, but later we found and smelled it under the hay. We started him on soft foods, a little at a time and a little water. The belly massage continued for two days and by the 4<sup>th</sup> day he was eating normally and his belly stayed it's normal size. Then he told Sally in very clear bear language that he no longer needed help. His heart appears fine and he is now outside doing bear things and frankly could care less about his nurse when she go out to see him. Sally says it always amazes her that a wild animal can temper his instincts to trust for as long as help is needed and then just as quickly withdraw that trust when help is no longer needed. She thinks that's what makes wildlife rehab it so satisfying - it's a gift, but always a rare gift and doesn't last long so you have to treasure it while you have it.

In the past we have taken orphaned cubs from all the surrounding Western states. However, 2007 was the first time Nevada sent bears to us. They ended up sending 5 cubs. A short time later they called us about a 2 year old female on the verge of death by starvation. We put her in an enclosure that was very isolated and protected from weather and activity.

We started her on formula even though she wasn't a cub. Our formula has turned around every case of starvation in cubs so it's our first course of action. The question was whether this two year old take the formula. It was the first time we ever tried giving formula to other than cubs of the year or yearlings. We gave her other food as well, but she knew exactly what she needed and went for the formula right away. She took about two gallons a day for about 3 days and then began eating the other solid food as well. When we moved her into the main enclosure she had gained about 50 pounds. What a thrill that was. She had a real attitude and was a no-nonsense bear. That made her all the more delightful & probably why she survived so long while others might not have made it. She made it very clear you best not mess with her. It only took us a day or two to figure that out, but when moved her to the main enclosure the other bears figured it out in about an hour. Goes to show we aren't as smart as the average bear. Despite her grumpy "leave me alone" attitude, she never bothered the younger cubs or caused any problems.



**Sassy - no one messed with her den when she was in it or got in her way when she was out**

## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

Bears are pretty hardy & do well at healing themselves. However, 2007 brought a very sad and unique situation in the form of a two year old male with one side of his upper jaw shot off or bitten off in a fight. It's the first time we've had the opportunity to help a seriously injured bear. Worse than losing his upper jaw and all his teeth on that side of his upper jaw, his nasal cavity was wide open from just behind his nose to the point where his nose joined his face. Definitely not a wound he could fix himself. He was in good shape on arrival so it appeared the wound was fairly recent. A very nice officer trapped him in a location he shouldn't have been in,

saw the wound and called us. Of course we were thrilled to get the opportunity to help him. The first thing we did was have Dr. Tim Murphy clean the wound & then we put him on antibiotics for about two weeks. During that time Sally was his sole caretaker, but everyone fell in love with him - he was just a big lump of bear, so gentle, so calm, so nice considering what some human (or bear) did to him.



Because it had to be so painful to eat, we gave him formula as we did with the starved Nevada bear, yogurt, cottage cheese, canned fruit, and grapes. As the rawness of the wound healed, he began to eat more solid fruit, dog food & apples. The name "Jaws" just seemed to be appropriate for him from the beginning. It described the injured area and yet indicated a powerful and very capable mammal. After about a month, we moved him to the main enclosure with the other bears. He developed a friendship with a Nevada cub of the year and they wrestled and played constantly. Unfortunately, all the rough wrestling didn't help the wound. We had to put him on antibiotics again for about 10 days just to be on the safe side.

In December 2007 we separated him again (much to his unhappiness) and started him on antibiotics in January prior to surgery. We had never mixed cubs of the year & yearlings, much less older bears. You always hear that older bears will kill cubs. Apparently not so with this group. They all wrestled and got along fine with each other. After we separated Jaws and the Nevada cub, at almost any time of day you would find Jaws sitting on one side of the divided enclosure and his Nevada buddy on the other. They would try to play through the chain link and when that turned out to be too difficult, they each climbed the chain link to the roof in hopes of finding a way through to the other side. It was pitiful and our hearts went out to them as they wanted to be together so badly. Kanaloa, a male from California also wrestled a lot with the two of them and he found it difficult to understand why Jaws was separated from them. He paced and looked for a way into the area where we held Jaws.

In January 2008 we prepared Jaws for surgery. Although not fully in hibernation, he was in the den most of the day. We wanted him as lethargic as possible to help him heal after surgery. Unless we could find a way to cover the open nasal cavity, his fate would be sealed. Releasing him would be out of the question. The open nasal cavity would cause infections and allow all sorts of dirt and materials to enter probably causing pneumonia as well. No one knew for sure if it would be possible to close the nasal cavity. Dr. Jeff Brourman at WestVet who performed surgery on another bear with a shattered leg agreed to give it his best try. We tranquilized Jaws and took him to the WestVet Clinic. Two hours later and an amazing job of surgery, we had a bear with a completely covered nasal cavity. Dr. Brourman was able to loosen skin from the side of his face and pull it



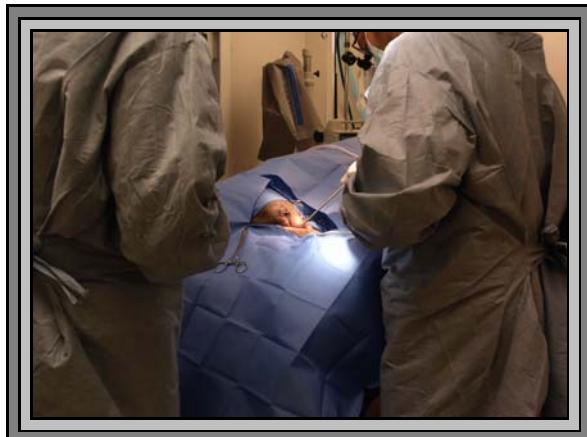
## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

forward to cover the open cavity. Now the waiting began. Would Jaws pull out the stitches? Would the surgery to cover the nasal cavity hold up under the wrestling and roughhousing of a bear?

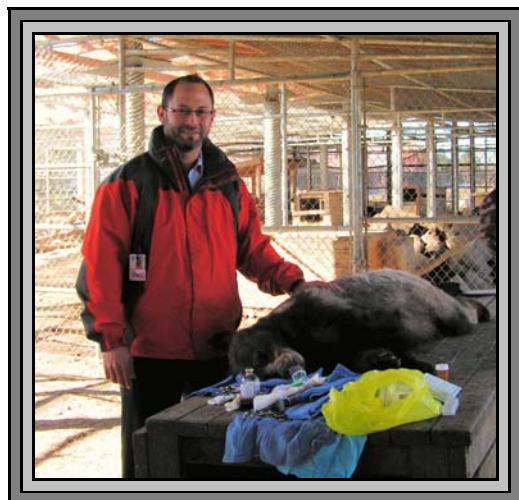
Below is a picture of Jaws preparing for surgery and one during surgery.



He remained separated until the stitches came out and another week after that before opening the gate between the enclosures. It was less than a minute before his Nevada buddy and Kanaloa joined him. The wrestling and playing began again immediately. The final test was



Surgery begins



Dr. Brourman removes the stitches.  
Looks good.

how his jaw and the repairs would hold up with all the mouthing they do while wrestling. Jaws remained calm and good-natured despite all the pain he endured. What a trooper! He definitely put some of us humans to shame. He never once showed aggression towards us, always took his medication willingly, and never bothered the injury or the stitches. When fully recovered he was joined immediately by his two buddies and the wrestling began. The three bears were so excited to be together again and seemed like they stayed together from then on.

Just as amazing was the fact we merged cubs of the year, yearlings, a two-year old female with a grumpy attitude, and a two year old male that could have been a threat to the other bears. Yet he was the most gentle bear ever even considering the pain.



Left to right: NV bear - Kanaloa - Jaws

September, 2014

## **INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued**

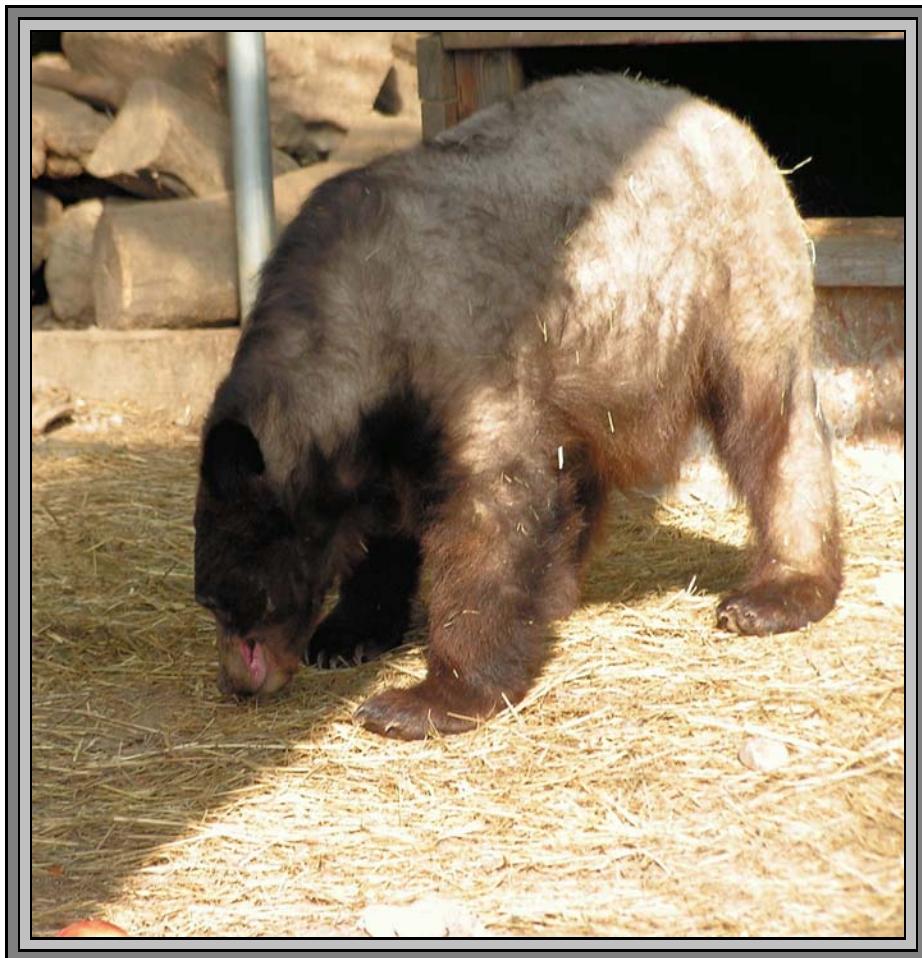
Jaws was released in June 2008. What an inspiration he has been to all of us. When the situation looked hopeless and everyone told us it was hopeless, Jaws remained a bear and reminded us that nothing is hopeless. With patience, time, loving care, cooperation from him, excellent veterinarian care from day one, and a group of fun-loving bears to help him recover, he is living proof miracles can happen.



**From this**



**To the final ok for release  
June 2008**



September, 2014

## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

In February, 2013 IBBR received a call asking if our enclosure would hold an injured adult. She had been shot in her front leg or shoulder and was about 60lbs underweight and close to death. While we had never held an adult in the man enclosure, we felt it would. The next day the bear arrived with a team of people from Fish & Game, including the state wildlife vet. She was also accompanied by her yearling cub who had been captured as well.



The team worked on her while she was tranquilized to repair the open wound as best they could for the time being.



Kapilani arrives at IBBR - 60lbs underweight - shot in front leg



**Bullet went in shoulder & exited at the wrist - wrist locked in this position**



September, 2014

## INJURIES AND ILLNESS - continued

came and we faced a most difficult situation. The bullet had shattered bones in his shoulder & elbow that could not be fixed. The wrist which was locked in a high 5 position could not be broken again to heal in a normal position. By now Kapiolani had gained weight, was healthy again, and frankly could run pretty darn fast on 3 feet. One evening at dusk Shadow was startled by something & let out a cry. She was perhaps 30 feet from him and took off towards him in a run that surprised us all. She got there faster than we could have with no injuries. The discussion began as to amputate or not. There was some thought that if we amputated the leg she wouldn't risk the pain that might be associated with the injury for the rest of her life. She carried her injured leg up against her side and never put weight on it unless she was lying flat on the ground & let it rest on the dirt. One evening as Sally watched on the monitor she went to step over a stump, banged her injured leg on it. Sally could see her whole body shudder with pain even though the monitor camera was probably 40 feet away.

The questions came fast - should she even be released - could she take care of herself - could she survive or just make do and struggle constantly - should the leg stay or be amputated - when should she be released - should Shadow be held with her for release or be released when he was ready?

You can ready their story on pages 28-28j. We did decide to release, but first we agreed that no release until we knew the open wound on her wrist was either healed and sufficiently healed so infection wouldn't be a concern. Below are pictures of the state wildlife vet checking her injury before release.



Looking much better now



Cleaning the wound



Last wound check before release - looking great

September, 2014

## ARE BEARS ALL THE SAME?

Each bear has a personality of his/her own. Like kids, they have a group or peer personality as well. A very shy bear may become an outgoing bear once it gets in with a group. With our monitor

system we were able to observe some amazing changes in personality. It was fascinating to watch and to see the change from individual personality to group personality and back to individual personality.



One day we watched a group of three cubs (The Three Musketeers) circle one of the smaller log dens. You could see the three of them check it out with a heightened interest never observed before. When bears want to focus, they can really focus. It was like watching them plot and plan and then carry out that plan. We knew the den was about to be wasted. They would sniff and claw slightly at various parts of it. One of the cubs would find something interesting like a tiny crack between the boards and seemed to alert the other two as they immediately joined him.

We could tell when planning stage ended and the destruction mode set in. It took the three of them about 20 minutes to rip it apart, leaving us with a couple of plywood boards and a lot of 2 x 4s scattered around. After a satisfying job well done, they retired to the top of one of the other dens and slept for an hour or two.



**The Three Musketeers**

One bear may not behave in a particular way, but get him with a group and his behavior changes to match the group for that moment. We had a very timid Idaho bear one year that never caused any trouble. Then the Utah and Oregon bears would go get him & he would follow them around participating in all their shenanigans. They became the 3 Musketeers. Mischief and destruction were the order of the day. Then he would be the shy little bear again until they got him involved in the next round.

Sally has been asked many times if there is any difference in bears from other states. Aside from physical things like size or color, there are differences. These observations are for cubs in rehab and wouldn't necessarily follow through to adult bears. Cubs, like kids grow up and change into mature adults with different needs, interests and agendas. We have included a brief summary of her observations on the bears from various states:

**Utah** bears are consistently the smartest and most athletic (like gymnasts). They are always more

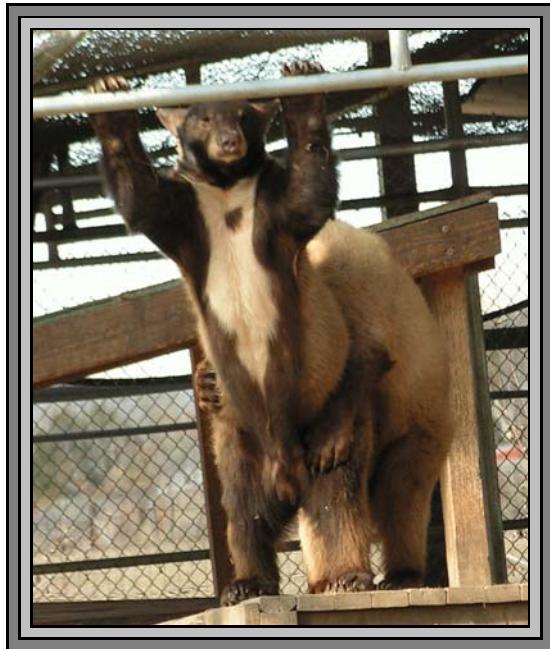


creative about getting where they want to go or getting things undone or opened or pulled apart. If I need something tested in the enclosure such as "can the bears get to the cameras" or "is this somewhat bear proof", I can count on the Utah bears to tell me that. They are fun bears to watch and be around. It's fascinating to watch their thought process carried out into action. I've had some Utah bears do things you wouldn't believe. Even though I was there and a part of it, I still have a hard time believing what I saw. I had one Utah cub help me place a large swim tub upside down over a culvert den. Earlier in the week we placed the tub over the culvert den to keep the weather off it (before the roof was completed). It had slid to one side and I was trying to push it back on top. It was heavy and piles of dirt in the way weren't helping. The bear watched me struggle for about five minutes and then went over to the opposite side of the tub, stood up and gripped the rim around

the tub with her claws and pulled the tub into place. Then she dropped down and walked away. In seconds she had accomplished what I couldn't. Mind boggling that she grasped what I was trying to do and did it for me.

