

BEARS FIRST

Idaho Black Bear Rehab., Inc.

January 2012

IBBR & the bears wish you lots of bear medicine in 2012 so all your dreams and goals will become a reality.



Our last issue of Bears First was September 2009. Since then we have been using Sally's News on the IBBR [website](http://www.bearrehab.org) for updates. We are now happy to reinstate IBBR's newsletter with this issue. This issue is longer than most since we have a lot of updates & news. Our plan is to do a Bears First quarterly on the website. We welcome your suggestions & ideas as to what you would like to see in future issues of Bears First - questions - special sections, etc. You can submit your ideas or questions to us at info@bearrehab.org.

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Since Our Last Newsletter in 2009

2010 Bears

In 2010 IBBR received 8 bears for rehab from Washington. There were 5 male and 3 female and they were one of the most rambunctious, mischievous group in years. We had a lot fun watching them, a few gasps, more than a few "how did you do that", and as always we learned new things from the group as a whole and from each individual bear. Washington preferred a spring release so all eight bears were released during the first week of June, 2011. You can check [Bear Journal 2010](#) for information and pictures on these bears and their release.

2011 Bears

We still had the 8 Washington bears until the first week of June 2011 so it was a busy time. As rambunctious and mischievous as they were in 2010, they were now yearlings with a new mind set and lots of energy. There were several times when we looked at the monitor with the cameras and wondered if anything in the enclosure would be intact when release day came.

Our first 2011 arrival was Kapalua who came from Oregon on 5/2/11. She was about 8 weeks old and it's possible her mother was killed during hunting season, but no one knew for sure. She has been a most interesting cub - always happy, never stressed, amusing herself and never bored. She could make a fun game out of anything.



Wailana & Kapalua

A few days later on 5/5/11 Wailana arrived from Washington. He was a male, thought to be an orphan from the previous fall that they weren't able to capture. Somehow he managed to survive the winter, but when found in May was very underweight and in need of help if he was going to survive. He remained with us until September when he made it known that enough was enough and he was ready for his freedom. Watching him as a yearling & Kapalua as a much smaller cub learn to wrestle with each other was educational. Kapalua had to learn to be a bit rougher & Wailana had to learn not to be as rough as his size and strength allowed. Watching them reach that perfect state was fascinating and didn't take more than a few days.

On 8/16/11 a female from Utah arrived. She was thin, couldn't stand very well and was obviously in need of some intense care. Her mother had been hit by a car and it's unknown if she was hit as well, but she did take a fall from a tree. Whatever happened to her, for days she would lean on items in the enclosure to stand and actually sleep leaning on them. As with most cubs, she knew instinctively that the formula we provided was what she needed most and drank all she could get. After a few days she started eating the fruit and yogurt and eventually the dog food.



Hewech

Both Oregon & Utah decided to do a spring release and IBBR agreed with that. You can read their updates & see more pictures on [Bear Journal 2011](#).

Update on the IBBR Bear Caretakers

In the picture (from left to right) is Meghan Underwood, Joshua Hood, and Amy Kidwell. Due to conflicts with the work schedule, IBBR needs, and their availability, the three of them would job share. IBBR wanted one of them to live on site and Amy Kidwell is that person. Meghan moved out of state in September 2010 so we hired Jordan Carlman until he too moved out of state in September 2011.



Update on Bear Caretakers - continued

In January 2011 we hired Tennyson Eagan who moved from Montana to work with IBBR. Currently Amy, Tennyson, and Josh job share. When the bears are hibernating & we don't have any fall arrivals, there are always other tasks to do that get put on the back burner when we have bears keeping them busy.

This is a picture of Tennyson in what looks like a double bear stalking. In reality Kapalua & Wailana were just curious about the camera. Bears are drawn to cameras so it's always a challenge to get in and out of the enclosure with camera intact. Bears can be easily sidelined at times, but once they decide to focus, there is no sidelining them. Tennyson ended up moving away until they were distracted by something else.



Food Donations

All of us at IBBR (especially the bears) would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed fruit and dry dog food. Even just a few apples or grapes or pears here and there made a difference. Special thanks to several of the orchards in

the area who donated boxes of fruit so we had some to freeze for spring when fruit isn't available or is so expensive. Without all the contributions of fruit it would have been difficult to provide the bears with enough fruit in spring.



[Fruitland Nursery - Fruitland, Idaho](#)

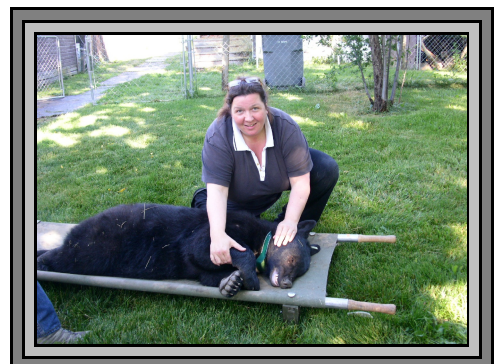
[Kelley Orchards - Weiser, Idaho](#)

[Saxton Fruit Farms - Caldwell, Idaho](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINTON BEAR FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS

Lesley Winton has been a personal friend and long-time supporter of IBBR. She founded the [Winton Bear Foundation](#) in 2010 to raise money for bears everywhere. They just completed their first year and have done some wonderful things for bears. Check out the [website](#) & [Facebook](#) & the [Bears Matter](#) newsletters & join them in their efforts to help bears.

Lesley made the trip from Scotland in 2008 to join us during 3 days of bear releases.



Good News for IBBR

Since the last issue of Bears First many new things have happened at IBBR.

