

BEARS FIRST

Idaho Black Bear Rehab., Inc.

April 2012

Bearly Spring is here!



Spring is here and the bears are out and about. We had very little snow this winter and aside from a brief week or two, it wasn't that cold. Kapalua and Hewech retired to their dens in late December, but continued to come out off and on throughout winter. As often happens, they look a bit like we humans feel when we get up in the morning after a late night of work or partying. They have both grown in frame and lost some weight so they look gangly. See more pictures on page 2.

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Kapalua & Hewech Out of Hibernation

Kapalua & Hewech are both up and active usually by 1030am each day. They wander around, munch on any leftover apples, eat some dog food, play a little, and then take an afternoon nap. When they get up again they get pretty wired up with a lot of chasing and wrestling. After dark they retire to the one remaining intact den and then will pop out again during the wee hours (after midnight) for a snack.

Right now we feed once a day scattering about 20 apples, 2 leaf lettuce, 4 eggs, and whatever grass or vegetation we can find for

them. They both like sunflower seeds and we gave them a couple of coconuts which they cleaned better than we could with a knife. To help Kapalua's dry skin and patchy fur, we bought a large case of peanut butter and each day we spread 4 large

piles over some of the logs. She loves that, but has to share with Hewech and from her disgruntled looks she isn't happy about that. We hinted to her that she had a hair transplant during hibernation due to the patches of black fur on her head. She denied that, so it's either left over fur from fall or new fur coming in.



After caring for over 210 orphaned bear cubs during the last 23 years, IBBR has found that each cub's individual personality is as distinct as the variety of personalities we find among humans. Rehabilitation of bear cubs can never take a "one-size-fits-all" approach. We need to provide for a variety of physical needs, such as those facing newborns, malnourished, injured, or sick cubs. Many cubs are traumatized by their experience and we need to recognize and address both the physical and emotional trauma. Bear rehab must be customized for each and every cub. Hewech is a prime example of a bear cub needing extra and specialized attention (see her story in [2011 Bear Journal](#)).

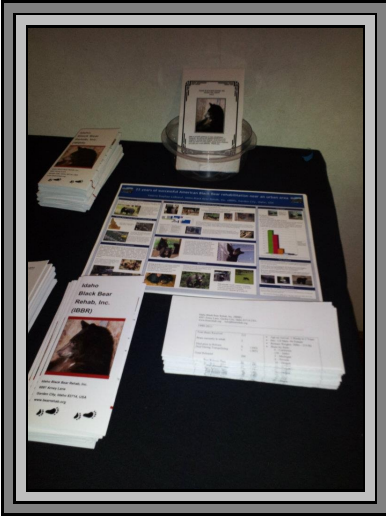
IBBR is well known for adapting rehabilitation techniques and facilities to fit the needs of individual cubs, and is committed to continuing to embrace and promote the necessity of recognizing the value and importance of individual bears. IBBR also continues to educate and offer the public and state wildlife agencies with potential solutions to situations that lead to the injury and illness of orphan bear cubs. Costs associated with the rehabilitation of orphaned bear cubs are currently projected at \$5600.00 for each cub. This includes the costs of food for infants and weaned bears, general medical care, pick-up and transport back to IBBR, three "job share employees," repairs, and miscellaneous equipment and supplies for bear cubs during the rehab period of 9 to 15 months.

You can help with this continued effort by sharing information with others, and supporting the work of IBBR. Visit www.bearrehab.org to find out how to support our rehab program.

4th INTERNATIONAL HUMAN-BEAR WORKSHOP

IBBR was invited to present a Poster on our rehabilitation program at the Human/Bear Conflict Workshop in Missoula, Montana, March 2012. It was a wonderful experience and we had the opportunity to meet over 300 attendees from all over the US, Canada, and

beyond who are working with wild black bears, polar bears, and grizzlies. So many of the attendees, including MANY from wildlife agencies and park systems are working hard to find a balance between the activities of humans and bears - most are implementing humane and effective solutions to issues that arise during conflicts between humans and bears: bear proof trash containers, ordinances prohibiting the feeding of wildlife (birds and squirrels too), education programs for urban and rural communities, education programs for back country users, and more. Many are concluding that it's the activities of humans which are the leading source of problems and that must be addressed and changed - the short term solutions, such as bear removal from an area, will not make long term change. We were pleasantly surprised at the "bear positive" attitudes and policies that were expressed at the workshop! We intend to incorporate a specific "Bear Wise" element into our current education program.



The workshop was very important for IBBR to attend, especially considering the positive attitudes witnessed there. However, there are also some areas of the country where the tide seems to be turning against bears. That makes it even more important that we continue to share our knowledge and experience and attend workshops like this one as often as funds permit.