## ARE BEARS ALL THE SAME? - continued

**California** bears are less playful in general, but when they do play they play very hard for a long time. They seem more "in charge", more aloof as if they know they own the world anyway so no need to get riled up about anything. They are big bears and seem to know it, but there is never any bullying type of behavior. They are a bit like gentle giants at times. They love water - LOVE WATER! I suspect they have some polar bear in their genetic makeup. I have never observed such antics - from belly flops into the pool to scuba diving for whatever was on the bottom. I watched them roll in the water like a sea otter and lunge out of the swim tub only to turn right back around and dive in at full force. They seem to take great joy in life when they do play. Because they are larger than most of the other bears, it's always awesome to see those large paws being so gentle in their play with other bears. I've watched them selectively search out just the right small log or branch from those around the swim tub, grab it in their mouth and drag it inside the tub. Then they dunk it and play with it for an hour. How they knew which one would float rather than get water logged and sink is the question.



**Oregon** bears are generally shy, but if they make up their mind about something they can be very determined. When they make up their mind they will challenge you and you have to stand firm & not back down. More of them have had a strong mind set than bears from other states, but not in a bad way. I see it as a plus as it contributes a lot to their ability to survive in difficult times. If they decide they are not going to take the bread and jelly with the medicine in it, you might as well give up. They don't forget and waiting another day or week isn't going to change their mind. It can be a game of who will eventually win. Usually it's the bear, but always fun trying to outlast them. We also watched one Oregon cub greet and reassure a new arrival. The new bear was frightened and insecure since his world had been turned upside down when orphaned. He immediately went to the far corner of the enclosure. He gripped the side chain link panel with both front paws and sat there prepared to climb the minute he felt threatened. The Oregon cub watched for about 20 minutes then got up and walked slowly over to the other bear. When the new cub started to climb, the Oregon cub immediately sat down and just stayed there doing nothing. Finally the other bear relaxed and sat back down. Within an hour the Oregon cub had the new arrival following

her around. Pretty amazing to watch.

They seem to have a very strong survival instinct as part of their personality. In 2009 we had a very tiny underweight cub that even I worried would not make it. However, she clearly fought for every single day and made it. She was released the following spring.

September, 2014

## ARE ALL BEARS THE SAME - continued

**Washington** bears are probably the "sweetest" in the sense they have very balanced personalities, don't get riled up easily and just go about the business of being a bear. However, as babies they are definitely vocal, bawling at the top of their lungs for any reason. They are a pretty calm bear and don't always display a mischievous side. They play and wrestle, but don't often get into trouble or switch to a destructive mode. They seem very quiet and gentle and are a delight to watch because you can sit quietly and just observe without becoming "their" focus of attention. They seem to dismiss your presence pretty quickly. Even when they get a bit wired up, it's still subtle. One of the nicest bears I've worked with was from Washington. She just adapted to whatever needed to happen and made my job so much easier than it normally is with young cubs. Bears in rehab don't fight - it's play, wrestle - groan or moan if another bear wants their sleeping spot, but never fights. As cubs they almost always fight over the bottles or formula at least once during feeding time, but as seven months or older there just isn't any fights. Yet the only fight I ever observed with older bears was between a Washington and Idaho bear. Both males and both best of buddies, until feeding time. They both seemed to carry over their formula days of "must have one fight" during mealtime. Usually it was just vocalizations, but a couple of times there were some cuts from sharp claws. It was the only time I ever observed a Washington bear being aggressive.

**Idaho** bears are much like Washington and don't give us much trouble or concern, although they can be more destructive at times. They can also be more aggressive than other bears when formula babies and want their formula. Heaven forbid you drop the bottle or run out of formula before they are done. Once weaned they mellow out a lot. It's a very noticeable change in behavior compared to other bears. It's almost as if Idaho bears flip a switch and they go from wired up, hyperactive cubs to mellow bears in an instant. More often than not, Idaho bears seem to be the leaders among the groups of bears. Even if a bear from another state arrives first, inevitably the Idaho bear seems to be viewed as the leader once they are weaned. I see a strong independent stage develop faster and earlier than with other bears. Perhaps that's the reason - perhaps others sense that confidence and it offers them a sense of security. Idaho bears can be quicker to anger than other bears.

All bears have their moments, but with the Idaho cubs it seems to be for no apparent reason and it's more intense. I once had a male cub that actually attacked me when it came time for his formula. Apparently no matter when the formula arrived, in his mind it was always late or he felt he had to fight for it. Once weaned he did mellow out, but never as fully like other bears do. He wasn't aggressive, but retained an exceptionally quick temper so you had to be on guard for that. It only lasted a minute, but would always be an intense minute.

On the other side of the coin, we had one of the most seriously injured bears we've ever had - a two year old male who was so gentle and tolerant. He had to be in horrible pain and even before we gave him pain medication he was very gentle and forgiving. During his time with us and his daily medications, he never threatened us. He accepted the medication and treatment with more grace and patience than most of us humans would have in the same circumstances. Despite the knowledge that a wounded wild animal can be very dangerous, in wildlife rehab it's amazing that they really can recognize we are offering help. They grant us the gift of trust for only as long as it's needed to heal the wounds and regain their freedom.



September, 2014

## ARE BEARS ALL THE SAME? - continued

**Nevada** bears were a first for IBBR in 2007. Since we haven't had them before, I can only go by what I saw with this group. In general, what I observed with the monitor system and when I was around them was that they are very playful and they play for a long time. I noticed a stronger bond seem to develop between their "buddies". There was clearly a much stronger bond than I have ever observed between other bears. I noticed it first with R74 from Nevada and Jaws from Idaho. It was pretty blatant & they were inseparable until we had to separate them before Jaws had surgery. I've never used the word "pining" in talking about bears, but R74 was certainly pining for Jaws. After we let them back together, where you saw Jaws you saw R74. The Nevada bears were definitely more active later in the year when it came time for hibernation. They were pretty calm bears, didn't seem to alarm very often, but when they did they were quick to run. I noticed they were a bit more reluctant to back down at times when either another bear or I challenged them to back off. They weren't aggressive at all. They just seemed to think it through a bit longer than other bears before moving away. I believe it's because they are a bit more confident in being a bear so they weighed the options a little longer before moving away. They are a fun bear with lots of antics, funny expressions, and poses that made you laugh.



September, 2014

## COMBINING CUBS - YEARLINGS - OLDER BEARS

In 2007 for the first time ever we mixed cubs of the year, yearlings, and two year old bears (one male & one female). The yearlings weren't as big as some of the cubs of the year so it didn't seem risky to add them to the group. The two year old bears were a different matter as they are normally bigger, more mature, and have a different mind set than cubs or yearlings. The male (Jaws - he was either shot in the upper jaw or had it ripped off in a fight) had a very mellow, calm personality so we decided to give it a try. Two cubs of the year, one from Nevada and one from California quickly became his best buddies. There was a lot of wrestling, but never any sign of aggression or even small disputes or disagreements with any of the bears. We noticed later in the year that the wrestling between Jaws and the California bear (who was bigger) became a little more intense with ears laid back on occasion. It appeared to be just a male dominance test between the two of them rather than a more serious battle that might occur during breeding season between two males.

The two year old female was only 40 lbs when she arrived. She was starved and wouldn't have survived much longer. She was about the same size as some of the cubs of the year by the time she was ready to move to the main enclosure. She needed the room so we decided to try it. However, if we violated her boundaries she became very aggressive. There was concern she might lash out at a few bears. With our new monitoring system we could observe her 24 hours a day for the first few days to see if we spotted any trouble. She selected a seven foot hollow log for her den and had no intention of sharing it. If any of the other bears poked their head inside, they were promptly sent packing with vocalizations and threat charges. It took the other bears only the first day to understand they needed to avoid her territory. Once they figured that out, everything went smoothly. She came out of the den often in the early morning and later at night when the others weren't wandering about. Even with her sassy attitude, she avoided



conflict and never showed aggression to any of the bears in the enclosure with her unless they tried to enter her den.

Not only did we experience large numbers of bears together, but bears of different ages. That year we didn't have a solid roof on the main enclosure and that made it difficult when it warmed up and rained. However, the bears seemed to enjoy the mud bath and took great joy in running past us covering us in water and mud. It was just another game to them - to us it was very unpleasant.

There were never any disputes or fights. Bears literally took food from each other without so much as a grumble. We noticed that when a bear couldn't get his normal buddy to wrestle or chase, there was always another one ready to step up. When winter came, they stayed in the dens a lot of the time, but would come out now and then. There wasn't much activity until March and then the games were on once again.

Bears formed friendships with other bears and would hang out with them a good deal of the time rather than with their own siblings. There were a few leaders (both male & female) in the group because we had so many bears. The bears would generally follow one leader and on another occasion follow a different leader. It seemed to be dictated by the individual bear's interest. For example, if one of the leader bears went to the swim tub, there would be 2 or 3 that would follow him while the others ignored him. Later another leader would start the games and several bears would get involved while the rest of the group dozed. If one leader went to get food, a few would go with him.

September, 2014

## COMBINING CUBS - YEARLINGS - OLDER BEARS - continued

The more bears, the faster they merged. Normally in the main enclosure it takes longer due to the size. However, as each new orphan arrived the others just accepted the cub immediately as one of them. It didn't seem to matter if it was a cub of the year or a yearling or even the two year old bears. As in the past, we observed some bears seeming to take charge of others as if they were the caretaker. A shy cub who hesitated to go eat would be coaxed by one of the others to go with him. It was fascinating to watch.

It was really amazing to see so many bears socializing with each other without a dispute now and then. We see bears in Alaska fishing together for salmon, but there are challenges, bluffs, threats, and fights. None



Monitor system pictures



of that occurred with the rehab bears. While having plenty of food for everyone certainly accounts in part of the lack of any fighting, it wouldn't account for all of it. Bears wanting use of the swim tub or a particular den wouldn't fight for it either. A bigger bear could easily have intimidated one of the smaller bears, but that didn't happen. Instead the bigger bear walked away and came back later. Hard to imagine a large group of humans could have been so civil in the same situation.

mite that causes them to rub the fur off. Although we gave all the bears Ivomec, a few still had patches here and there. Considering the constant contact with each other and sleeping together, it would seem like every bear would be bothered by the mites. However, that didn't happen. Nor did they lose a lot of fur, just a patch here and there on the rump.

Although we had a lot of dens, it was impossible to dictate

who or how many bears used each den. If five bears wanted to sleep in the same den, they did so regardless of the size of the bears or the



dens. It definitely appeared to us that who slept where was determined by which bears preferred to be together. In 2009

we moved 3 of the dens to the front section of the main enclosure because he couldn't fit in the den with the bear(s) of his choice. We took out the side wall of 2 of the dens, placed the dens side by side and that resolved the situation. In 2010 we noticed that even though there are many dens in the back part of the enclosure, the leader of this group chose to use the dens in front. That meant all eight bears wanted to be in the front dens. We wondered why the front dens and not the ones in back. Both areas had dry dog food trays so that couldn't be the answer. It appears the front section being smaller offers them more security than the larger area in back. So at dusk they all gather in front and settle into the dens there.

September, 2014

## THE TRIPLET EXPERIENCE

In Spring 2007 we received triplets. What a learning experience! We have had triplets before, but early fall rather than formula cubs. The smallest female Patch was shy, but was always the first one to step forward and it was clear she dominated. The largest cub was a female. We named her Koa, but despite her size she was submissive and kept in the background. The male, Hanalei was the smallest of the three and seemed to be odd man out when it came to wrestling and playing. For the first two days everything

seemed normal. They clearly preferred bottles not dishes so they could nurse. Feeding times were as expected....until day three. Suddenly Koa decided for whatever reason she didn't want the bottle. For the next three feedings she refused it and threw one heck of a temper tantrum. Sometimes cubs are so excited to get the formula that for some reason they can't seem to focus on the bottle. The other two took their bottles as always. On the fourth feeding we gave Koa a dish of formula - she got it all over her first and then started to slurp it up. With that, the other two decided she had something they didn't and the fight began for the dish. Out went the bottles and in came the dishes. As usual, the grass



was always greener in the other dish so it was a continual switching of dishes and fights and formula flying all over. To keep the peace we placed one of the cubs in a vari-kennel next to the other vari-kennel at feeding time and that took care of the problem. However, the minute the cubs were full, the anxiety of being separated took hold.

Something we observed with the triplets was a stronger bond than ever seen before. Siblings will have a bond, but nothing like these three cubs.

Regardless of personality, if one slept, they all slept - if one was upset, they were all upset - if one was angry, they were all angry - if one was wired up, they were all wired up. We had to separate them into another kennel to clean and as soon as the first one was pulled out, they all became frantic. Even though two remained together for a couple of minutes they were as frantic as the one by itself.

Formula cubs will always bond with their foster mom, even siblings. Yet the triplets were like a world until themselves. There was no bonding with their foster mom and they seemed to just tolerate Sally's presence until feeding time was over. There wasn't the normal sense of security that cubs seem to draw from their foster mom. Another interesting tidbit is that they



## THE TRIPLET EXPERIENCE - continued

didn't like the formula hot or even warm. They drank it best when refrigerator cold. Nice for us, but very strange & we haven't experienced that before or since.



Once the cubs were in their first outdoor enclosure, our monitor system showed us a different world than we have observed before. The two females played together, but Hanalei always seemed to be left out. His attempts to join in worked for only a minute or two and then he was left out again. It was sad to see him playing with a stick or by himself while Koa and Patch wrestled constantly. By the time they went into one of the larger enclosures another cub arrived. Hanalei now had a playmate too when it came to wrestling. When the fourth cub arrived they became wrestling buddies and only then did the two females accept both into the wrestling matches. It was comical to see them play chase. Koa usually started it off, followed by Patch, then Hanalei with the new cub bringing up

the rear. They would run around for about five minutes all over the enclosure. Then, like a snake changing directions, Koa would turn and head the exact opposite direction with the other three whipping around to follow. After a few minutes of that, the rear cub would stop, turn the other direction and run. The other three changed direction to follow him. The chase game went on for sometimes an hour or more. Then a nap, then up and at it again - wrestling, then a game of chase.

Hanalei was the athletic one. He climbed the side chain link panels and then walked on all fours across the chain link roof. Cubs do that off and on, but seldom for more than a couple of minutes. Hanalei would do it for sometimes ten minutes while making his way all over the enclosure. Then he would position himself over the log structure where Koa and Patch were sitting and hang upside down swatting paws and grabbing ears. He had a strong grip as they were never able to pull him down.

Their strong bond grew and remained intact right up to the last time we saw them as they left the carrier and wandered off into the woods. It will be very interesting to see if we experience the same things with another group of triplets should we have that opportunity again.



Triplets late summer - Patch - Koa - Hanalei

September, 2014

## PEEPING TOM - VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM

Thanks to the monitor system, we are able to observe the bears 24 hours a day. It's been a long time since Sally sat outside at 3am to see what the bears were doing. Many times while working at 2am or 4am, Sally would look at the monitor and see three or four bears wrestling and chasing around. Once in a while they would get up to eat or drink, but mostly they just played and then went back to sleep.