- ◆ IBBR Board member Valerie LeBoeuf took on the position of Administrator of Donor Development and Engagement handling fund-raising, events, and media requests. Valerie is shown at left with Philip Wilson from WSPA in Boston.
- ◆ We added the [IBBR Gift Shop](#) to our website where we feature artists that donate part or all of their proceeds to IBBR for the cubs.
- ◆ We opened the IBBR store on [Zazzle.com](#) with items you can purchase for yourself or as gifts. Each has adorable pictures of IBBR cubs on each item. 15% of the purchase comes to IBBR for the bears.
- ◆ On our [Facebook](#) page you will also find [Artists for Cubs](#) featuring artists who donate part or all of the proceeds to IBBR.
- ◆ Valerie LeBoeuf attended several bear conferences & did presentations about bear rehab on behalf of IBBR. It is very important to share knowledge and experience and continue opening the doors for bear rehab. While we can't attend all of them, it is vital to attend those we can to share and encourage bear rehabilitation.



International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council - October 2010 - Albuquerque NM

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference - February 2011 - Albany, NY

Bear Care Conference - October 2011 - Banff, Alberta Canada

- ◆ We completed the first half of our DVD with David Soul's music "Simple Life" and we are working on the second half which will feature David talking about IBBR and the orphaned cubs.
- ◆ We established several new ways to donate to IBBR - see [Funding & Contributions](#):

PayPal

Facebook Causes - Bear Bunch 2011 (which is good into 2012)

Hewlett-Packard Employee Match Program

[eBay's Giving Works Program](#)

[AMEX Members Give Program](#)

Stock donations through our account with Edward Jones

GE Foundation Employee Match Program

Memorial Donations

Microsoft Employee Giving Program (still in progress)

Monthly Giving (schedule monthly donations - in progress)

[GoodSearch.com](#) - select IBBR as your charity. Each search earns IBBR money. If you click on the stores shown & purchase an item while in the store, the store will donate to IBBR. It uses Yahoo as the search engine. Check it out - easy way to help IBBR & the cubs.

- ◆ [Garden City Magazine](#) did a very nice article on IBBR in their Fall 2010 issue
- ◆ We released 8 bears from 2010 in 2011 & [Corbin Maxey, The Reptile Guy](#) (no, bears aren't reptiles) went along on the release. He had a great time, filmed some short clips which you can view below:

[Part 1](#)

and

[Part 2](#)

Good News for IBBR - continued

- ◆ [Run Fido Run](#) selected IBBR as one of the beneficiaries of their second annual fund-raiser in September 2011. We were so pleased to be a part of the event. Valerie set up a table to share information about IBBR and it was a fun day for everyone. Picture at left shows Valerie accepting the donation from Nicole & Susan who represent Run Fido Run.
- ◆ Our [Facebook](#) friends showed their support by donating money for the cubs during several parties on Facebook - Bearly Spring R & R, Not a Raffle Raffle, Housewarming Party, 2011 Bear Bunch, & a few weekend and one day only parties. Our Facebook Admin team continues to do an amazing job for IBBR and the orphaned cubs. We are so grateful to everyone who helped us with Facebook, but currently stop by and visit with Lisbeth, Debra, and Michele. They are terrific.



- ◆ In July 2011, IBBR had a booth at the [Boise Music Festival](#) which hosted approximately 70,000 visitors from Idaho and other states. Valerie, Amy, & Tennyson hosted the booth where they greeted a lot of people, some already familiar with IBBR and some new friends.

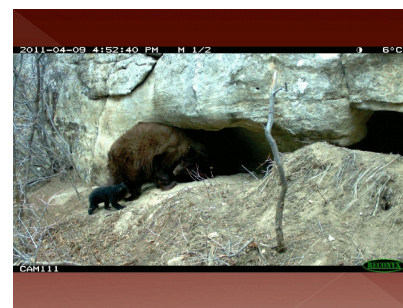
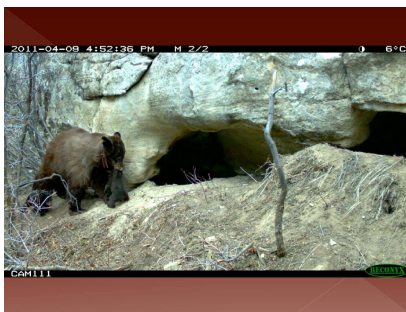
- ◆ IBBR received some most exciting news about one of our cubs from 2004, released in 2005. Utah sent word they had been tracking the female and for the last two years she had cubs of her own. This year they sent photos of the bear with her cubs. It is so rare we get an opportunity to have this kind of feedback so it was one of the best moments in our 23 years of bear rehab. To see a female we raised with her own cubs and doing a good job in raising them just completes the circle of life that is really what wildlife rehabilitation is all about. It doesn't get any better than this and even though watching the bears on release day is very rewarding, to see one of our cubs with her own cubs is beyond rewarding & just inspires us to keep saving as many cubs as we can. See the photos individually or click through them quickly to view more as a video.