Education Program

IBBR is gearing up for two days of presentations in May 2012, to over 600 school children in the Wood River Valley of Idaho. We have been asked to participate in the annual Environmental Education Outreach Program by the Environmental Resource Center. From [ERC](#): "In 1999 a committee of local educators, journalists, interested Blaine County citizens and ERC Board members recognized the need for more environmental education in Blaine County schools. The committee determined that the best solution would be supplementing the traditional education students were receiving with outside presentations. Over the years, this effort has grown from a single-school pilot program to a highly anticipated annual event for all the 2nd and 3rd graders in the county (from Hemingway to Carey), roughly 600 students annually. Since its inception, this program has brought quality environmental education to thousands of elementary school children." IBBR is very excited to participate in this annual event!

EDUCATION PROGRAM - continued

As a part of our current efforts to expand our education program for children and adults, we are currently putting together a "bear education trunk." We have model examples of bear paws, bear tracks, black bear skull, and scat (acorn diet)...we are wanting to add additional items to display and share including DVDs and books about black bears. If you have an item that you would like to donate or would like to donate funds to allow us to purchase additional items, please contact us at info@bearrehab.org.

Equally important, we are seeking additional funding to upgrade our current remote camera and video recording system, which in turn will enable us to implement our IBBR CUB CAM project. The proposed IBBR CUB CAM will provide live video feed on the web, recorded video presentations, and webcast opportunities with live video feed to schools, students, zoos, libraries, wildlife agencies, wildlife rehabilitators, biologists, animal organizations, and bear projects around the world. The IBBR CUB CAM will provide a valuable tool in our continuing efforts to share knowledge and educate the world regarding the rehabilitation and release of bears, the habitat needs of bears, and how others can get involved helping to protect bears and their environment. By upgrading our current remote camera recording system, we will have the tools needed to: share live video feed on our website; webcast educational presentations using live video feed; and record quality video which can be shared via our website, Facebook, during in-person community events and seminars, and with organizations who request it. The cost of



upgrading the current system is approximately \$14,804.00. The remaining \$2196.00 is budgeted for video production, mailings, and printed notice about the opportunity to utilize the "IBBR CUB CAM." If you would like to help us with the IBBR CUB CAM project, please email info@bearrehab.org.

BEARLY SPRING R&R

As part of our efforts to continue to affect positive change in the lives of individual bears and world-wide bear populations, we are starting our Second annual Bearly Spring R&R (release and repair) campaign which will focus on IBBR's current cubs getting ready for their release the end of May or first part of June. We're asking for your help and support in getting Kapalua and Hewech back home for release and their second chance at freedom. Costs associated with the release of Kapalua and Hewech are currently projected at \$750.00 for each cub. This includes getting our transport truck ready for travel, round-trip fuel costs – over 1200 miles round trip (Oregon and Utah cubs), possibly two nights of lodging for transport team (hrs of driving time and bear care – need some rest), and bless their hearts, some repairs to the enclosures from Kapaula's and Hewech's mischievous bear activities. Of course the 9 Washington bears who used the enclosure until June and September 2011 contributed their fair share to the demolition party that is a "must attend" event every year prior to leaving IBBR. Sally knows that these cubs want to leave their IBBR surroundings even better for the next group of orphans, so they've included some small improvements ideas for keeping the next group dry, warm & cozy. Please contact us at info@bearrehab.org if you would like to contribute to this year's Bearly Spring R&R campaign.

IBBR'S BEARLY SPRING R&R PROJECTS

The Dens

Before Wailana and the 8 Washington bears were released in June & September 2011, they did their fair share of damage to our many dens. We had two dens left that were whole and ready for hibernation. Kapalua and Hewech first used the one in the back of the enclosure and then moved to the one in front. They remained in

IBBR'S BEARLY SPRING R&R PROJECTS - continued

that den for the duration of winter. Then they began to slowly rip apart one of the remaining dens. So one of our first projects this spring is to rebuild all of the dens - all 11 of them.

Replace - Overhaul - Repair the Swim / Water Tub

The swim/water tub fix is a major repair and rebuild to prevent freezing, leaks, broken pipes, and problems draining the tub each year. We had approached it several times over the years looking at various plans. Ideally, we would like to build an in-ground cement pool which is less dangerous for bears chasing around and jumping over logs to dive into the pool. However, high water tables, the slope of the ground, and a cost of \$7000 - \$15000 is prohibitive at this time. Each year we put a Band-Aid on it in hopes we could manage, but this winter our luck ran out.

We have the system set up so that water flows in and out at the same rate. This allows the bears to play in the water, get it dirty, and the in /out flow will clean it fairly quickly for drinking. They also have clean drinking water from the in-flow pipe that runs the water into the tub from above. You can see the flow in the picture at right. The bear is playing under it so the flow looks smaller than it is.