We also observed a cub whose sibling was never found. Cubs will always merge in with other bears and form friendships, but this cub seemed to select his new sibling whether the other bear agreed or not. It was obvious the cub needed the security of its sibling and became almost a velcro bear. It wasn't random as sometimes happens. He chose the bear and then purposely set out to hound it until it gave in and accepted him as a buddy. Pretty interesting to watch the process play out.

With Jaws and the other injured or sick bears, the monitor system gave us a unique opportunity to watch them without having to stay in the enclosure. It provided us insight into their behavior while sick or during treatment.

They had no inclination to bother stitches or wrappings or wounds. Wrap a cat's leg and you would be lucky if it stayed in place for an hour. The bears seemed quite happy to ignore it all and just go about their daily business. They are so good at healing themselves and with a little help from us can pull off some outstanding successes when it comes to recovery.



We have all heard that an injured wild animal is the most dangerous. Sally commented several times that injured/sick bears, like coyotes are so far the most gentle and accepting of help than any species she has worked with before. Jaws

was 3 years old when we operated on his jaw to close the opening over the nasal cavity (see his story in the chapter Injuries). Yet even when we knew he was in horrible pain, he never threatened or was aggressive in any way. Quite the contrary, he remained gentle, accepting, even sometimes understanding of what was needed. Amazing animal to say the least.

We all knew they played in the swim tub and sometimes we were lucky enough to see some of the action, but never suspected what we saw taking place thanks to the monitor system. Several times four-five-six bears were all in the tub wrestling; one bear grabbing a log from outside & dunking it time and again in the water; a bear would lunge out of the tub, race around the enclosure and then belly flop at full speed back into the tub while water and bears flew everywhere.

One night about 3am, Sally looked up to see a cat lying in wait for a mouse on one of the logs around the swim tub. There are a couple of places a small cat could squeeze between the door and the chain link panel, but it's the first time we've actually seen a cat inside. About five minutes later a bear wandered over to the swim tub to get a drink, spotted the cat, and stopped in his tracks. Sally was up out of her chair and halfway out the door while watching to see what happened. The cat and bear stared at each other for a few seconds. Then the cat moved to a nearby log out of the bear's path and the bear climbed up to the tub, got his drink and left. The cat then returned to his original post to watch for the mouse once again. Either that cat was familiar with the bears & had played out this scene before or the bear was just too lazy at that hour to be bothered with trying to engage a new game. Frankly the cat would have been long gone had he tried and he probably knew it.



September, 2014

## PEEPING TOM - VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM - continued

While the video monitoring system has been one of our most valuable tools, it has also been the one that caused the most difficulty. We couldn't afford one of the \$10,000 systems that would put video directly on our web site. With this system we can record video, edit it, and even take snapshots of any action



Deck enclosure - first outside enclosure. One very tired bear cub.

going on while recording. Overall, it's been great - until 2007. That year we recorded some really amazing video with so many bears. Through an oversight the video did not get backed up first before we copied it to a DVD. Files that would enable us to view the video were not there due to the missing backup step. Since then we have tried every resource, every opportunity to fix the problem. Even the computer software programmers have not been able to give us a solution. We had only one small hope that when the programmers issue a new update the end of 2010, they would include a fix, but that didn't happen. We lost a year's worth of extremely valuable video.



Nap time in the side enclosure

Later on we added cameras & had 12 cameras situated inside the various enclosures - 2 in the front section of the main enclosure, 4 in the back section, 2 in the hibernation enclosure, 2 in the side enclosure, 1 in the deck enclosure, and 1 attached to the enclosure in Sally's office. The hibernation enclosure (aka the juvenile enclosure) also got its own camera. One of the cubs got to it and ripped the wires out. The camera was situated on the chain link roof, looking down into the enclosure. The company that installed the cameras had the wires looped up to the wood roof, but one of them was loose and fell down on the chain link. The picture from the camera went black about 1am & Sally knew immediately it was a "bear thing". Sure enough, the next morning we found wires lying on the floor of the enclosure even though the camera remained in place.

September, 2014

## PEEPING TOM - VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM - continued

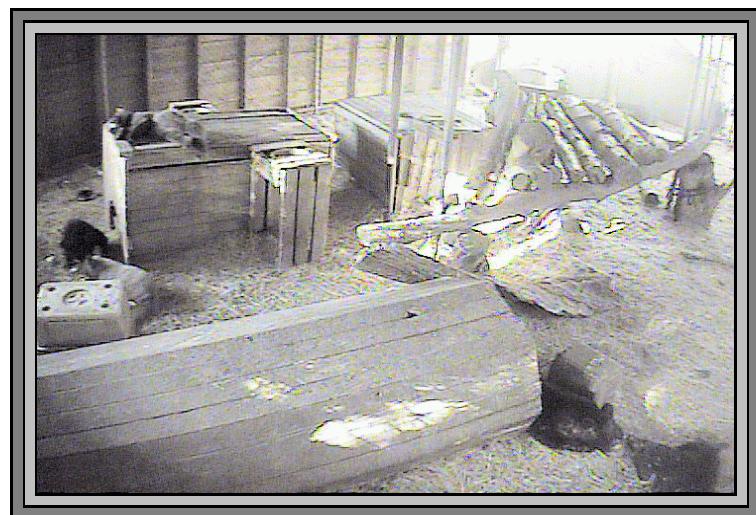
Oddly, that one act helped us resolve a problem no one could figure out. For a period of time prior to that, the pictures on the monitor would start to wobble and fade with streaks of color both horizontal and vertical. It always seemed to happen around 8-9pm at night and one by one they would go out leaving only two at most still active. By 10am the next morning they were functioning normally again. We had lots of leads from video people, but no one figured it out. Then a friend suggested we call someone he knew - immediate identification of the problem.

When the wiring on the camera the bears got to was installed, apparently staples holding it to the roof had punctured the wiring. Eventually, it started failing. At the same time, the power source was too low a voltage so when dusk came that camera started drawing too much power to keep the night vision going. As a result the other cameras failed from the drain on the power supply by this camera. What a mess, but now we had identified the problem. We fixed the wiring on that camera, but in the

process the problems ruined one of the video cards. We barely got that replaced when the bears decided to "help" us again by ripping out the wires to one of the cameras in the main enclosure. As with the other one, a wire fell down on the chain link roof. The video tech is donating his time so when he comes again we will repair that wiring and replace the power supply. We are adjusting the wiring on all the cameras so it's impossible to fall on the chain link roof where little paws can get to it. It's always amazing what the bears will leave alone for years and then suddenly one year they manage to get destroy it.

Sally has begun the process of backing up all the video we have saved the past year. For every hour of video, it takes half again that much time to back it up & save it to a viewable file. If we all live long enough, there will be plenty of new video to put on the web site when done. Until we get the last fixes done, the video quality is very poor so the pictures here are from previous snapshots.

Being able to observe the bears without their knowledge has been invaluable, bringing up new questions and helping us answer old questions about behavior, temperament, relationships, and interactions with each other.



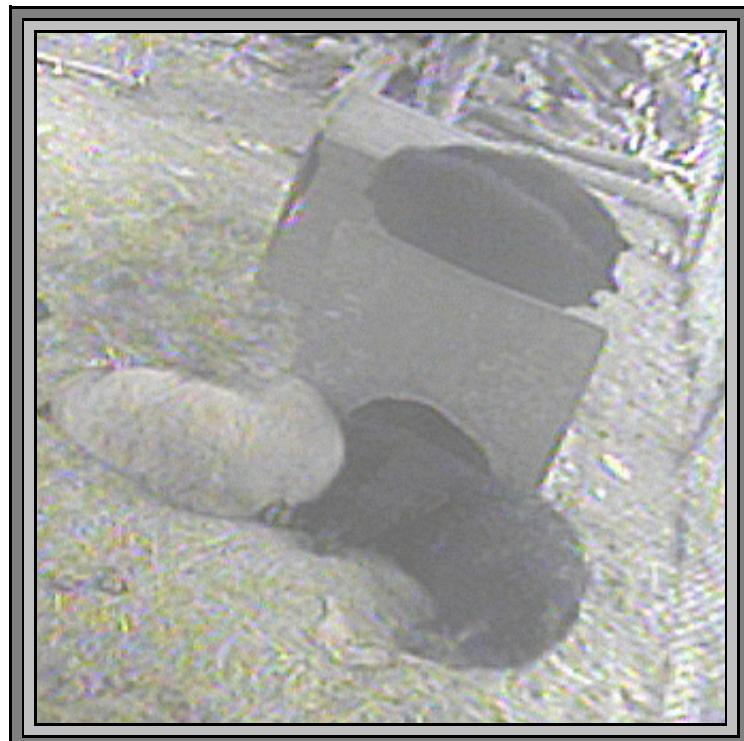
Bears napping - hibernation/juvenile enclosure



Whiskers - July 2010 - just joined WA twins who are hiding behind the slanted board

September, 2014

## PEEPING TOM - VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM - continued



Sep  
tem  
ber,  
201  
4

Picture above taken at 10pm one bear coming  
from swim tub & other bear doing the back rub  
against the pole

## PEEPING TOM - VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM - continued



One very big bear!

September, 2014

## VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM - A NEW ERA

In 2013, our video monitor system began failing in every way possible. We just accepted 7 year old injured female, Kapiolani and her yearling cub, Shadow into the rehab program. It was extremely critical we raise the funding to purchase and install a new system immediately. We had a chance to document an injured adult with her yearling cub in a way no one rehabbing bears (as far as we knew) had the opportunity to do. IBBR felt the learning opportunities were invaluable to our own bear caretakers, our rehab program, other rehabilitators, biologists, and the public. Sally put out the word and so many wonderful people answered the call.

Thanks to Ryan Chris at IP Design who really listened to what IBBR needed and after hours of research he found the right system. By mid-April 2013, we had purchased and installed the system thanks to the donations of so many wonderful caring supporters. Deciding exactly how many cameras and where to place them in each enclosure fell on Sally's shoulders. As the person monitoring the bears 24/7 she knew better than anyone the bears' capabilities to reach and mess with the cameras.

The challenge for Ryan was installing the cameras. We had two cubs in one enclosure that were very curious critters and would welcome the opportunity to steal tools, check out what he was doing & add their own talents to the install the minute his back was turned.

In the main enclosure we had 7 year old injured Kapiolani and her yearling cub who was used to us, but how would she react to this stranger? Her favorite den was just a few feet from where the first camera was being installed.

The den didn't face where he was working, but you can bet she knew exactly where he was working - she just didn't know what he was doing.

Bear caretaker Amy Kidwell

accompanied Ryan each time he entered any of the enclosures. Kapiolani was calm when Amy was around, but she kept a concerned eye on things just the same.



Both Sally & Amy had fun teasing Ryan about being sure to eat lots of proteins as the bears needed their protein fix. He took it all in stride and even though Mom, Kapiolani was in the den closest to where the first camera was being installed, he braved it out. With Amy standing at the base of the ladder, he adjusted the focus and positioned the camera over a two day period. He only remained in the enclosure for an hour at a time to keep from stressing Kapiolani with the presence of this unknown intruder. She was tolerant, but not happy. As long as Shadow stayed in the den with her, she only grumbled and moaned to remind him she was nearby and ruled this enclosure. The rest of the cameras were easier as they were positioned far away from her den. She was a happy bear when things were back to normal and only Amy came in the enclosure. As for the other two cubs in the other enclosure, a stolen screwdriver or wire cutter here and there kept them happy. Then it was a matter of watching them when he was done to see if/how

they might successfully get to the cameras.

September, 2014

## VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM - A NEW ERA - continued

While we are still working on raising the money to put a live video feed on our website, we have extremely high quality snapshots and video recordings. For now we will be using and sharing those in our website, Facebook, brochures, education programs, etc.

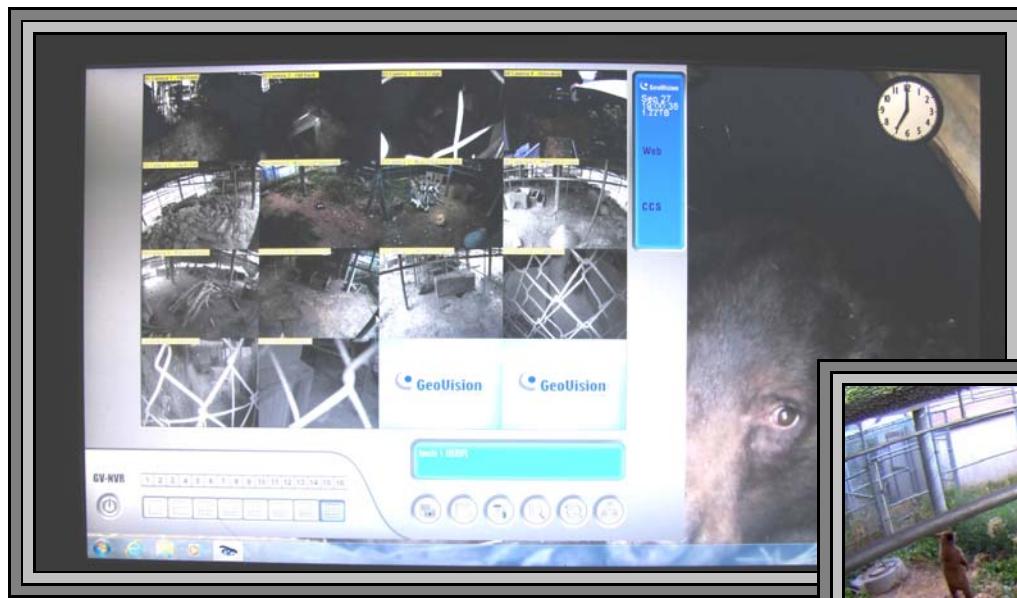


September, 2014

## VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM - A NEW ERA - continued

It's a bit hard to see with a camera picture of the monitor, but we now have 14 cameras, with two more possible. We have 2 in the hibernation enclosure, 2 in the attached side enclosure, 7 in the main enclosure (2 up front & 5 in back),

1 in the enclosure behind the house, 1 in the deck enclosure, and 1 facing the entrance to the property. We can view all 14 at once or any number at the same time or 1 camera only. We can record by motion detection or select record for whatever period of time needed.



**Kapiolani in tub & Shadow digging in logs**

September, 2014

## WHISKERS - MEETING THE CHALLENGE

by Sally Maughan

Wildlife rehabilitators are constantly faced with different challenges. Many work with different species and each animal of each species has his or her own personality and needs. While we can identify common factors in caring for a particular species, we can't predict the injuries or special needs of any one individual. There are so many factors that play a part in helping a special needs animal. We can and do pull from past experiences of all kinds - similar - same - different. We take what we can from each and try to determine how best to help this particular animal.

When Whiskers arrived, I really had no idea what was to come. It didn't seem different than many of the stories of orphaned cubs that come to IBBR. Sometimes we know the whole story, sometimes only part, and sometimes we know nothing at all. At times even what we do know is questionable as to whether we have all the facts. I knew he had been picked up by someone as an orphan. I knew they cared for him for an unknown period of time and in an unknown scenario before calling Fish & Wildlife. People with good hearts and intentions helped save this orphaned cub, but how long did it take before they realized raising a bear cub was not easy? What did they feed him - how often did they feed him? Did they let friends and family handle and play with him? Did they leave him confined by himself in a room or vari-kennel for long periods of time after a lot of handling? I didn't have the answers for those questions.