IBBR booth at the Boise Music Festival

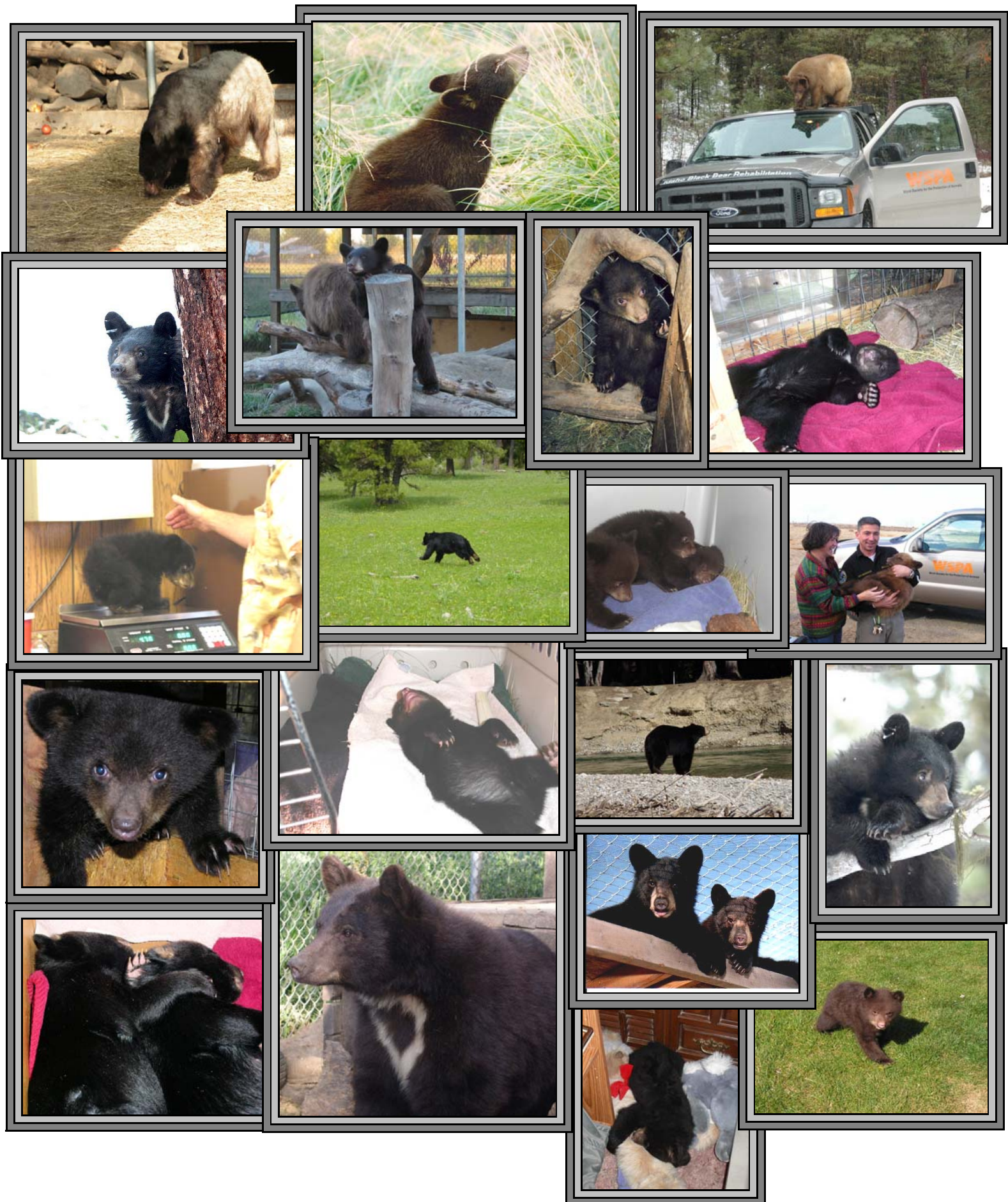
[Rosy with her own cubs](#)

Mom carries 1 cub - then waits for 2nd cub to catch up

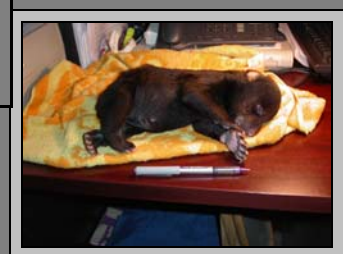
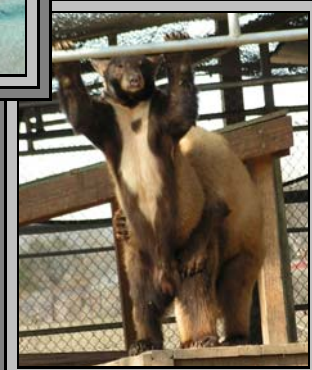
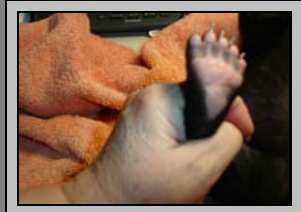
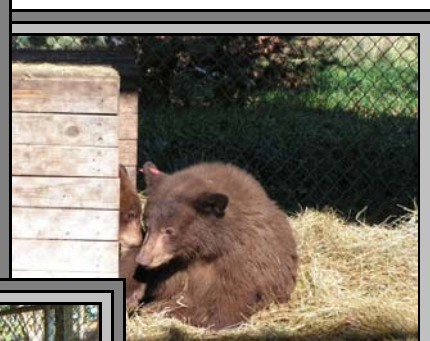


- ◆ In June 2011 [Idaho Public Television](#) visited IBBR as we prepared the 8 Washington bears for release. They featured the story as one of the clips in the Outdoor Idaho Program "Working for Wildlife". The program aired in July and featured the preparation, transport, and release of the 8 Washington Bears from 2010. You can read about it & see pictures on the [Working for Wildlife](#) page & you can also view the [video](#). Be sure to watch the whole program as it shows you some of Idaho's beautiful scenery and has clips on the Wolverine, Birds of Prey Center, the Fisheries, and tagging deer. Also read Sally's article about releases on page 10 of this issue of Bears First.