Each year we face repairs from mischievous bears, but with the swim tub we also face problems with both the drain holes in the tub & the drain pipes freezing. We all know there is no guarantee against freezing as it happens with our own water pipes during winter despite every precaution or



Drain pipe cracked, leaks froze drain pipes & water froze inside swim tub

preventive measure. We have taken as many precautions as we could each winter – insulation, heat lamps, heat tape etc. We check it frequently during winter, but not daily as we don't want to disturb the bears in hibernation. The risk is that a leak will happen on a very cold day that we weren't out there. That's what happened this winter & now their swim/water tub is completely dismantled. While it was a leak that froze the drain holes in the tub and the whole drain system, it is now a major repair and rebuild. We had to cut the drain pipes to get to the drain holes in the tub & thaw them so the water could drain before it froze solid in the whole tub and cracked it.

It's a double situation problem – the portion that is inside the enclosure where the bears have access and the part that is outside the chain link where the bears can't do any damage. It would be so simple to put a heater in the water like they do for cattle and horses, but the bears would destroy it in about 2 minutes - not to mention you don't want bears and anything electrical in the same universe. The swim tub was completely unusable and we put in a small tub only for drinking water. The bears are now constantly checking the swim tub for water. So far they are leaving the small tub alone, but it's just a matter of time before it gets destroyed, replaced, and destroyed again on a weekly basis. The swim/water tub is the number one source of joy and fun for them.

IBBR'S BEARLY SPRING R&R PROJECTS - continued

Replace - Overhaul - Repair the Swim / Water Tub - continued

We have two plans for this fix & hope that one of them will be a permanent solution. With bears, it's always a test run. What you are absolutely sure will work, sometimes doesn't. However, after so many years of seeing bears accomplish the impossible, we are comfortable that both plans will work at least for the bears. No one can guarantee pipes won't freeze, but after much discussion and consultation with plumbers and electricians we think we have two good plans in place. Both plans should minimize any chance of freezing either in the tub or the drain pipes and both should prevent mischievous & determined bears from doing any damage. One of them would allow us to partially bury the existing swim tub in the ground and get it off the high frame. That would alleviate concerns about broken legs when bears go lunging in and out of the tub and race down the logs around it. The estimate to fix this for good is upwards of \$3000 and while the in-ground solution will cost more, we are very hopeful of donations of materials and labor to bring it within our budget.



This doesn't work for me. When do we get our swim tub back?

On March 24th, our Facebook team hosted a Pool Party to raise money so the bears would have their swim tub back before warm weather arrived. Our Facebook friends and IBBR supporters world-wide really stepped up and at the end of the day raised over \$2800. It was a fun and exciting day for everyone, especially the bears. Somehow they always know when something is up that is



good for them. After the pool party, we gathered two volunteers and two of our bear caretakers, Amy & Tennyson to repair the chain link panel behind the swim tub. On a previous repair job the plumber enlarged the pipe & cut the chain link without telling us. We did a temporary repair job, but now we needed a secure fix. They moved the tub away from the panel and began to seal the holes using a chain link panel with steel pipes around it. They wired it over the holes, hog ringed the entire panel to the chain link enclosure, wove metal rods through both to further secure it. We always hesitate to say anything is bear proof, but once in a great while we manage to make it work.

IBBR'S BEARLY SPRING R&R PROJECTS - continued

Replace - Overhaul - Repair the Swim / Water Tub - continued

After that we needed to move the swim tub about a foot to the right of it's current location. That meant digging out the frame it was sitting on and moving both the frame and tub. Normally we would have waited until we knew if we could put the tub in the ground, but we were plotting to find a way to get a couple of feet of water in the tub for the bears to play in until repairs were completed. Since there was no way to drain it at this time, by moving it so it was tight against the chain link most of the water could just flow out into the pasture with only a little draining back into the enclosure. Amy & Tennyson got the task of doing this job alone. It took all 4 hands so these pictures were taken with the monitor system cameras.



Move tub off frame



Dig up and move frame



Position frame against the chain link



Position swim tub back on frame



And now we have about 2 feet of water in the tub - ready for a day of fun until we have a permanent fix. We are just waiting for word on materials and labor donations and for the professionals to schedule the work.

HOW HEWECH & KAPALUA SHOWED THEIR APPRECIATION

After we repaired the chain link and moved the tub up against the chain link panel, we were able to seal off the bottom drain and add about two feet of water. Kapalua had been trying to open the divider gate to get to us and see what we were doing the whole time the work was going on. She worked hard without any luck and then resorted to becoming a contortionist extraordinaire. Hard to imagine bodies could actually bend the way she was bending her body. Finally she gave up and both bears went to the den to take a nap.