I knew Fish & Wildlife placed him temporarily with someone who knew how to care for wildlife until we could arrange transport to IBBR. It was a few days after that when our transport team left to bring him to IBBR. We made arrangements to pick him up after returning from another bear release. Whiskers arrived June 5 and the drama began. That night I put him in the indoor enclosure in my office so I could keep a close eye on him. His weight was reported to be 10 pounds and I wasn't very concerned since I knew he had been fed appropriately the past few days. It really just seemed a matter of settling him in, making him feel safe secure in this new environment, and giving him time to grow.

The next morning he had his first vet check. He only weighed 6 pounds and had a touch of pneumonia. Now the concern level increased. The vet put him on antibiotics for the next two weeks. He was a bit thin and scared so we added Nutra Cal to his diet. I knew the formula we used would help him

enormously, but the Nutra Cal would give him a boost as well. A week later another vet check showed he still had some pneumonia so the antibiotics would continue as planned for another week. At the next vet check the pneumonia was gone. He loved going to the vet because they always treated him to more Nutra Cal.



As far as eating, he did great - he took to the formula immediately, loved the Nutra Cal, ate the fruit, and looked forward to the blueberries from straining the Wilderness Blueberry Pie Filling that we used in the formula. He gained weight from 6 pounds, to 8 pounds, to 14 pounds and kept going strong from there.

September, 2014

## WHISKERS - MEETING THE CHALLENGE - continued

It was everything else that became the challenge from day one. First he lost his mom, then he was with people who had no idea what to do with a bear cub, then with people who knew what to do, but still another traumatic change in his short life. Finally he was transported to IBBR and yet another frightening change was taking place. In his short life he first experienced the trauma of losing his mom. No one knows what happened or what he witnessed. Was his mom shot or poached - was she attacked by another bear and separated - did she die of some natural cause - did she simply abandon him as sometimes can happen? Regardless of how it happened, it's always traumatic for a cub to find himself orphaned, alone, scared, hungry with no idea what to do or where to go and threatened by everything around him with no protection from mom.

Cubs held in the indoor enclosure in my office are able to see me at all times. My desk is only five feet away, clearly visible and the bed is right next to the enclosure. There never have been any problems with cubs in that enclosure as long as cubs could see me. When Lelani, my bear dog died it was a huge loss both for me personally and single cubs. She filled a big hole in their life as a sibling bear, another foster mom, and a protector. When it came time to go to the outdoor enclosures she went with the cub until another bear arrived to take her place. I had to work and couldn't spend 24 hours a day with them, but she could. It prevented a lot of problems with single cubs and gave them the security they needed while I wasn't with them. They still saw me as their foster mom, but didn't have the anxiety of separation during the time I couldn't spend with them.



**Rolling around on his stuffed teddy bear**

the door he began playing and climbing around in the enclosure. So I quietly and slowly moved back to my desk. Then he looked up, saw me at the desk and went nuts. He paced back and forth at a frantic pace. I really thought he would wear himself out and stop. It didn't stop - he kept it up until it was time for his bottle again. I thought once we had a routine in place he would settle in, realize I was only a few feet from him and all would be well. The pacing was a concern because of the pneumonia - that couldn't be good for him. Over the next week, I would work for half an hour while he paced, then sit with him for half an hour while he played and ignored me. I tried to get my normal 3 hours sleep, thinking once the lights were out he would stop. After all, he did sleep soundly the first night, knew I was there the

The first night Whiskers was so exhausted he ate and fell asleep. I worked until about 4am and then retired. He never even woke up until about 730am. I remember so innocently getting up to warm his bottle and prepare his food. He took the bottle, took the food, took the antibiotics, and took the Nutra Cal. I spent about an hour with him just to let him know I wasn't going away. There is a chair right by the enclosure door so I sat there while he played and tossed a plastic cup around. Then it was time for me to get to work. I'll never forget that moment as it was the last peaceful moment I had for a long time.

I shut the door, moved over to my desk and he immediately went into a pacing mode. So back I went knowing he just needed some reassurance. The minute I sat down and opened

## WHISKERS - MEETING THE CHALLENGE - continued

minute he woke up the next morning. That didn't work and my 3 hours of sleep were spent sitting in the chair by the enclosure door. He would fall asleep, but there was no sneaking away. It was an overwhelming two weeks. Nothing I tried worked. I had someone else sit in the chair, but the pacing continued. I gave him one of my shirts to keep my scent always with him and while he played with it, the pacing continued. I even resorted to putting a mannequin on the chair with one of my shirts on it. I knew it was pretty silly, but I was desperate. I used to call Lelani a velcro dog because she would never leave my sight for the first 8 months after I adopted her from the Humane Society. Whiskers was a velcro bear in the extreme.

Finally what did work, was to feed him, sit with him for an hour while he played, let him pace for half an hour, and then put him in a small vari-kennel that didn't permit him to pace. He would actually fall asleep and nap so I was able to get some work done. I hated keeping him in that small vari-kennel, but worse I hated to see him pacing and frantic. The vari-kennel sat under my desk with my foot touching the door and he really seemed content despite the confined area. I had to wonder if during all his many days of whatever happened before he came to IBBR, perhaps a small vari-kennel was the only time he felt any sense of safety or security.

Feed, play for an hour, pace for half an hour, move to the vari-kennel until the next feeding time - that was the daily schedule. Whenever I finished work and planned to get some sleep, I would give him his last feeding for the night, let him play for half an hour, and then move him to the vari-kennel. The vari-kennel sat on the bed beside me while I slept....well, tried to sleep. All I could think of was if there were any spiders that had managed to get in the vari-kennel. Not afraid of bears, but terrified of spiders!



When the vet said his pneumonia was gone after about two weeks, I decided to try again to get him to accept me working at my desk while he remained in the enclosure. A few days later, after the 1pm feeding and an hour of letting him play, I shut the door and sat down at my desk. As expected, he began pacing. He paced almost non-stop until the next feeding, but I was determined to win this battle. At 5pm, I fed him again, sat with him for an hour while he played, then repeated the move back to my desk. He paced until the next feeding. That was the last feeding of the night so I stayed with him until he fell asleep while playing footsie with the stuffed teddy bear. Cubs can be light sleepers or they can sleep so deeply you can actually clip toenails without waking them. There was no sound sleep for him - he heard me the instant I tried to sneak away. Back to the vari-kennel (only a little bigger one now) and back to sitting it on the bed next to me. I tried to stay determined and we went another two days of letting him pace until it was obvious I was losing that battle and he was suffering needlessly.

Back to the original routine. When it came time for him to move to the deck enclosure during the day

September, 2014

## WHISKERS - MEETING THE CHALLENGE - continued

I expected the worst. He could hear me, but couldn't see me so in his mind the situation became even worse. However, it had to happen as he was way to active for the indoor enclosure. I decided to put

Sierra, the police dog outside first next to the deck enclosure. She isn't a bear dog and has no desire to be around them, but he knew her and she was a "live body". Sierra views her job as protecting me and a bear can't be good for my health so she gets equally as frantic whenever I'm with a bear. Between her whining and his bawling and pacing, I was ready to put me in a vari-kennel and shut the door.



I moved Whiskers to the deck enclosure, stayed with him for an hour, and then successfully snuck back inside. He was totally absorbed with the new environment. I watched him on the monitor and he didn't show any signs of pacing or anxiety. I couldn't believe the luck and I couldn't imagine why his behavior was so different. Not once did he pace or bawl the whole day. At night I brought him back inside and that was to be our routine. The next day I moved him from

the nighttime vari-kennel into the indoor enclosure, fed him, let him play for an hour, and then outside we went. Again I watched him on the monitor. He loved the water bucket and played in it and dumped all his toys in it. He played, he ate, he played again, he napped - all very normal. The third day it all changed. Something happened, but I'll never know what it was. Whiskers suddenly started pacing and bawling and never stopped. I had been giving him his bottle through the chain link door and he was fine with that, but there was no sneaking away. The next week was a nightmare for both of us and there was no resolution. He had to stay out there so he paced until he was exhausted, slept for half an hour, then paced again. The only time the poor cub got any relief was at night in the vari-kennel in the house. It was the exact same vari-kennel as in the deck enclosure, but that didn't seem to matter to him.

Finally, desperate to get him with the other bears, we moved the WA twins back into the side enclosure and moved Whiskers in with them. He was very scared and my heart went out to him. I stayed with him for several hours, gave him his bottle and food, tried to reassure him the routine would continue. He stayed under my chair and only ventured out a few times and only a foot or two away. The twins more or less ignored him. When I left for a couple of hours, he paced at the doorway for just a minute or two and then walked back to be closer to the twins. I watched on the monitor as they did their normal dancing around with each other, wanting to play, but he was afraid. The twins then started napping on top of one of the dens and he immediately began pacing. It was obvious he felt abandoned again. The days were long and difficult with repeated attempts by the male WA bear to play with Whiskers and his running inside a den.



Whiskers realizes as he walks by that the twins are inside the den.

September, 2014

## WHISKERS - MEETING THE CHALLENGE - continued

However, the male WA cub was determined and very willing to let Whiskers take his time. At one point, the WA cub laid out flat on the ground on his back and remained totally still while Whiskers got brave enough to play with the cub's foot. I watched somewhat amazed as the WA cub never moved for probably 5 minutes - a very long time for an active bear cub. It was so obvious he knew Whiskers was a special case and he was willing to be patient and do whatever it took to make Whiskers trust him.

From that one single act of trust, Whiskers began to chase and play with the male. It took longer with the female as she wasn't especially interested in whether Whiskers played with her or not. In time came the games of chase with both the twins, the swatting and don't get too close. Eventually all 3 played and wrestled together. The big question for me was when would Whiskers sleep with the twins. He had finally stopped pacing when they slept and he would sleep in the den below them, but wouldn't sleep with them. I strongly felt that was the one remaining hurdle to his fully merging and becoming a bear. It was probably 3 weeks after we put him with the twins before that happened. The first time I saw it I was thrilled. Whiskers was sleeping in the den below the twins and they climbed down, went in the den with him and that was that. From that day forward we had a bear and his days of being a velcro bear attached to me were done.

I decided then to have one of the caretakers do the bottle feeding. He remained on the bottle much longer than normal due to his size and rocky start. Normally I do all the bottle feeding, but I felt this time it would be good for him to have someone else do that job. It would show him that his world remained the same and he was okay even though I wasn't always there. It turned out to be the right decision and he continued to grow and develop into an independent bear. It was hard for me to stay away after that, but I did. You would think after the nightmare of having to be right next to him 24 hours a day, I would be glad to be done with him. I was, but of course your heart goes out to a bear that is so needy. I was happy just watching him each day on the monitors.

The 3 cubs moved back in with the other bears and finally everyone was merged in the main enclosure being bears. Whiskers is a bit of a bully insisting he wants to wrestle even if the others don't. He has a funny gait or kind of bunny lope to his run so he is easy to recognize on the monitor. About 3 later I had to go out to check the camera and he was in the back part of the enclosure. I tried to sneak out & peek around the corner, but he spotted me. He came running up to the corner so I stood and talked to him for about five minutes. He was obviously happy to see me and I admit I was glad to have those few minutes with him. When I left, he began to pace, but it lasted all of a minute before he forgot me and ran back to be with the other bears. He grew even bigger than the WA twin so he was doing just fine. It's hard to say what lasting impact all the trauma he went through will have on him. I seriously doubted for a long time that we would ever be able to release him, but he has proven he can be a bear. No one can say what will happen in his life as a free bear or what memories might stay with him. The good news is he will be released with his buddies the twins and the other bears and have a second chance at freedom. He won't be alone until he is ready to be alone. He can wander around with one of them until he decides it's time to go his own way when released.

While I thought he was going to drive me to drink and have never been so exhausted, worried, frustrated, and feeling helpless, now I wouldn't trade the experience for all the world. Someone at Fish & Game commented they didn't know what there was to learn after 20 years. I hope I'm learning until the day I die and I know I learned a lot from him. He reinforced my faith in a bear knowing what a bear is all about. He just needed more time and care to get to that point. I was so blessed to be there for him and will always treasure my time with him no matter what happens in the future. He has a second chance to take charge of his own life and that's what it is all about. For me, being there to help him get that second chance was what it's about. Regardless of the outcome for Whiskers, I hope I'm there for the next Whiskers.



Whiskers on the hay - WA male twin on the den

September, 2014

## KAPIOLANI AND HER YEARLING CUB SHADOW - THEIR STORY

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 started out like any other normal day in life. There was never a hint or clue that this day would begin a once in a lifetime journey that I never imagined possible. For twenty four years I managed the Idaho Black Bear Rehab program, rehabilitating and releasing orphaned and injured cubs - mostly cubs of the year, a few yearlings, and rarely a two year old bear.

On this day, I was sitting at my desk working as I did every day. If I wasn't working at my job, I was doing IBBR duties. While baby bears do arrive in January or February, it's unusual as they would normally still be in the den with mom. So when the phone rang, I expected it to be the office. Instead I heard "Will your enclosure hold an adult bear?" Since state wildlife agencies don't consider adults or even yearling bears as candidates for rehab, I was thinking some zoo, sanctuary, or Humane Society must have a bear they need to relocate.

Those words were followed by the information that Fish & Game had captured a 7 year old female with an injured front leg.....and by the way, she has a yearling cub with her. I can only compare it to what people must feel and think if they see a UFO - I see it, but I don't believe it. Well, I heard it, but I didn't believe it. Not in this lifetime or maybe even the next few lifetimes (if there is such a thing) did I expect to hear those words.



Both mom and cub arrived the next day about noon. She had been shot in the leg around the elbow area & the bullet had traveled down her leg and out her wrist. The wrist was locked in a sort of high-five



position. Since the leg wouldn't support her & she couldn't use it, she was carrying her whole front leg by holding it up against her side. The state wildlife vet tranquilized her, cleaned the still open wound, gave her antibiotics, and stitched up the wound as best he could considering there wasn't much tissue.

During all this, her cub remained in another carrier a short distance away. No doubt he was frustrated that he was being kept away from mom. We learned that the cub had been showing up at houses looking for food. Eventually Fish & Game set a trap for him, but instead they caught mom. She had been part of a study program prior to this. The last time they changed her radio collar she weighed 160 lbs. Now she weighed only 80 lbs. They captured the cub a day or two later. Now both were at IBBR and the amazing journey began for the bears and all of us.



September, 2014

## KAPIOLANI AND HER YEARLING CUB SHADOW - THEIR STORY - continued

We placed mom on a nice soft bed of grass hay in front of one of the culvert dens (den's half buried in the ground) until she woke up from the tranquilizer. We released the cub into the enclosure too. At first he ran around unsure of what to do or where to go. Then he saw mom and made a beeline for her. He sat next to her and just waited along with us watching from out of sight. Finally some stirring, a head raised and lowered, a foot moved. Then after what seemed like forever, she started to get up, laid back down, tried again, and finally settled for just sitting in an upright position.



make sure she was still there. After filling his stomach, he did something amazing. I have witnessed this with other cubs from time to time. When we have a very shy cub, sometimes another cub will pick up an apple or dog food kernels and take them over to the shy bear. I just never imagined it would happen between a cub and his mother. He collected a bunch of dog kernels in his mouth and went directly over to mom, dropping all of it on the ground by her head. She looked down at it, but was still too wobbly to eat. After another hour of testing her 3 remaining legs, standing up, turning around, walking a few steps, she returned to the pile of dog food and ate it, her cub right by her side. It's a visual moment that will live in my memory forever.

We have all heard that an injured wild animal can be dangerous. We also know a mother bear with cubs can be dangerous. Here we had both situations in one - now what? What can we expect? Normally one of the bear caretakers can handle all the feeding and cleaning and the rambunctious cubs. This situation dictated that we have two caretakers - one to feed and clean and the other just to watch mom and her behavior with us moving around in the enclosure. Our budget didn't call for that and we knew it would create a big shortage down the road, but for the safety of both bears and people we had to do it.



each day, mom began to accept our feeding and cleaning as just normal everyday stuff and not threatening to her or the cub. As time progressed we would attempt to pick up scat closer to whatever den she chose for the day. She seemed to understand and often would just watch us closely, but not threaten us. We also learned that regardless of which den she was in, there was a line drawn in the dirt - some days closer to her and some days farther from her and we were not to cross that line, scat or no scat. We always respected that invisible line the minute she gave us "that look" or woofed at us. Rarely did she raise her body and step out of the den as if to reinforce what she was warning.