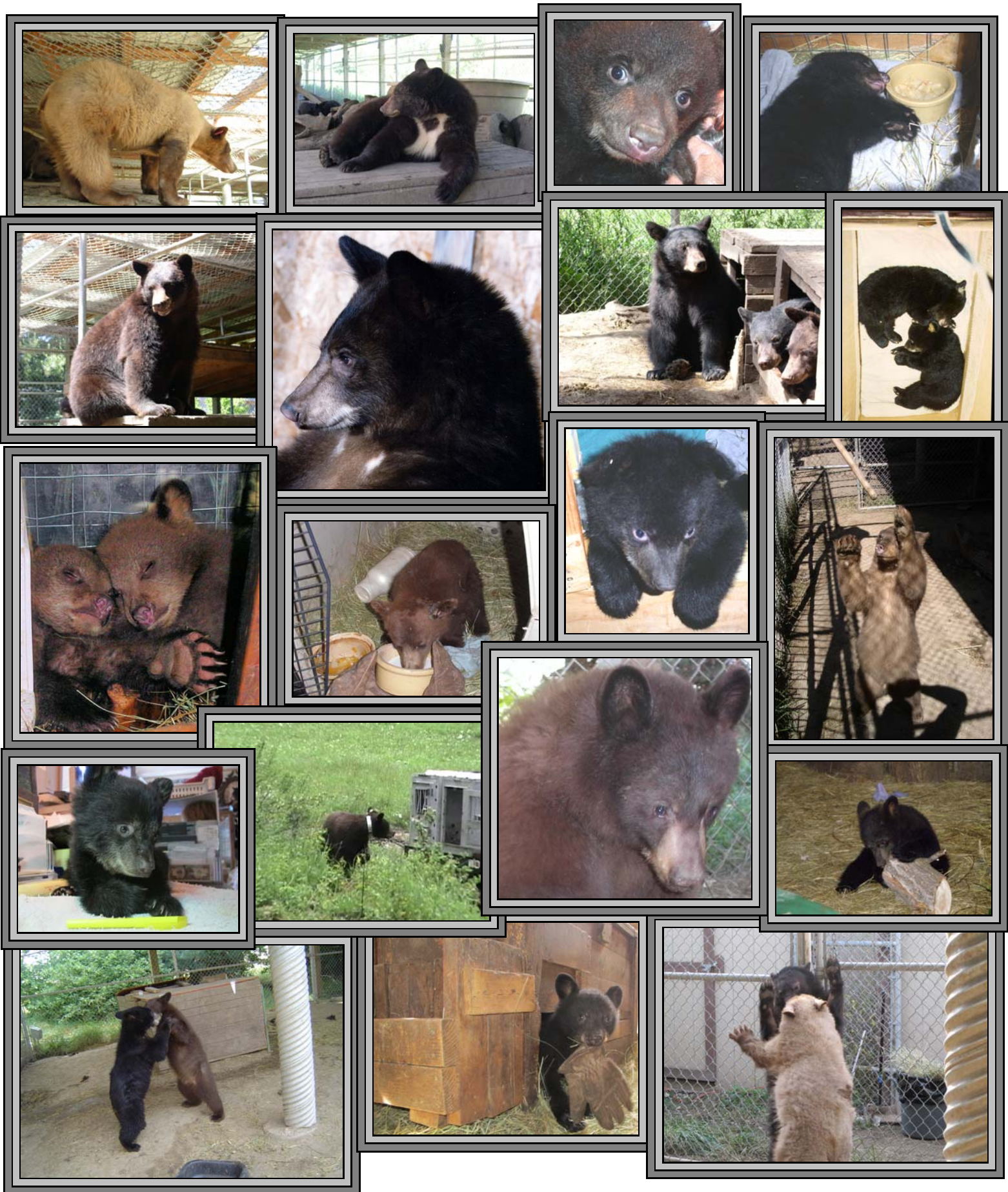
SOME OF OUR FAVORITE PICTURES OVER THE YEARS



SOME OF OUR FAVORITE PICTURES OVER THE YEARS - continued



SOME OF OUR FAVORITE PICTURES OVER THE YEARS - continued



CHALLENGES FACING ORPHANED BEAR CUBS

There are so many challenges facing orphaned or injured bears in the world today. With each day it becomes increasingly difficult to surmount all the obstacles. However, those of us working with bears will continue to try. We will do everything in our power to save an orphaned or injured bear cub. We ask the public to stand with us and be sure their wildlife agencies know they expect bear rehab to be a part of their bear management plan and that state wildlife agencies actively put cubs in rehab whenever possible.

- Some wildlife agencies don't include rehab in their management plans or don't have a rehabilitator experienced in raising cubs. They are hesitant to use a rehabilitator without bear experience due to concerns about problem bears when released.

Bear rehab 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. There are some officers who will make an all out effort to save a cub, sometimes in the worst of weather conditions. People report orphaned cubs, but by the time the officer can get to the area the cub moved on and can't be located.



Hoping help will come

Looking for the orphaned cub

Found & is now safely
on his way to rehab

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

They consider that situation food conditioning and habituation. While that might be so with adult or maturing bears, IBBR's experience with cubs of the year and even 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 only food source (mom) 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 worked with 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 can all recognize that if we were starving and homeless, we would probably use any means available to survive until the situation changed.

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 will also mature that aren't yet developed as cubs. Of course that doesn't mean a rehab cub couldn't turn to humans for food after release 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 or that it's a rehab bear that it will automatically become a problem bear. 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 since each is an individual with his or her own personality, the habitat, and the situation. It just isn't logical to impose a presumption on a cub just because it accepts food while orphaned.

CHALLENGES FACING ORPHANED BEAR CUBS - continued

- ☛ More people are moving into bear habitat until there is no longer enough room to support the bears. It creates nuisance bear situations and human-bear conflicts which often costs the bears their lives.

As more people move into bear country, suddenly the bear becomes the problem. For those who refuse to bear proof their homes or learn to live in harmony with the bears, it generally means a dead bear. Who is responsible for that? Check out [Bear League's](#) website for lots of great information on living with bears so the bear doesn't have to die. If there are bears where you live, read [Keeping Your House Bear Safe](#). If you live in or visit bear country, remember that you are the guest in their home and act accordingly.

- ☛ One option for wildlife agencies is to leave the orphaned cub to survive as best he or she can on it's own.