After we were all done and added a couple of feet of water to the tub, we opened the gate, stood outside the enclosure and expected to see the bears jump in the swim tub right away. We waited.....and we waited.....and we waited. There was some grumbling about ungrateful little bears, but they remained in the dens. Later that afternoon we caught them on the monitor system sniffing around the swim tub and moving the logs, but neither showed any interest in getting in the water. What a letdown!

However, the best was yet to come. The next afternoon about 1pm, Sally glanced over at the monitor to see Hewech in the tub putting on quite a show. She immediately clicked record and caught some hilarious video of Hewech diving like a whale, trying to drown a ball, and lunging



Hey, there's water in here again



A game of water ball

around the tub splashing water everywhere. Kapalua tried to join her, but Hewech wasn't in any mood to share. We rarely saw her in the tub last year and felt she was afraid to get in since Kapalua was so much stronger than she was at that time. The water was deep and Kapalua was always wired up and possessive of the tub so her fear was probably justified. It was wonderful to see her stand her ground and Kapalua honor that and leave her alone in the tub. We have only been able to put a foot or two of water in the tub twice now as there is no drain. Once the work starts on the permanent system, we hope it goes quickly. The monitor system video isn't the best, but still priceless. Part of the swim tub video is now on our website and Facebook. Check it out on [Bear Videos](#) on the website and also our Facebook page - it will definitely make you smile.

ALL THAT WE DO IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO YOU, OUR LOYAL SUPPORTERS

Whether it's through your donations, words of encouragement, sharing IBBR with friends, family, and co-workers, or your continued support for the many projects we face, we couldn't do it without you. Our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the bears and everyone at IBBR for making it possible to do the work we do, to save the cubs who need help.



FEATURED ARTIST

DREW M. WRIGHT - ALPINE WILDERNESS PHOTOGRAPHY



IBBR is pleased to welcome Drew M. Wright from [Alpine Wilderness Photography](http://AlpineWilderness.com) to the IBBR Gift Shop and to the Artists for Cubs on our Facebook. Sally ordered some cards from him and Drew was kind enough to donate some cards for our recent Pool Party. He has some amazing photographs and Sally is already planning on buying several.

Drew doesn't have any bear photographs yet, but he is relocating to Jackson Hole so bears should be appearing in the gallery in the near future. In the meantime, there are some adorable pictures of wildlife and gorgeous mountains, deserts, oceans, rivers & lakes, and forest and trees. We'll be adding Alpine Wilderness Photography to the IBBR Gift Shop in our website and to the Artists for Cubs on our Facebook. Drew is going to donate a percentage of the sales to IBBR for the cubs. Details will be on FB and in the IBBR Gift Shop in the near future. Until then check out the beautiful photographs on his website and enjoy - just imagine yourself in one of those pictures.

OUR FAVORITE CAPTION

Bears always lend themselves to amusing captions. They are characters and even with the most natural behavior they can offer smiles and chuckles at their antics. Here is one of our most favorite pictures.



BEAR NECESSITIES - WISH LIST

Idaho Black Bear Rehab 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 costs about \$5600 all inclusive to care for each cub during the nine to fifteen months they are with us depending on how much food & other items are donated. It is approximately another \$750 per cub for release & repair expenses. If everyone could donate even the price of one soft drink, it means we could help one more cub.



Ruggles - 1989 - He started it all

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

VOLUNTEER HELP - DONATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

IBBR needs people to fill the following three volunteer positions:

1) Grant Writer 2) Fund-raising Assistant (3 Web update assistant

Printer to donate printing handbooks, newsletters, and other documents; electrician to donate time and knowledge for needed repairs; plumbing company to volunteer labor with swim tub repairs & other needs; volunteers to pick up fruit and nuts in fall ; video specialists to donate labor and/or equipment for upgrades to video monitor system; welder to build a transfer carrier to move cubs from one enclosure to another; volunteer to do property maintenance; volunteer with construction experience

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 P3015dn printer cartridges * Freezers * Hydraulic lift truck crank for IBBR truck (see www.pickupspecialties.com 4' model LT436) * Golf cart to haul items from roadside drop to enclosure at back end of property

SPECIALITY ITEMS:

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

Milk Matrix #99840 (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 for locations in the Boise area

Formula items:

Cartons of Gerbers peach fruit baby cereal & cans of Wilderness Blueberry Pie Filling * Albertsons blended fruit yogurt (or any yogurt with blended fruit rather than chunks) * 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.

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

We will send you a tax deductible receipt & picture of the bears. For credit cards and other ways to donate visit on our [website](http://www.bearrehab.org).

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



The Bears Thank You!

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