At that point her cub apparently felt she was okay so he started to investigate his new world. He quickly discovered the dry dog food and began munching away, just occasionally looking back at mom to

The established rules were keep to the same routine every day - movements, time of day, activities, and same routes inside the enclosure. Routine can be accepted and understood. Erratic movements and actions can be threatening. Get in and out as quickly as possible. If mom appears to be nervous and shows any signs of being threatened, just leave the food, don't pick up the scat, and get out. With her cub in tow, we all agreed she needed to feel she & her cub were safe regardless of how things appeared. She needed to feel in control & to know we were listening to her.

It worked! Although we kept two people on duty each day, mom began to accept our feeding and cleaning as just normal everyday stuff and not threatening to her or the cub. As time progressed we would attempt to pick up scat closer to whatever den she chose for the day. She seemed to understand and often would just watch us closely, but not threaten us. We also learned that regardless of which den she was in, there was a line drawn in the dirt - some days closer to her and some days farther from her and we were not to cross that line, scat or no scat. We always respected that invisible line the minute she gave us "that look" or woofed at us. Rarely did she raise her body and step out of the den as if to reinforce what she was warning.

## KAPIOLANI AND HER YEARLING CUB SHADOW - THEIR STORY - continued

She had her favorite den, but unfortunately, the favorite den had to change depending on how much scat collected inside, what was going on, and her independent cub. For the first several weeks, she would remain in the den during daylight and only come out at night. That meant leave the scat at one entrance and use the other to go in and out. Thankfully, it

was still very cool so we felt it was more important not to force her out of the den to clean. One we found she had moved to another den. We took advantage of the opportunity to clean the previous den and let it air out before adding some clean dirt. We laughed as she moved back into the den once we did all that work. It was as though she saw us picking up scat each day & decided she wanted that to happen in the den too, but smart enough to know she couldn't tolerate our being "that" close and we weren't stupid enough to try that anyway. So she moved and got herself a fully cleaned den. That was the process during the whole time she remained with us.

We named her Kapiolani after a Hawaiian Queen who was very admired and respected. Queen Kapiolani took special interest in helping pregnant mothers and we thought that was an appropriate name for mom bear. We named her male yearling cub Shadow because he always shadowed her - where she went, he went. What she did, he did.....until that stage where parents no longer know what they are talking about and the kids know it all. Then Shadow became a very independent, determined, feisty critter who constantly challenged mom's orders.

He quickly figured out that when we showed up, good things would appear. Kapiolani would be in the den and had no intentions of letting him out of the den while we were in the enclosure, food or no food. He would groan and moan and grumble and try all sorts of shenanigans to get out. She would threaten him, block him, and finally just lie on top of him or pin him to the side of the den with her weight.

Whenever we heard a lot of vocalizing, we knew it was him complaining because mom wouldn't let him out to play...or eat. Once we left the enclosure she would let him come out. How she managed to control her cub with her injury and being so weak was beyond us.

While we always had 2 bear caretakers when anyone went inside the enclosure, Amy Kidwell was the primary bear caretaker and her duties of cleaning and feeding and the routine she kept established more of a sense of trust from mom for her than anyone else. We could see it in her behavior around Amy compared to the others. We knew it must have been a real challenge for her so we decided to give her a helping hand if she would accept it. When Shadow would manage to get out of the den despite her efforts, Amy would stomp our foot lightly and give him her best gruff bear voice ordering him to get away. He always ran back to the den. The first



couple of times, mom woofed at her and came part way out of the den, but it didn't take long for her to understand that we weren't threatening her cub, we were "encouraging" him to get back in the den just as she wanted. After that she just laid quietly in the den and let us send Shadow back in the den whenever he managed to get away from her.

September, 2014

## KAPIOLANI AND HER YEARLING CUB SHADOW - THEIR STORY - continued

As we have with both starved cubs and the injured/starved two-year old bears, we provided her with our bear formula. We placed a gallon in a small bucket hooked to the chain link. Shadow found it first and helped himself even though he didn't need it and was weaned. Once Kapiolani discovered it, that ended - Shadow rarely got any as she consumed it all. As with the other older bears, she went for it first before eating anything else. Gradually she worked up to two gallons a day and then decreased back down to very little. There were a couple of times when we peeked in the den & saw what appeared to be Shadow nursing on Kapiolani and heard that nursing chortling. It didn't seem possible, but who knows.



Over the weeks, we observed her feeling better, coming out during the day, even halfway playing with Shadow. She always held her leg up against her side, but with each day she moved with more ease. At one point Shadow was on the other side of the enclosure and a neighbor's dog had managed to squeeze out of his yard into the pasture behind the enclosure. Shadow was frightened and started to whine. Kapiolani who had been in a den nearby, came darting out and within seconds ran at a very fast clip over to Shadow. We were amazed at how fast she could move with her injured leg. Now that she had regained some weight and strength, it was easy to see she felt in control of both her and her cub again.

In March, the state wildlife vet came to take Kapiolani to a surgeon to see if that frozen wrist could be fixed so she would have use of that leg. While she was gone, Shadow was obviously upset and kept searching for her. We had shut the divider gate between the front & back of the enclosure when we left with her. The last place he saw his mom was going through that gate so he waited there until something startled him and he ran for a den and hid. When we returned with her, we placed her in the back part and left. We monitored her with the camera system until she came out of the

September, 2014

## KAPIOLANI AND HER YEARLING CUB SHADOW - THEIR STORY - continued

tranquilizer. The minute we left, Shadow ran over to her, paced around her, nudged her, laid on her, did all he could to make her get up. I'm sure she was wishing he would stop and just let her rest after her ordeal. At one point he went and found a blue ball and rolled it over to her. He kept pushing it to her as if he expected her to push it back. Finally he just pushed it over to her nose and left it there, and laid down beside her. It was heart-wrenching to watch as he probably thought she was dead again as I'm sure he thought when we first reunited them. He was delighted when she got up and started walking and like his name indicated, he shadowed her everywhere for a few days. Wonder if she was thinking "so that's how you control an unruly cub - disappear for a few hours and then play dead". He was definitely a good cub for a few days.

You can view more pictures of Kapiolani's injuries and visit to WestVet on the chapter titled Injuries - Page 28i-28j

The tests at the clinic revealed that the wrist could not be fixed. The open wound on her wrist & leg looked better, but was still open. The question then became should her leg be amputated? It was useless to her and banging around in woods and brush and rocks could only inflict pain. We had a preview of that one evening when she went to step over a log and banged her bad leg. In the monitor I was watching her and saw her whole body quivered horribly. We agonized over the situation. She had gained weight and was healthy again and obviously in control of her actions and her cub, but how best to release her, with a useless leg or an amputated leg.

After she returned from the clinic, Kapiolani began getting in the swim tub and sitting there for half an hour or more. We figured the cool water eased her aches and pains and probably felt good on her leg. We wondered how she managed to get in with one bad leg, but she used a thick tree limb we stuck in the tub as a support and quickly figured it out. When it came time to get out, she would use her hind legs to propel her over the top of the tub onto the stack of logs around it. Shadow would wait patiently for her while she soaked. His time in the swim tub was during the day when mom was sleeping in the den.



Before any decision about amputation or not, Fish & Game wanted to release her back into her home territory. The forest service had to give their approval and were reluctant. Due to lack of communication all we knew was they wanted to release her and the cub with a useless leg, a still open wound, & hunting season starting. We had little notice and felt no one was addressing our concerns about her being ready for release. We felt responsible for her and the cub since they were in our rehab program and did not agree with what appeared to be an irresponsible decision. Eventually we were able to meet with Fish & Game. They listened to our concerns and gave us their reasoning for the timing of the release. After much discussion we felt the pros outweighed the cons. Everyone I spoke with who works with bears said releasing her in her

home territory was a definite advantage to offset the fact her leg was useless. If the forest service agreed to the release at this time, we should take advantage of it. As for hunting season, her home territory was in a gated area far back in the wilderness and hunters would have to walk in so it wasn't heavily hunted. They agreed to have the state wildlife vet look at her open wound again.

September, 2014

## KAPIOLANI AND HER YEARLING CUB SHADOW - THEIR STORY - continued

May 13<sup>th</sup> came and after tranquilizing her and cleaning the wound, it did look 90% better than when we last saw it. It was almost completely healed over and we could see the healing process was continuing on the small spot that remained open. Amputation wasn't favored by Fish & Game and with the open wound almost completely healed, we decided it was time to let Kapiolani take charge of her own life. Normally we deal with orphaned cubs and she was an adult who had lived her life through 7 years of hunting seasons and the many challenges bears face. We needed to think outside the box and give her credit for being an adult and capable of taking care of herself and her cub now. While she probably would have died if she hadn't received help, now she was healthy and capable and deserved her second chance at freedom and to go back to her home.

You can view pictures of her trip to WestVet in the chapter titled Injuries - page 28i through 28j.



Caretaker Amy Kidwell went on the release. Shadow went out first followed by Kapiolani and both were out of sight in the woods in a matter of seconds. Shadow did hesitate and look back, but probably just wondering if his mom was coming too. You can view the brief (very brief) videos on our Facebook page.

Emotions ran very high on release day. Everyone, especially Kapiolani worked hard for that day so happiness, joy, and excitement were on the top of our list. Worry, hope, questions, and concerns were also part of the day when it came to the future. How would she do - could she maintain her weight and hibernate this winter - would she try to breed again this year & end up supporting another cub in spring - could she manage to take care of herself and another cub - would Shadow (who was ready to

be on his own anyway) stay with her for longer than usual - how would she manage with her useless leg now? So many questions and no answers.

Fish and Game did replace her radio collar before release, but were unable to get her signal until July. While they didn't see her, the collar indicating she was moving around so alive and hopefully doing well. With no further information provided to us despite repeated asking, we can only assume there were no further attempts to track her and the radio collar just dropped off at some point.

While Kapiolani and Shadow were definitely a challenge in so many ways, they were also the most special experience of my life and I think that of the other bear caretakers too. None of us will ever forget them and the lessons they taught us, the gifts of trust and acceptance Kapiolani gave us during her weakened state, and the honor of being able to help Kapiolani during her desperate fight to recover. I look back and realize she probably would have died and I wonder if, like any mother, she worried more about her cub than herself. She definitely lived up to her namesake, Queen Kapiolani.



September, 2014

## KAPIOLANI AND HER YEARLING CUB SHADOW - THEIR STORY - continued

We hope their story and the photos will let you share in their lives and experience a little of the amazing journey we all went through. Now IBBR must continue to look to the future, continue to raise the necessary funds to be here for other cubs who won't be lucky enough to have their mom with them, who are orphaned, scared, injured and desperately need help too. **AND, HOPEFULLY IN THE FUTURE**, to be here to help another injured adult who is lucky enough to have an officer show compassion and get the bear into rehab.

Perhaps, Kapiolani & Shadow's story will pave the way and open the door for other adult bears who are injured to receive rehab and a second chance at freedom. While state wildlife agencies deal with populations, populations consist of individuals. We can learn from each individual and perhaps, just perhaps manage our wild bear populations and educate the public on how to live with bears and decrease or eliminate the human-bear conflict situations. It has been proven by those doing bear rehab today that the assumption all rehab bears can't be successfully released back into the population is false.

Wildlife rehabilitators have been criticized for having compassion, for caring about the individual, for having a heart while rehabbing and working with wildlife. These animals are just numbers, data, they don't have personalities, and they certainly don't need names or stories. Perhaps those who criticize could walk in our shoes and experience what we experience. If they did just once, it would be hard to deny the reality.

While IBBR may never see another adult with her cub, a part of Kapiolani and Shadow will always be with us and I have no doubt a piece of us remains with them too. I will treasure her time in my own life as one of the most precious experiences I've been blessed to have in my lifetime. I thank Kapiolani for her gift of trust at a time when trust should have been impossible to give.

Sally Maughan



September, 2014

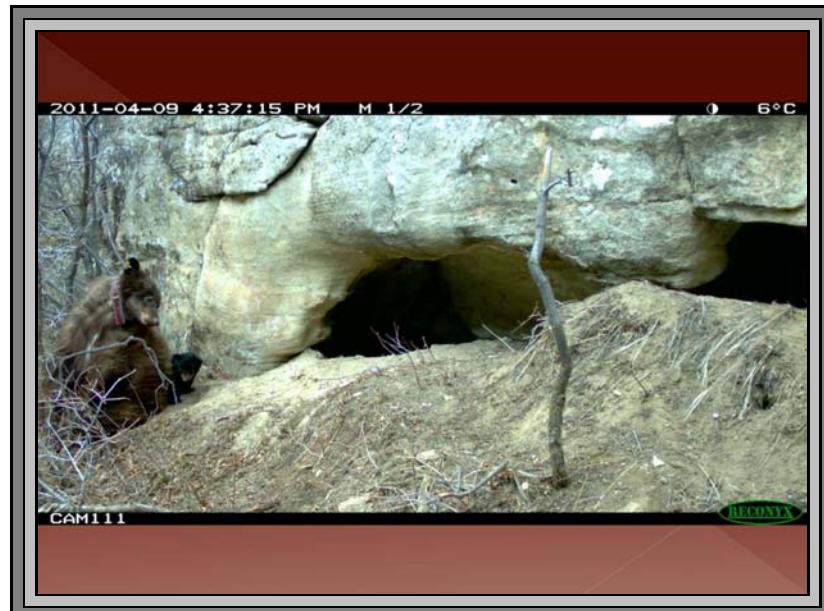
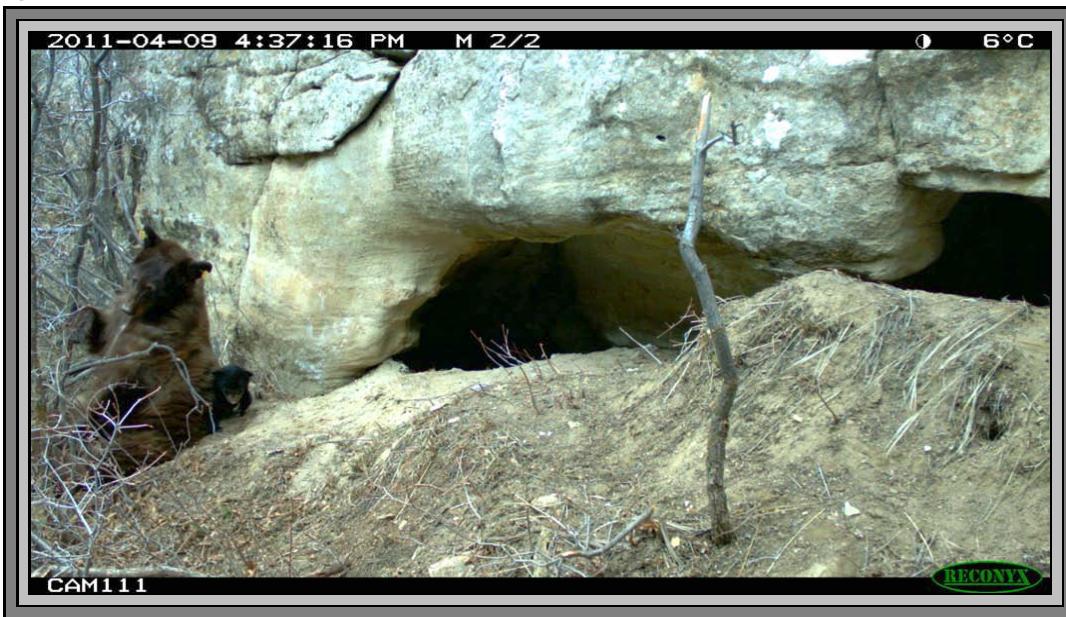
## ROSY FINCH (KOHALA)- A TRUE SUCCESS STORY

In 2005 we sent 14 rehab bears back to Utah, 5 females and 9 males. They were cubs that came in during 2004 & held for spring release. Utah did an excellent follow-up study with these bears and you can find the report on our website in the [Professionals Corner](#). Check out the PDF update notes on the 2005 Release Data report that were updated in 2012. Also below that is information updated in 2006. Not all the bears were IBBR rehab bears on the 2006 update.