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 an orphaned cub to survive on it's 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. Then it can be released or put in a den later in the year.



- ☛ Today, red tape and politics within state agencies can create a maze of obstacles to saving cubs and sometimes tie the hands of the rehabilitators and the officers in the field as to what they can do to save the cubs.

Whether the state agency has a policy on bear rehab or not, there are always a variety of opinions on this subject. The officer in the field may be receptive to saving an orphaned cub while his boss may wish to let the cub live or die on it's own. It can be a stepladder of "save the cub - don't save the cub" which makes it difficult. Sometimes politics or personal agendas enter into the picture which complicates it even more. It should be as simple as save the cub if we can save the cub, but that's not always the case.

- ☛ 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 for a period of time before they realize that isn't practical and will call the state wildlife agency.

Cubs can be severely traumatized when they are orphaned. Depending on how many times they change hands before settling into rehab, they can suffer trauma or 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 doorframe, anger, attacks, constant bawling and/or pacing, head tossing, constant fighting with the 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 to finally feel safe and secure enough to act and feel like a bear again.

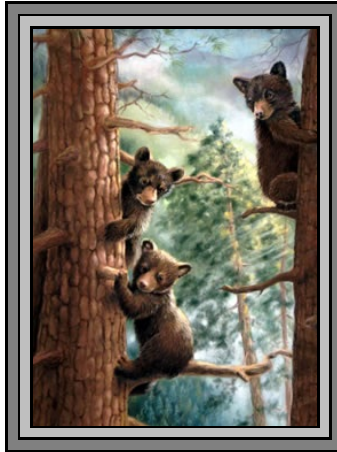
This cub weighed only 7 lbs & was near death in June. What if someone misjudged her weight just by looking at her - she would have died within 2-3 days at most. Notice how big her head is compared to her body & the sunken eyes. She had trouble standing because her legs couldn't support her body even 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.

FEATURED ARTIST

KAAREN POOLE - WILD HARE STUDIO

IBBR would like to highlight one of the artists in our [IBBR Gift Shop](#). Kaaren Poole from [Wild Hare Studio](#) has long been a supporter of IBBR and the orphaned cubs. Check out all the amazing paintings, gourds, cards, jewelry, and items on her website and read about Kaaren and her special friends Duckie & Belle.

Be sure to look at [The Bear Page](#) for all the wonderful bear items. Kaaren donates 100% of the sales purchased on The Bear page to IBBR. Sally would love to have each one, but said her favorite (apart from Kaaren's bear paintings) is the IBBR Booster Pendant. The bear so looks like our adorable Whiskers and she wears it almost daily as she works. She swears when she wears it, the day seems to go smoothly with far less problems.



Sally's Whiskers pendant



4th INTERNATIONAL HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICT WORKSHOP

IBBR tries to attend conferences and workshops to share information and learn what is impacting bears and bear rehab. It is a vital part of bear rehab, but sometimes it takes funding we don't have. This year we will focus on the 4th International Human-Bear Workshop being held in Montana March 20-22. Since bear-human conflicts & problem bears are a major concern for wildlife agencies, it is critical that we attend. This workshop is an opportunity to share valuable information & discuss ideas that will lead to a better understanding of how we can work together to rehab bears and continue to avoid conflicts and problems. If you wish to contribute to sending IBBR to this workshop, just click on the [DONATE](#) button on our website. Be sure you designate your donation is for the workshop in the notes or message box. Thank you for your support.

UNDERSTANDING THE RELEASE - SPRING OR WINTER

by Sally A Maughan

Over the past 22 years, I've gone on a lot of the releases, both spring and during winter when we placed the bears in dens to hibernate. Each one has its pros and cons. Winter releases are very difficult due to weather and the environment. Spring releases are a joy, but of course we are releasing bears at a time when there are people hiking and using the same release site as the bears, remote as it might be. That causes a bit more concern in what opportunities might present themselves to bears that could get them in trouble.

David Soul carries Pele to a den



For winter releases we start bears in hibernation here and then put them in dens in the woods to finish hibernation. They are both inspiring and frustrating. It takes a lot of advance planning when we release cubs in winter. Plans tend to change at the blink of an eye even the morning of the release day. Weather plays a large part in winter dennings. We have to snowmobile the bears in on sleds. Snowmobiles break down, sleds tip over, snow isn't always the right quality for the snowmobiles, and bears have moved into what was an empty den just a day or two prior to our arrival. When that happens we are left seeking another den on the mountain as dark approaches and the snow begins to fall again. The silence and majesty of a winter day in the mountains

is breathtaking. Watching the bears sniff the cold air and see their excitement at sensing they are home again is priceless. If it would only go smoothly.....

On some spring releases in the early years of bear rehab, we would just open the carrier doors & let them move off as they chose to do. Some would tear out of the carrier and run for the woods never to be seen again. Others would run from the carrier & then stop in the onion field, graze, climb trees, turn over logs and just check out the environment. It's all new to them. My most memorable was a spring release where we watched the bears doing all of those activities for about half an hour. Then one of the



UNDERSTANDING THE RELEASE - SPRING OR WINTER - continued

bears started up a slope and one by one the rest followed. Our last view was a line of 9 bears up on a slope following the lead bear. I will never forget that day or that final glimpse of them. What a perfect ending to the rehab process for me and the bears. It was our first spring release and I worried so much about the bears. None got into trouble or became a nuisance and then of course I wondered why as that was what the experts said would happen. I finally came to the conclusion that the bears were just glad to be free. The last thing they wanted was to see a human and maybe end up back in rehab. As nice as it might be, it just wasn't freedom.