In wildlife rehab it's often difficult to get any feedback once an animal is released unless they are tagged or have a radio collar as the bears do. Even then for most of us it depend on state wildlife agencies for any tracking information. Most of us just don't have the funds to hire it done or experienced volunteers to take on the task. So we are especially grateful when state agencies provide us with feedback on the cubs released. Utah and Washington have been exceptionally helpful in this way.

We were thrilled to get an e-mail in May 2012 from Utah with pictures of Rosy Finch and her cubs. We named her Kohala when she arrived at IBBR on 10/13/04 along with 2 males. She had a small cut on her leg and was the larger of 3 cubs we received from Utah that day.

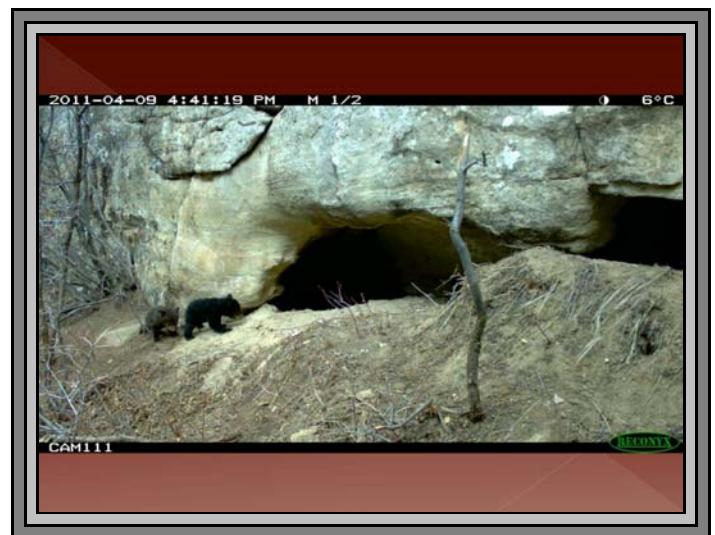
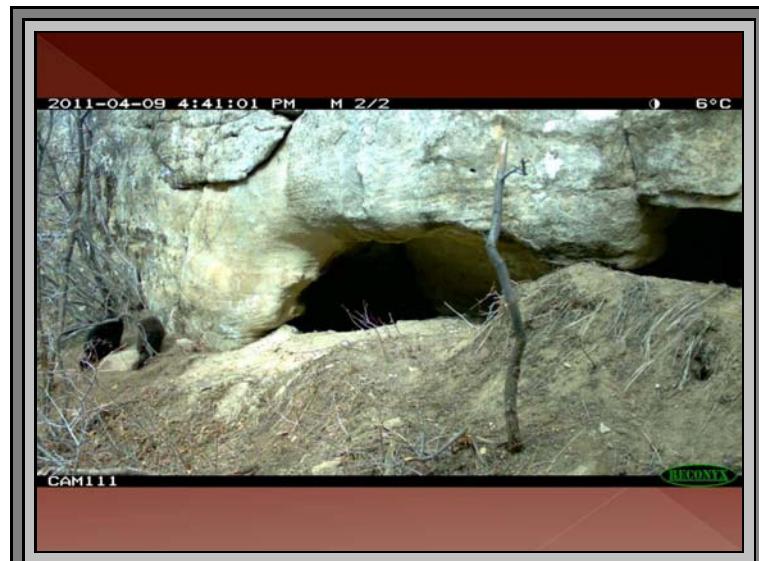
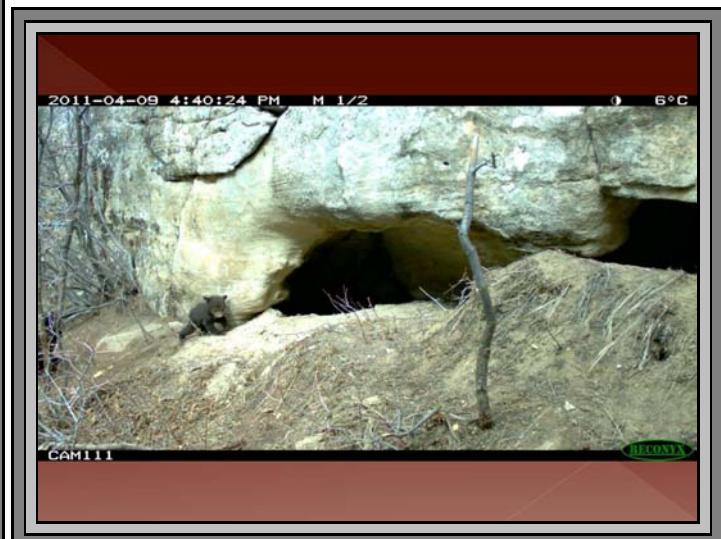
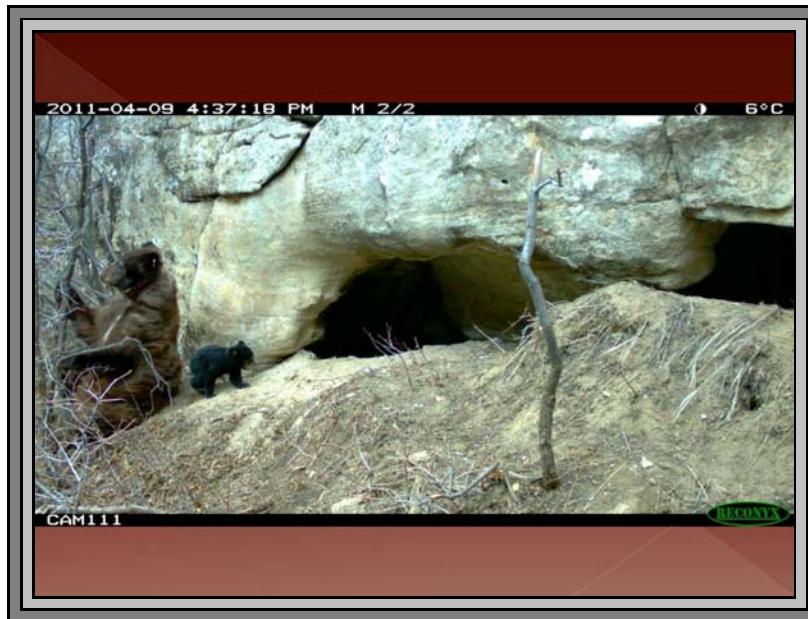
Below are some of the photos taken of Rosy Finch and her cubs at the den she choose. Everyone says it's important they take their place in the population. Well, not only did she do that successfully, she successfully added to the population. What a wonderful gift from her and from Utah - THANK YOU UTAH! Does this make us grandparents.....



September, 2014

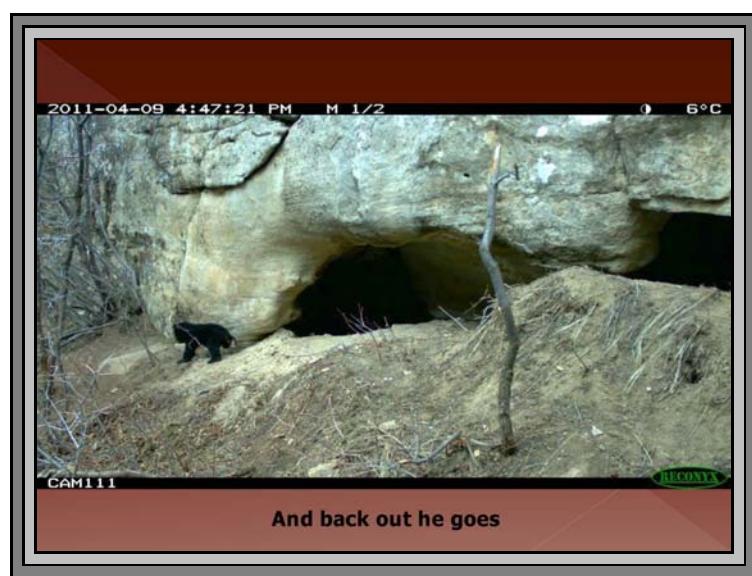
# ROSY FINCH (KOHALA)- A TRUE SUCCESS STORY

These pictures were taken in April, 2009 - 4 years after release



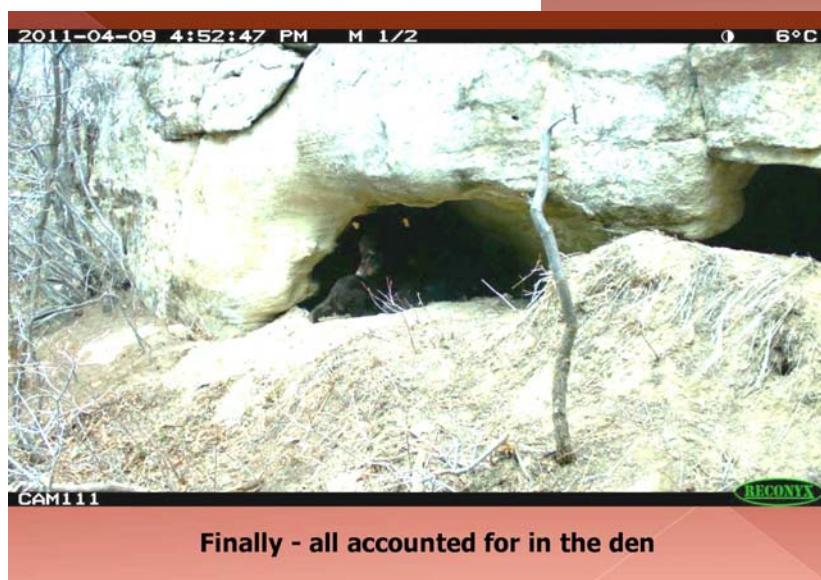
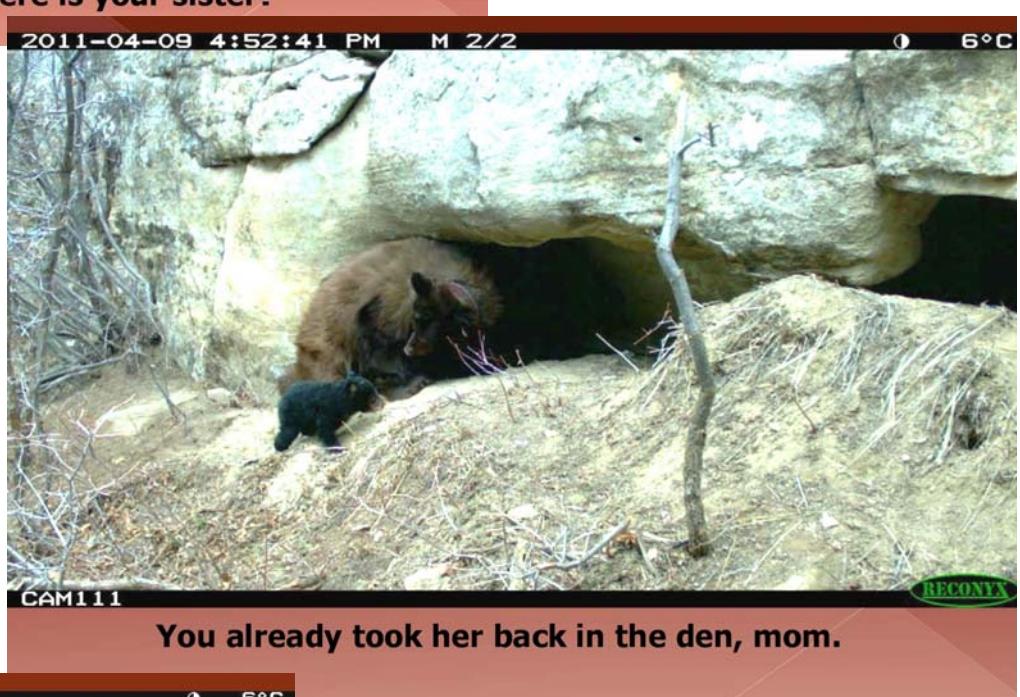
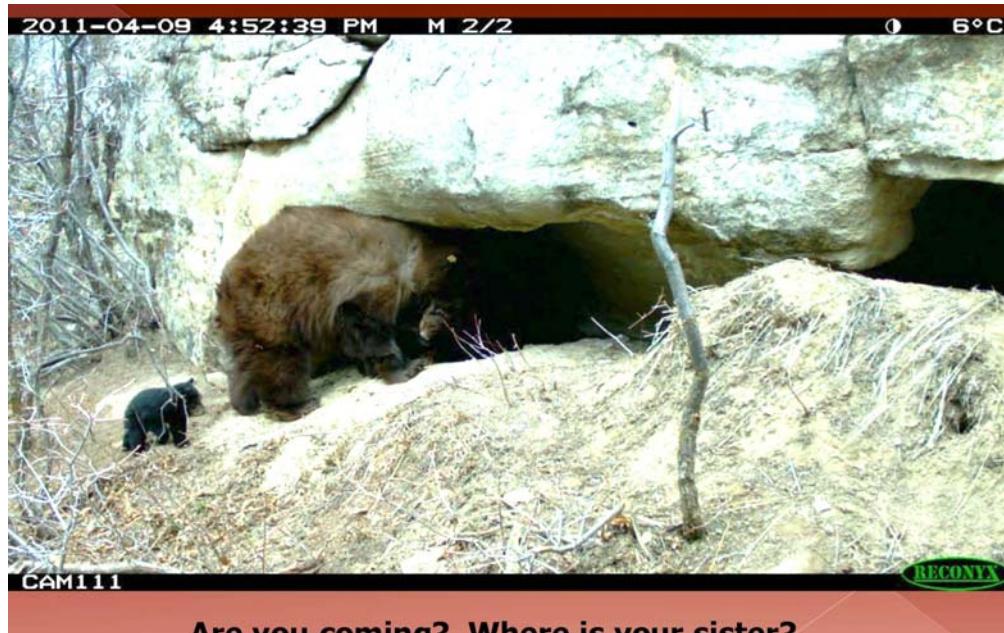
September, 2014

## ROSY FINCH (KOHALA)- A TRUE SUCCESS STORY



September, 2014

## ROSY FINCH (KOHALA)- A TRUE SUCCESS STORY



September, 2014

## ROSY FINCH (KOHALA)- A TRUE SUCCESS STORY



**Rosy Finch with her yearling cub 2012**

September, 2014

## FOR THE BEARS

The goal of the Idaho Black Bear Rehab program is to save orphaned cubs whenever possible. It is not our goal to place them in zoos or wildlife parks, but to release them into a suitable bear habitat. Bears are inherently shy animals and except for family groups, are solitary for most of the year. Many behaviors they need to survive in the wild are instinctive and we do not need to teach them to be bears. As a result, bears are particularly good candidates for rehabilitation. To help accomplish our goal, IBBR has strived since 1989 to establish and maintain good working relationships with wildlife agencies. The public can help orphaned cubs by understanding the options available to their wildlife agencies and what options they normally use to resolve orphaned cub situations. Take an interest in bear management practices and learn what the wildlife agency in your state and other states do with the orphaned cubs.