The state wildlife agencies are in charge of the releases. Most of the releases these days are spring releases, sometimes referred to as a hard release. The spring releases of today can't be as peaceful as they once were because the world of bears is rarely peaceful now. There are so many threats to them, especially from humans that we have to do all we can to insure they avoid people at all costs.

I have been asked several times why it has to be so traumatic when we release bears in spring. The purpose of the noise, yelling, dogs, and rubber or bean bag bullets is to make the bears last experience with humans as unpleasant as possible and deter them from seeking out people. Remember most of the people at the release are strangers and these bears know the difference between their caretakers and everyone else. Yet it may be the one last thing we can do for them so they understand to avoid all people. From this day forward the only people they will see are strangers. We don't want any expectations that a stranger will be non-threatening like their caretakers were during rehab.



WA DFW radio collars, tattoos, takes measurements & DNA, & ear tags the bears. Terri Limberg gets the temperatures while Pearl supervises the whole process



Karelain bear dog "Cash" tells the bears that freedom is just a few minutes away.

It has taken years and years to make a dent in the mind set that a human can't raise and successfully release a bear so wildlife agencies will consider rehab an option for orphaned cubs. Does a hard release really make a difference? If there is even a slight chance it will make a difference and save a bear, then yelling, dogs barking, and rubber or bean bag bullets is a small price to pay. It causes a minute or two of discomfort & "let's get the heck out of here", but worth it if that saves their lives later on. Given a few days to adjust, they revert pretty quickly to a very cautious and wary bear. There is no tolerance for a rehab bear that becomes a problem & that bear will end up dead. Not only does that bear lose his life, but it can impact the future of bear rehab and take us back to that very mind set we continue to work so hard to eliminate.

State agencies use these same methods to deter wild bears who cause problems. Sometimes they have to repeat the process, but usually it will deter a bear from continuing the negative behavior

and therefore save its life. How do I personally feel about it? I'd love to see them introduced back to their world in the same calm peaceful way I experienced on a release years ago. However, that isn't the reality for bears in today's world. We take their habitat & then get mad when they think they still live there and cause us trouble. Then we

UNDERSTANDING THE RELEASE - SPRING OR WINTER - continued

have dead bears. No matter how remote the area, we will always find people there at one time or another. Some will be respectful that this is the home of the wildlife and they are the guests while others could care less. So whatever it takes to tell these bears to avoid people is what needs to happen. The best judge of that when it comes to the release is the officers who manage and deal with bears in the release area on a regular basis.

For example, we do a lot of WA bears & I trust the officer's judgment. I also know each bear very well and I don't believe it will traumatize the bears in the way people might think. I have complete faith in WA and the officers I work with to coordinate the release. They consult with me as to the timing, when the bears are ready, and which bears should be released together. When it comes to the actual release and release site it is in their hands. I trust their judgement because I know their primary concern is to see the rehab bears remain free and out of trouble to live out their lives as a wild bears. The rehabilitator, the officers, and the bears all want a successful release, not only for their sake, but for the sake of future orphaned cubs yet to come.



Almost home

If rehab bears become problems, they won't be able to continue bringing in orphaned cubs & we go back to that same old mind set. It's a very good idea to reinforce their fear of strangers since every human they come across now will be a stranger. Whoever they meet won't be a caretaker who is there to help them. We want them avoid people at all times and in all situations. Rehab bears are very confident self-assured bears. I think they probably have a minute or two of anxiety and instinctively make a mad dash to get away from all the turmoil. Once they are behind trees, out of sight, some distance away they will stop and graze and check out their surroundings.



Open this door!

Admittedly, as I expected, I did cringe at seeing Whiskers sent off that way since it was one more scare in his short life of so many scares. My protective instincts kicked in immediately. However, I also knew of all the bears he needed to understand people can't be trusted. That part of his life was now over. I also knew the minute he got off the road and into the trees, he and the twins would be grazing, climbing, and enjoying their first taste of freedom. I suspect they began to focus on all the wonderful new sounds, smells, tastes, and visions around them. Their biggest challenge was probably what to investigate first.

UNDERSTANDING THE RELEASE - SPRING OR WINTER - continued

If some of the release video clips disturb you with what appears to be tormenting the bears & if you think it's cruel or unnecessary, consider this. It's a few minutes of agitation and noise in their life that might mean the difference between a life of freedom or a problem bear who ends up dead before he has a chance to enjoy his freedom. We are all on their side and no one, especially the officers at the release want the rehab program to end because of problem bears.



Officers getting ready to open the doors



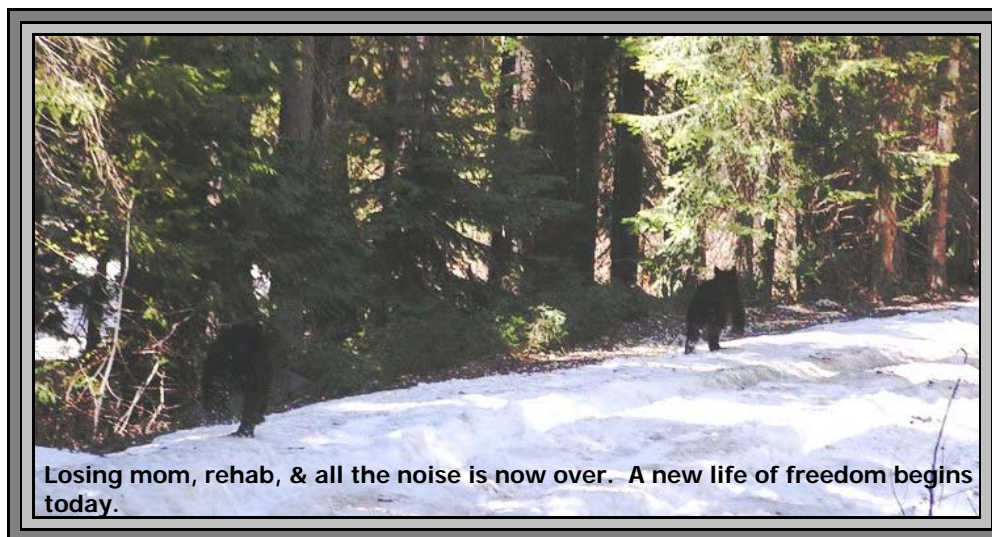
When the door opens, you bears take off fast



Enough stalling - let me out of here!



Cash says "Job well done. The bears are free!"



Losing mom, rehab, & all the noise is now over. A new life of freedom begins today.

BEAR SANCTUARY - A WONDERFUL BOOK by VICTOR WATKINS

I first met Victor Watkins when he visited IBBR years ago representing WSPA. He started the "Libearty Campaign" to save and protect bears. His personal encouragement and support for IBBR meant a great deal. In fact, if not for Victor & WSPA, IBBR would probably have ended long ago.

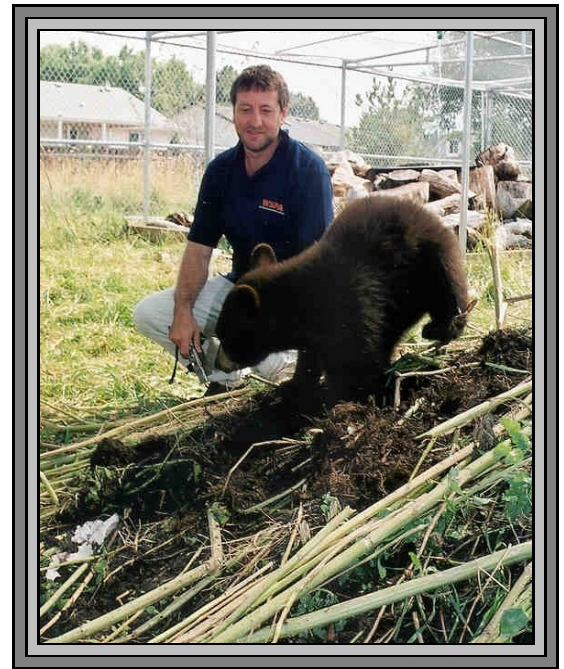
Victor's passion to help bears saw several sanctuaries built in countries like Turkey, Pakistan, India, & Romania. His book "Bear Sanctuary" gives us a look at the sanctuaries and the bears who live in them. It is an amazing read with gorgeous pictures. Victor was also kind enough to include information on IBBR. Take my word for it, you won't regret buying this wonderful book. Check out the [Bear Sanctuary](#) website, read about Victor and this book, and then purchase your own copy. He is not only my hero for all his tireless work for bears, but if bears could talk they would tell you he is their hero as well. So many bears saved from unthinkable cruelty and torture thanks to Victor.

WHAT WILL 2012 BRING FOR IBBR & ORPHANED CUBS

by Sally Maughan

Sometimes in the face of adversity it is hard to remain positive. There are up and down times, but overall we have to believe we can save any orphaned or injured cubs that need help and never stop trying. I have held a dying cub in my arms and it's heartbreaking. That isn't something you ever forget. To think of even one of these cubs dying alone, afraid, starving when help could so easily have saved it is just beyond my tolerance and comprehension. That's not the kind of world I want to live in, either for myself or the bears.

Whatever happens, somewhere out there will be one cub that IBBR & other bear rehabilitators will help one day. Even if it is the only cub we are able to help in the future considering the current challenges facing bears and bear rehabilitators, I remain hopeful in the future of IBBR and determined that we can save these cubs. I have seen many miracles happen the past 22 years that helped save orphaned cubs. As IBBR starts it's 23rd year, 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.



Victor Watkins visits with Taz at IBBR



Waiting for help to come

I will always remain very concerned about the many orphaned cubs who might not get help in the future. Don't be deceived - just because they aren't brought in doesn't mean they aren't out there. In the near future, IBBR will begin addressing the obstacles placed before us that restrict bear rehab, both for rehabilitators & officers in the field. We will be asking the public to help us eliminate 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. Hau Kea has become IBBR's Poster Bear for cubs who need help.

WHAT WILL 2012 BRING FOR IBBR & ORPHANED CUBS - continued

I recently heard someone facing an enormous challenge for over 20 years respond to a question put to him about how he handles it. It struck me as being much like the situation IBBR faces today with so many challenges. 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. With each step I have no doubt the spirit of those bears now free and even those who have crossed over walks this path with us.

I will leave you with one final thought. Some time ago a friend shared this story with me. It is so compelling I share it at every opportunity. 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. Please join us to help make a difference for orphaned and injured bears.

The Starfish Story **by Loren Eiseley (1907 - 1977)**

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.

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."



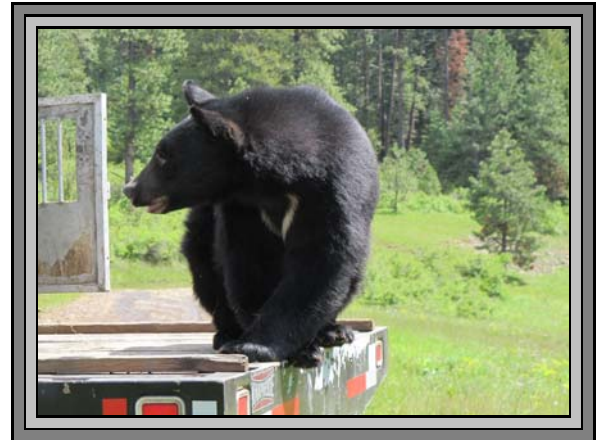
And it made a difference for this one !