### **Key elements for a successful reintroduction into the wild:**

- 1) Adequate high quality habitat
- 2) Minimum contact with humans for 7-10 days post release
- 3) An opportunity to socialize with other bear cubs during early development
- 4) Individual personalities

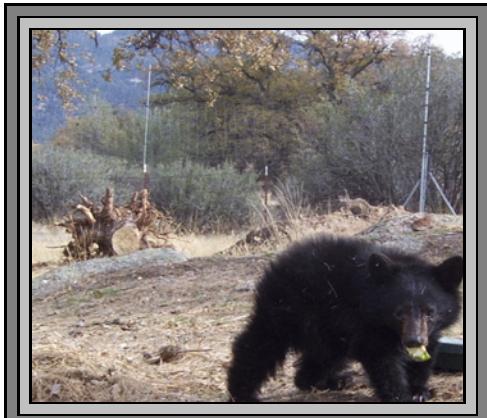
Rehab cubs do not all starve to death after release; they are not all shot during hunting seasons; they do not all become involved in human-bear conflict situations. In reality, the majority simply merge into the population and face the same survival risks as any other bear.

### **When reports come to wildlife agencies on an orphaned cub, they have four options:**

- 1) Rehabilitation and release
- 2) Placement in a permanent facility
- 3) Humanely euthanize the cub
- 4) Do nothing - probably resulting in the death of the cub from starvation or predation

State and federal wildlife agencies focus on managing populations, not individuals. They do not have the people, facilities, or funding to handle individual animals requiring rehabilitation. Wildlife rehabilitators are a volunteer arm of the wildlife agencies. They

provide a very valuable service to wildlife agencies, communities, and people concerned about the welfare of orphaned or injured bear cubs. They willingly accept responsibility for the work, time, day to day care, medical treatment, and expenses associated with helping orphaned and injured wildlife. That makes wildlife rehabilitators and wildlife agencies a perfect team. Rehabilitators manage individual animals in need of short term care and wildlife agencies manage populations for long term viability.



September, 2014

## **FOR THE BEARS - continued**

### **What any wildlife agency does with orphaned cubs can depend on many factors:**

- 1) Do they have a wildlife rehabilitator with the facility and capability to rehabilitate bears successfully?
- 2) Does the community support bear rehabilitation, both financially and in practice?
- 3) Do agency policies support or allow bear rehabilitation?
- 4) Do agencies consider cub rehab an option in their bear management plan?
- 5) Is the agency aware of existing data demonstrating successful rehab techniques for bear cubs?
- 6) Are suitable release locations available?
- 7) Is the criteria for placing a cub in rehab so restrictive that cubs rarely qualify?
- 8) Are field officers aware that placing orphaned cubs in rehab is an option available to them?
- 9) What is the orphaned cub's physical condition - is it immediately life threatening - can we save it?
- 10) Is the cub really used to people or is the cub just exhibiting normal behavior for a starving or injured cub?

### **What you can do to help orphaned cubs**

Some wildlife agencies will euthanize orphaned cubs or place them in captive facilities without opting for bear rehab even when available to them. In those situations, the public should ask why rehab was not an option.

Although our wildlife agencies focus on bear populations, it is important they recognize that the public does care about orphaned or injured cubs and respond to those concerns. Bear cub rehab should be the first option whenever possible in their bear management plan. Placing orphaned cubs in permanent facilities is not the preferred alternative, even when that option is feasible. Sometimes it just means changing an attitude - "we have 35,000 bears" meaning we don't need one more so why save it? Wildlife agencies must be accountable for their policies and actions. The public also has a responsibility and a role in helping wildlife agencies to develop sound policies for rehabilitating orphaned bear cubs.



### **What should I do if I see an orphaned cub?**

As a caring and compassionate society, each of us has a responsibility for the welfare of our wildlife. If you think you found an orphaned cub, take the following steps:

- 1) Do not try to capture the cub yourself - it may not be orphaned & mom could be around
- 2) Determine the exact location - use milepost markers, signs, trail markers, landmarks, etc.
- 3) Contact the nearest wildlife agency with details on the cub and the exact location
- 4) Tell the officer you will wait at that location for them (if at all possible) - this will not only make their job easier in finding the cub, but encourage them to respond quicker
- 5) If you know a bear rehabilitator or even a wildlife rehabilitator in the area, call that person also - he or she can take additional steps to ensure the cub receives help.
- 6) Be aware there may be more than one cub in the area - listen and keep your eyes open
- 7) Follow up - make sure the cub was found, rescued, and ask what they did with the cub
- 8) If they placed the cub in rehab, ask for the name & phone number of the rehabilitator
- 9) Contact the rehabilitator & share any information you have on the cub
- 10) Donate funds to help support the rehabilitator if possible

September, 2014

## HOW DO YOU SAY NO TO A BEAR IN NEED?

During the past 20 years IBBR had 3 seasons when there were large numbers of bears needing help. We average 8-10 bears, but in the past during emergency years we handled 20 - 40 - 53 bears. These ranged from orphaned cubs, starved yearlings, and injured bears to the occasional older bear. While it is always difficult to feed and care for so many bears during emergency years, we don't get to select the circumstances that bring injured or orphaned wildlife to us. No one wants to get 53 bears, but if they need help and we can help, it's the right thing to do. It is only temporary - when or how do you decide if it's bear # 10 or # 20 or # 50 that is the one that has to die or be turned away?

For the bears it's due to a year of no food, fires, drought, hunting pressure, car accidents, etc. It is much like a community emergency when a hospital steps up to the plate, calls in all the doctors and staff, adds beds, and makes it work



until the emergency is past. IBBR made it work and we made it work with no problems for the bears, no stress, no health issues, no negative impact on the bears.



When large numbers of bears need help most arrive late in the year. They are small, 10-15-22 pounds. Even if held until the following spring for release they will rarely be big bears with large frames. Spring arrivals can weigh 90 to 140 pounds or more by release time, depending on whether we do a winter denning or wait until the following spring to release. Fall arrivals remain much smaller in weight which is more consistent with their smaller frames. During emergency seasons, it's not the same as having a lot of 140 pound bears

in the enclosures. By fall, regardless of their size, the bears are mostly eating and sleeping. They use less than half of the enclosures, preferring to remain together in one area resting and occasionally wrestling. We could have enclosures four times the size and they would still all stay together in a small area.

Whether the bears eventually gain enough weight to hibernate or not, there is only a small time frame from sometime in March to their release the end of May when the bears will be very active and using the whole enclosures. Even then, there are no signs of stress due to crowding, no fights, no quarrels, no irritability, no stress issues, and no health issues. **These bears are here temporarily, not permanently!** They are happy, self-confident, well adjusted bears who go about the business of being bears.

Whether we release by denning them in December or hold them until the following spring is dependent on the state wildlife agency and IBBR. IBBR knows each bear and there may be some that would be better served by more time in rehab before release, especially the late fall arrivals that are so small. Some state wildlife agencies prefer a spring release while others prefer a winter denning. They know the release area, the habitat, the situation and their wishes are an important part of the decision. Even though some bears may be ready for a winter denning, if the state wildlife agency prefers to do a spring release, IBBR will hold the bears until spring for them. What is in the best interest of the bear is the what dictates that decision.



Many who are not experienced in wildlife rehab expect bears to display fear constantly during rehab. It's simply unreasonable to expect that bears will be on constant daily alert at the rehab facility. They recognize that they are safe in the enclosure, that no one except the caretakers come in, and the bears don't go out.

September, 2014

## HOW DO YOU SAY NO TO A BEAR IN NEED? - continued

It's somewhat like cubs behaving as they do in the wild with mom nearby. There is no reason to panic unless mom tells them there is danger - they recognize that. Year after year starting about October, we see their wild instinct maturing. Then they spook and display the behavior everyone else expects to see months previously.

There have been suggestions by wildlife officials that we use a cattle prod or stun gun on bottle babies once they are weaned in order to cause them fear and avoidance of the caretakers, especially their foster mom. IBBR does not believe there is any need to expect or force any animal to be terrorized or physically hurt while in rehab. Our release data certainly doesn't reflect the need for that and there

is no scientific data to back up the need for those actions. While science is important, you must also have the emotional commitment, common sense, empathy and understanding of the bears in rehab. There is simply no need to terrorize them or cause pain on the presumption it will enhance the release. Can you imagine living in fear every day even for a few months? That does not produce a very healthy human or bear. Let them go through their natural stages of development and all things will fall into



place. Since 1989, our years of rehab have proven that. Problem bears (5 out of 217) are such a low percent and there is no data in all these years showing bottle babies became problem bears because we didn't use stun guns on them or terrorize them during rehab.

IBBR has monitors in every enclosure including a small deck enclosure and an indoor enclosure for newborns. Sally & staff personally see these bears or view them on the monitor every day for a minimum of 21 hours a day. Either we are observing them while feeding and cleaning or watching them on the monitors. Who would better know if there is a problem with a specific number of bears in any given enclosure than the people watching them for 21 hours a day every day.



Have a bite of my apple

Our transport team has saved both Idaho and other states time and money by meeting the officers part way or going to the actual location of the bear. Officers in the field work long hours and are frequently short handed. Officers in Idaho and other states have always reported back to IBBR on how healthy the rehab bears are when returned for release. Nor have we observed any signs of stress or irritability whether there were two bears or twenty bears in an enclosure. That means whether it's a normal year or an emergency year with many bears, the rehab process is successful.

## HOW DO YOU SAY NO TO A BEAR IN NEED? - continued

There are so many challenges facing orphaned or injured bears in the world today. Some wildlife agencies don't want to include rehab in their management plans. Some want to, but don't have a rehabilitator to do the work. It can be expensive, time consuming, hard work, no sick leave, no vacations, and requires a family commitment if the rehabilitator has a family. Most rehabilitators also work full time jobs to pay the expenses of the rehab work they do. During hunting season orphaned cubs sometimes are the last priority of an already busy agency, especially if they don't have a rehabilitator to take the cub. People report orphaned cubs, but by the time the officer can get to the area the cub moved on and can't be located. People moving into bear habitat until there is no longer enough room to support the bears is a very big problem. Then we have human-bear conflicts and the bear is usually the loser when that happens even though it's usually the fault of the human.



State wildlife agencies may determine a cub is not a candidate for rehab if it has ever taken food from people.



They consider that food conditioning. While that might be so with adult or maturing bears, IBBR's experience with cubs of the year and even some yearlings is that they don't have the maturity to decide their food in the future will come from humans. Cubs are of the moment - they are starving - orphaned - scared - unsure of what to do or where to go. Food is obviously a priority since their one and only food source is gone. However, logic doesn't dictate they will automatically turn to humans for food in the future should they accept food during their struggle to survive while being an orphan.



We have had many orphans over the years who were given food by people (yes, even hand fed) until captured and those cubs did not become problem bears when released. We should all recognize that if we were starving and homeless, we would probably use any means available to survive until the situation changed. Would we be raiding the local Burger King dumpster for food once we had a job, a place to live, and were off the street? Highly unlikely.

Cubs will go through their stages of development and mature without becoming a problem bear just because they received food from people before being placed in rehab. They are just kids and like kids they will change as they mature, use better judgement, and instincts that aren't yet

developed as cubs. Of course that doesn't mean a rehab cub couldn't turn to humans for food in a year when the food supply is poor. Any bear is subject to that temptation, but we shouldn't assume that just because the cub accepted food while an orphan that it's automatically going to do the same later on. We have observed some cubs in rehab that we felt would probably starve to death before attempting to get food from people. It depends on the bear, the habitat, the situation so we shouldn't impose a presumption on a cub just because it accepts food while orphaned. It just isn't logical to impose the behavior of mature bears on orphaned cubs.

September, 2014

## HOW DO YOU SAY NO TO A BEAR IN NEED? - continued

If a cub weighs a certain weight in late summer a state wildlife agency may feel the cub doesn't need to be placed in rehab and can survive on its own. IBBR doesn't disagree with that, but in the best interest of the bear, we need to error on the side of the bear. There needs to be more to it than just an estimated weight or determination of health from a distant observation. IBBR had cubs brought in with a supposed weight of 35 pounds that actually weighed 10-15 pounds. We have also received cubs supposed to weigh 15 pounds that weighed 25 pounds. Judging a cub's weight from a distance is questionable at best and some of us just aren't good at judging weights, measurements, distances, age, etc. The cub needs to be weighed to determine a correct weight. Cubs can look healthy yet be nothing more than bones and fur so it can be deceiving. How can anyone determine a cub's health from a distance? We had cubs arrive that supposedly had no wounds only to find many bite wounds, gashes on the stomach, pneumonia, respiratory problems, infections, none of which would have been visible without hands on. Before assuming a cub's weight or health based on observation from a distance and before leaving a cub to survive on its own regardless of the time of year, the cub needs to be weighed & have a vet health check. That may not be a step the state agency is able or willing to take. If not, why not bring in the cub, turn it over to a rehabilitator who will get it checked by a vet, and then release or den it later in the year.

Then there are those who pick up a cub thinking it's orphaned and if they have observed it for a day or two, it probably is orphaned. Sometimes they try to raise the cub themselves and then realize that isn't practical and will call the state agency. Cubs can be severely traumatized when they are orphaned, depending on the situation. Depending on how many times they change hands before settling into rehab, they can suffer severe separation anxiety. A cub already orphaned & feeling abandoned can latch on to the first help it gets as a security blanket only to

find that disappears and someone else steps into the picture. Trauma can be expressed by refusal to eat, constant shaking and quivering, jumping up and down against a panel or board or doorframe, anger, attacks, constant bawling and/or pacing, head tossing, constant fighting with their sibling, and throwing up. It is very difficult to offset that trauma when you don't usually know what caused it. It can take a long time, careful handling, and constant reassurance to get a traumatized cub or one with separation anxiety to finally feel safe and secure enough to begin acting and feeling like a bear again.

In conclusion, there are many state agencies who want to include rehab as an option for orphaned cubs. There are many hard working, compassionate officers who will do everything they can to save an orphaned bear cub. They can't do that unless the rehabilitator is there to take the bears and the rehabilitators need the support of the community to continue helping these cubs. IBBR estimates it can take up to \$5600 to put



This cub weighed only 7 lbs & was near death in June. What if someone misjudged her weight just by looking at her - she would have died within 2-3 days at most. Notice how big her head is compared to her body & the sunken eyes. She had trouble standing because her legs couldn't support her body even though she was so emaciated. We worried from the minute she arrived that it was already too late. She fought hard to live & made it.



## HOW DO YOU SAY NO TO A BEAR IN NEED? - continued

a cub through the rehab program today. It depends on formula needed, food, transport, day to day care, enclosure repairs, and of course basic veterinarian expenses. Add illness or injuries to that and the cost can be high. IBBR's core funding is approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year. That is the bare bones that it takes to keep this program going and to always say yes to any bear needing help. It can be frustrating that it always seems to be about money when all that's really important is helping the orphaned cubs. People often ask about being a wildlife rehabilitator and don't realize there is a whole lot more involved than just food and enclosures. Like any business, the list of expenses is a large one - property and enclosure maintenance, utilities, pest control (mice think bear rehab is a smorgasbord & wasps think they have died and gone to heaven), insurance on the intern's house & IBBR's transport truck, repairs to equipment, refrigerators, freezers, property taxes, job share employee salaries, social security and medicare taxes, workman's comp, CPA, import permits for the bears, transport expenses to pick up and return bears for release, monitoring system repairs and equipment, web site expenses, computer and printer equipment & supplies, media, PR, consultation and expenses related to sharing information, lumber, carriers, dirt, swim tubs, plumbing, electrical repairs, septic system or sewer costs, and on and on.