IBBR'S COMMITMENT TO THE BEARS

Over the past 22 years, Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, has given injured and orphaned black bear cubs a *Second Chance at Freedom*. Since 1989, nearly 200 cubs in our rehabilitation program have been released back into the wild. We believe that each bear is unique, and that the stories behind their orphan or injured status impact each bear and the people who have joined in their life story in ways that matter to them all.

Cubs come to IBBR for a variety of reasons. Some are orphaned during spring & fall bear hunting or because their mother is killed due to perceived nuisance behavior. Some are found injured or separated from their mother for reasons unknown. Some cubs are orphaned when their mothers are killed in motor vehicle accidents. Some bears have overcome such horrific challenges that their stories can't help but offer inspiration to everyone.

IBBR has found that each cub's individual personality is as distinct as the variety of personalities we find among humans. Rehabilitation of bears can never take a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Besides providing for a variety of physical needs, such as those facing newborns, malnourished, injured, or cubs fighting disease, support for emotional trauma, or inquisitive and active minds, care must be customized for each and every cub. IBBR is well known for adapting rehabilitation techniques and facilities to fit the needs of individual bears, and we are committed to continuing to embrace and promote the necessity of recognizing the value and importance of individual bears.



We show our commitment to the individual by the way we tailor a cub's rehab experience by using methods and practices that are best for that cub. We show that by embracing, enjoying, and sharing each cub's distinct personalities, as noted in the names that are chosen for them while they're in rehab. They aren't just a number. We show that by caring whether they live or die, and work hard to ensure that they're released in an area, and at a time, that will promote their best chance of survival as a wild bear.

We are making these efforts to build compassion, protection, and ownership for the welfare of bears by developing successful methods and practices for bear rehab which we share with wildlife agencies, organizations working to save threatened bear species, and with individuals who care about bears and their environment.

While orphaned cubs face the challenges of survival until they are found and placed in rehab, injured cubs and older bears face even more difficult tests as they begin to grasp and actively work through rehab to gain their freedom once again. They have to set aside their natural fear and allow a degree of trust in us during rehab. The rehab process may be painful or tedious, and they may not understand why it's needed. Yet they are able to put their lives and trust in us as their care givers to regain their health and be all that they can be. We have yet to work with any injured cub or older bear that didn't face the experience head on, work hard to overcome, and never give up. They have faced each day with the attitude of whatever it takes, let's do it. There has never been any doubt that they expected to recover, and gain their freedom to be a bear in the wild once again. For those of us blessed to work with these bears during the rehab process, that is a huge inspiration in our own lives. We want to share that same inspiration with everyone.

IBBR'S WISH FOR BEAR MEDICINE IN 2012

We would like to upgrade our remote camera and video recording system so we can share the lives of the

IBBR'S WISH FOR BEAR MEDICINE IN 2012 - continued

cubs via webcast and educational video recordings. This will enable us to reach more of those in the community (persons with disabilities, urban dwellers, school children, the terminal or seriously ill in hospitals or rehabilitation centers) who normally wouldn't have the opportunity to learn about and be involved in our project. We hope that by using this format we can offer encouragement by the example of the cubs and our own rehab efforts to demonstrate that everyone has a chance to overcome their individual challenges to follow their dreams and reach their individual goals.

Streaming live video on the web site will enable us to have education programs in any state. We can conference call or webcast with the classroom while they watch the bears. We can explain the behavior they are seeing as it happens. Being able to watch the bears brings an opportunity for more and new questions the viewers might not otherwise think to ask.

Upgrading our current video monitoring system will also provide a valuable tool in our continuing efforts to share knowledge and educate the world on the benefits of rehabilitating and releasing orphaned and injured bears. This system will provide live video feed on the web for wildlife managers, rehabilitators, schools, zoos, libraries, biologists, veterinarians, animal organizations, and bear projects around the world. They

can monitor the cubs' growth, behavior, and various stages of development. Whether it's a 7th grader in Indiana, a biology student at Washington State University, a wildlife rehabilitator in Oregon, a zoo in Sweden, a bear project in Russia, a wildlife manager in South America, a Special Ed class in New York, or a bear expert in Pennsylvania, we can reach out to them with a program that is educational, inspirational, and interesting.



Please help us

The monitoring system we have now was installed years ago, mostly with the intent that it would help us monitor the bears behavior and activities when we weren't with them. Over the years, the needs have changed and the system no longer meets all the demands we place on it. Cameras don't provide the quality of pictures or video we need to develop our education program and share the information and knowledge with others. For over two years IBBR searched for a company to help us find just the right system. We found many were mostly interested in how much they could sell us and less interested in whether the system met our needs. In 2011 we found Gray Williams who is Project Manager with [Virtual Surveillance](#) and Ryan Chris who is [President of IP Design LLC](#). Together have helped us find the system that will meet our needs today and into the future. Retail cost is approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 to upgrade all the cameras and install the equipment necessary to make this dream a reality. However, both Virtual Surveillance & IP Design LLC are committed to donating what they can to help IBBR and make this system a reality. Thann Massaro from [Capitol Computer Service](#) is overseeing the project along with Sally Maughan for IBBR. We are applying for grants, asking for corporation support, and seeking funding in a variety of ways. We have asked all the bears that passed through IBBR to share their bear medicine to make this dream a reality in 2012.



Bears & IBBR receive blessing from the Shoshone Tribe

Please take a minute and send a tax deductible donation to:

**Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc.
6097 Arney Lane
Garden City, Idaho 83714 U.S.A.**

**For credit card donations use PayPal on our
web site: www.bearrehab.org**

The Bears Thank you!



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 costs about \$5600 all inclusive to care for each cub during the eight 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.

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) Volunteer Coordinator 3) Fund-raising 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 - 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 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 fruit) * 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



Ruggles - 1989 - He started it all

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!

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 - web site: www.bearrehab.org