### Personal message from Sally Maughan on the future of IBBR



**Whiskers - our most difficult bear.**

It is getting increasingly difficult to raise that core funding and we are not alone. Many wildlife rehabilitators and sanctuaries are facing the same situation. While we are applying for grants, grants usually fund projects and not the day to day feeding of the bears and rehab expenses. Our main focus now and in the future must be in finding that core funding either by individual donations or through foundations that will provide funding for the day to day care of the bears. Without it, IBBR will not be able to help the number of bears we have in the past, yet the number of bears needing help continues to increase.

I have always struggled with the question of how to say no to a bear needing help. While I never considered it a sacrifice, I sold my car, bought another & sold it, twice cleaned out my IRA, took out loans, maxed credit cards, borrowed from my parents, gave anything left over from my paychecks, and did whatever I could to find the funds necessary. I never wanted to say "I can't help you" to any bear in need. Undoubtedly, some of it was selfish in that I couldn't live with the pain and guilt of saying no.

Now the red tape and politics within state agencies creates a maze of obstacles to saving cubs, the mood of the country and the economy impacts how much we can do, and my personal ability to fund IBBR comes to an end. Since 1989 we knocked out a whole row of bricks in that brick wall that says a human can't raise and successfully release an orphaned bear cub. It has been a long and difficult battle, but we made so much progress considering the strength of that brick wall. Today, not only are the bricks back in place, but there is also a steel wall in front of the brick wall. While we continue to make progress in other areas of bear rehab, we need to keep pushing to change attitudes and encourage rehab for orphaned cubs.

IBBR refuses to accept rehab criteria that comes from those who have no rehab experience and do not have the best interest of the bears at heart. **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, we need to develop and freely share bear rehab information that is truly in the best interest of the bears and comes from those who do rehab bears. Rehab should not be dictated by those with hidden agendas who do not care about what is best for bears.

Will IBBR ever say no to a bear cub in need? Had you asked me that two years ago, I would have clearly said NO, we will never turn away a bear cub. Today, between funding and politics and red tape, I can no longer say that with certainty. What I can say is we will never give up trying. Even if IBBR can only help one cub, we will find a way to help that one cub. The pain comes in living with what happens to the other 5 or 10 or 20 cubs.

September, 2014

## HOW DO YOU SAY NO TO A BEAR IN NEED? - continued

The anger comes from knowing red tape and politics are causing cubs to die and restricting our ability to help them. The frustration comes from outside desires to control & dictate how to rehab bears when they have no experience and little understanding of wildlife rehab. The helplessness comes from knowing there are officers willing to save cubs, yet their hands are tied by the same red tape and politics we face. The sadness comes from the uncertainty as to whether we will have the support, the tools, and the funding needed in the future to change the situations we face today.

Whatever happens, somewhere out there will be one cub that IBBR will help one day, even if it is the only cub we can help in the future. Despite current conditions, I remain hopeful in the future of IBBR. I have seen many miracles happen since 1989 that helped us save orphaned cubs. While today sometimes seems bleak, I have to believe those miracles will continue to happen and enable us to save as many cubs as we can, be it 1 or 30.

I still remain very concerned about the many orphaned cubs who might not get help in the future. IBBR will begin addressing the obstacles placed before us that restrict bear rehab in the future. We will be asking the public to help us get rid of those obstacles. In the meantime, we are grateful to all who helped save cubs in the past and will be with us in the future, and to new friends who join us.

I recently heard someone facing an enormous challenge for over 20 years respond to a question put to him about how he handled it. It struck me as being much like the situation IBBR faces each day with the obstacles in trying to save cubs. When asked the question, after much thought he responded by saying he would never have chosen this path, but he can choose how to walk it. While the path IBBR faces today is not one we would have chosen, we will walk it with hope in the face of gloom, with determination in the face of adversity, with the support of those who want to help bears in need, and knowing with each step the spirit of those bears now free and even those who have crossed over walks this path with us.



How do you say no to a bear in need? Knowing IBBR may face that situation in the future, perhaps the question should be "How do you live with the guilt and pain of having to say no to a bear in need?" I don't yet have an answer to either question. I will leave you with one final thought. Some time ago a friend shared this story with me. It is so compelling I wanted to share it with everyone. Whether it's a starfish or a bear, the message is clear. Each of us can make a difference, even one starfish or one bear at a time.

*Loren Eiseley was a anthropologist who wrote extensively. He was the 'wise man' in the story, and he was walking along a beach after a storm and encountered the fellow throwing the starfish back.*

### The Starfish Story

by Loren Eiseley (1907 - 1977)

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "It made a difference for that one."

September, 2014

# SUMMARY

## IS REHAB SUCCESSFUL WITH ORPHANED CUBS?

The question is, can we successfully rehab orphaned bear cubs? The answer is yes, we can. How do we know it's successful if we don't track all of them? First we analyze the pre-release criteria that predicts a successful release.

Health	Growth
Development of Wild Instincts	Fat Reserves
Survival Capabilities	Behavior
Overall Condition	Weight
Mental and Physical Development	Imprinting
Release Site	Personality

The release site is crucial, but still only one of the deciding factors in a successful release. Allowing time for their wild instinct to develop is also crucial. Outside influences, like people and their behavior towards the cubs can combine with other factors to determine the outcome. We have the data for those bears wearing radio collars. Then we look at past releases to determine how many became nuisance bears or how many survived or were known to have died. Unless they became problem bears or die within a short time, they are considered successful releases.

Can the cubs survive until food is plentiful? Their weight at denning ranges between 60 - 100 pounds at least - record weight at release was 173 with a California bear, 207 for an Idaho bear, and 201 for a Washington bear. They have more than enough fat reserves to get through hibernation. It is doubtful they will succumb to starvation in the spring. Their weight will exceed that of other cubs still with their mother. If starvation is a threat, other cubs would be more at risk. Hunting season, poaching, and falling prey to other bears is a concern, but does not determine a successful release unless the rehab cubs fall victim consistently. That would indicate they are not doing very well at surviving on their own.

However, to date none of those things have happened. Those are threats all cubs face, even with an adult female to

protect them. There is no indication orphaned cubs are at greater risk from hunting pressures than other bears. These cubs do not make themselves easy targets, but if the bears are released in an area of heavy hunting pressure, then they face the same chances of being shot as other bears. Unfortunately, one of the release areas is just such an area. That takes a toll on all bears, rehab or otherwise. While IBBR does not have the say over the release areas, hopefully we can discourage use of that release site in the future.



Those denning in 1994 and tracked in 1995 proved even further that rehab is successful. The cub released in 1996 and trapped during the 1997 population study, evaded the traps for five days before getting caught. He was identified from the number on the ear tag and released after getting data for the study. From a biologist and wildlife managers' viewpoint, a successful release

means a bear that survives and does not become involved in a human-bear conflict. Factors such as human population, bear density, man-bear encounters, food supply, and public willingness to co-exist, all affect the outcome. Those factors and the bear itself, determines if rehab with orphaned cubs will be successful in your area. In Idaho and other western states which use IBBR, the program works and we will continue to rehab orphaned cubs and share the knowledge gained with others. The rehab cubs we captured during population studies in years following their release indicate they are taking their place in the population.

In 2005, Utah tracked 14 bears from rehab during 2004. Their report indicated these cubs can and do survive and take their place in the population - females breed and raise their own cubs. Yes, some are killed during hunting season or died from other causes, but they faced and survived the same challenges all bears survive, rehab or wild raised bear. There comes a point after releasing a rehab bear that he/she is just a bear and his time in rehab doesn't dictate his survival.

September, 2014

# Making a Positive Difference in the World of Bears

Since the first cub came to IBBR in 1989, over 200 bears have received care in our rehabilitation and release program. We know we've made a positive difference in the lives of those individual bears. We're also confident that we've helped to foster an appreciation of the importance of individual animals in those who hear the story of those orphaned or injured bears, and those that hear about their successful release back into the wild for a second chance at freedom.

IBBR is more than an organization that rehabilitates and releases black bears. We are known world-wide for the success of our program and methods. We are a leader in the development of government and rehab facility implementation of ethical standards and methods for the rehabilitation of bears. We are a source of assistance and guidance for bear rehab programs at other facilities worldwide. We are an organization that wants to instill in others the inherent value of the individual bear and to take responsibility for the protection of bears and the wild environment.



IBBR is working hard to protect the future world of all bears. We are committed to sharing information with the public and wildlife agencies; information that can offer permanent and "bear positive" solutions to conflicts that without a different approach, lead to injury and orphan-states of bears. We are working to build compassion, protection, and ownership for the welfare of bears and their environment by developing and sharing successful practices for living, working, and recreating in bear habitat.

## Education and Outreach for a Better Future

Situations that result in the need for bear rehab, property damage, and personal injury, can be avoided by educating the public, and offering tips and solutions on how to co-exist peacefully with bears.

We have shared information to thousands of school children and the general public. We continue to make efforts to reach even more members of the local and world-wide community using social media and electronic mediums. We focus on an introduction into the world of the American Black Bear, and a unique

glimpse into a program which works to rehabilitate and release orphaned and injured cubs back into the wild.



Goals of our presentations include: 1) Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the American Black Bear; 2) Educating children about the habits and habitat needs of the American Black Bear; 3) Giving an overview of a successful black bear rehabilitation program in Idaho; 4) Showing how one person's efforts can make a long-term positive impact on not only the lives of individual bears, but also on programs working to save threatened species of bears, worldwide.

In 2012, we introduced our *Be BearWise* initiative in communities and parks around the state of Idaho. We hope that our *Be BearWise* message will make a lasting and positive impact on wild bear populations and on the people who live and recreate in black bear habitat.

In 2013, we took the first steps in implementing our IBBR CUB CAM project, which will continue our

September, 2014

# Making a Positive Difference in the World of Bears

outreach efforts on a more effective and broader scale. By doing so, we will continue to fulfill our Mission using additional and new video and web stream technology that will create additional accessibility for the public. This project expands on our past efforts and will solidify our steps to bring our program into the regular curriculum of school children, university students, wildlife agencies, captive bear programs, and other professionals in the field of science and animal husbandry.

## It all started with...

In 1989, one little bear entered our lives and was the founding force behind the organization of IBBR. One bear, orphaned and subsequently released, forever impacted us beyond our efforts to provide care, comfort and future freedom for our charges. 25 years later, we had the extraordinary opportunity to provide care for an injured adult mother and cub. Both were successfully released, and the example of this project success can be applied to other programs around the world.



Orphaned and injured bears come to IBBR for a variety of reasons. In 1989 very few states were involved with bear cub rehabilitation, and fewer still had programs designed to prepare bears for life in the wild. By working closely with state, national, and world-wide bear experts, IBBR developed a successful rehabilitation program for the American black bear. IBBR's pioneering methods have prompted wildlife departments from states that lack their own rehab programs to send their orphan cubs to IBBR. Scientists from around the world have looked to IBBR as a potential model in their efforts to restore threatened and endangered populations of bears. The rehabilitation program of IBBR has shown that orphaned bear cubs raised in captivity can develop into wild animals capable of surviving on their own.

Based on data recovered since 1989, IBBR bears have documented survival rates up to six (6) years post release. Radio collar tracking and post-mortem retrieval of ear tags document that few IBBR bears (< .015) have become involved in nuisance situations within 30 days post release, and (< .02) within 31 days to 1

year post release. Most bears (> .96) are successfully released.

## Support for the Future

Your support is needed for us to continue to educate the public about bears and our shared responsibility to protect wild bears and their habitat, to continue in the development and implementation of ethical standards and methods for the rehabilitation of black bear everywhere, and to give all bears a second chance at freedom.



## Mission Statement

Our mission is to give all orphaned cubs a second chance at life in the wild by:

- Rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing orphaned cubs whenever possible.
- Instituting bear rehabilitation programs and training rehabilitators in states where the option currently does not exist.
- Working with state wildlife agencies to establish bear rehab as a standard part of their wildlife management policies.
- Educating the public about bear rehab and our shared responsibility to protect wild bears and their habitat.
- Continue learning and sharing rehab methods to successfully release orphaned cubs.

Send questions or comments to:

Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc.  
Attn: Sally Maughan  
6097 Arney Lane  
Garden City, Idaho 83714  
Phone: (208) 853-3105  
E-mail: IBBR@bearrehab.org



## NOTES

---

# BEAR NECESSITIES - WISH LIST

The Idaho Black Bear Rehab Program needs your help. Without this program, orphaned bear cubs would not have a place to go. Zoos and wildlife parks no longer want or need cubs as they have their own breeding programs. We raise orphaned cubs for release back into the wild. They remain with us until December when we take them to dens in the mountains or through winter until spring if they don't have sufficient weight to survive hibernation. When released, the cubs take charge of their own lives. It can cost up to \$5600 to feed and care for each cub until release. If everyone could donate even the price of one soft drink, it means we can help one more cub.

**ALWAYS NEEDED: \$\$ for formula - Fresh fruit when in season**

## VOLUNTEER HELP - DONATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

**IBBR needs people to oversee the following three areas:**

**1) Volunteer Coordinator 2) Fund-raising Manager 3) Grant Writer**

Printer to donate printing handbooks, newsletters, and other documents; electrician to donate time and knowledge for needed repairs; plumbing company to volunteer labor to connect IBBR property to Garden City Sewer; Volunteers to pick up fruit and nuts in fall



Ruggles - 1989 - He started it all

## GENERAL SUPPLIES:

Bath towels \* Hand towels \* Lumber \* Copy paper \* Large & medium Vari-Kennels \* Stamps \* Xerox Phaser 8560 Solid Ink Sticks - yellow, cyan, magenta, black \* HP LaserJet 2420dn printer cartridges \* Hydraulic lift truck crank for IBBR truck (see

[www.pickupspecialties.com](http://www.pickupspecialties.com) 4' model LT436) \* Golf cart to haul items from roadside drop to enclosure at back end of property

\* Pavers to create pathway from enclosure to front gate for the 5-7 trash bins each week \* Cannon or Olympus digital camera

\* Welder to build us a transfer carrier to move cubs from one enclosure to another

## SPECIALITY ITEMS:

**Available by Special Order from UPCO (800) 254-8726 - - you can arrange payment with UPCO - ship to address at bottom - no substitutions please)**

Milk Matrix #99882 (15 Lbs) - Esbilac #9498 (5 Lbs powdered) - Vionate #615 (2 Lbs)

**Available at Treasure Valley stores or online ordering from Mazuri.com or 800-227-8941**

Mazuri Bear Diet - 40 lbs - stock #5ZH6 \$47.70 or Omnivore Biscuits - 40 lbs - stock 5635 \$37.30

See web site [www.mazuri.com](http://www.mazuri.com) for locations in the Boise area

## FORMULA ITEMS:

Cartons of Gerbers peach fruit baby cereal & cans of Wilderness Blueberry Pie Filling \* Plain or flavored Yogurt \* Honey \* Natural applesauce \* Boxes of Gerbers baby rice one grain cereal

## FOOD ITEMS :

40 LB sacks of Fred Meyer Premium **Chunk Style** dry dog food \* Bread \* Acorns & Hazelnuts \* Fish (salmon or trout) Raw carrots \* Cans of fruit \* Cottage cheese \* Avocados

## FRESH FRUIT (Please ask if fruit was sprayed with insecticide) :

Apples, peaches, pears, grapes, plums, cherries, apricots, watermelons, cantaloupes, blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, strawberries

Please find enclosed my donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help save an orphaned cub.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**IBBR is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Organization.**

We will send you a tax deductible receipt & picture of the bears. For credit card  
donations use **PayPAL** on our web site.



**The Bears Thank You!**

**Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. \* 6097 Arney Lane \* Garden City, ID U.S.A. 83714**  
**Ph: (208) 853-3105 \* Fax: (208) 439-6777 \* E-mail: [INFO@bearrehab.org](mailto:INFO@bearrehab.org) - web site: [www.bearrehab.org](http://www.bearrehab.org)**