

# BEARS FIRST

Idaho Black Bear Rehab Update

March 17, 1996

## Please Help Orphaned Cubs



Peaches & Kodiak - Playtime is over..Where is dinner?

### About The Idaho Black Bear Rehab Program

Wildlife rehabilitator Sally Maughan started the Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Program in 1989 under the guidance of wildlife manager and black bear expert John Beecham. John studied bears in Idaho for more than 23 years. During his bear studies, he raised and released many orphaned cubs. Using his bear expertise and experiences raising these cubs and her own rehab experience, Sally began forming rehab techniques used exclusively for bears. For five years, three hours a day, March through November, Sally

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studied their behavior during the various stages of development. From this study came the Idaho Black Bear Rehab Program.

Between 1989 and December of 1996, Fish and Game placed a total of 31 orphaned cubs in the rehab program. Idaho is one of the few states that successfully rehabs bears. Most states will not allow the release of these cubs. Even if they did, it is difficult to find a rehabilitator with the funds, enclosures, and experience necessary to do the job. Zoos or wildlife parks will not take them. They won't survive if left alone in the woods. Fish and Game departments have few options in handling orphaned cubs. Most of the time there is no place for them to go.

In 1994, Sally presented this program at the Western Bear Conference. Many wildlife managers, biologists, Fish and Game departments, and bear researchers have since requested copies of the program. Sally mailed out more than 300 copies all over the US, Canada, and to Europe, Asia, and South America. Thanks to the successful release of cubs in Idaho, more states are considering rehab as an alternative to euthanasia.

## What This Program Means For Cubs Everywhere

For Idaho bears, it means orphaned cubs have a place to go. We don't have to euthanize them or leave them in the woods to die. For cubs in other states, it means the door is slowly opening for them to get a second chance, where before they had no chance. There is still much to learn about these cubs during the rehab process. Biologists study bears, their behavior and their habits in the wild. However, they can't study cubs in the wild as we do in this program. It gives us a chance to learn even more about the first year of a bears' life. We can work with Fish & Game departments in other states to encourage and help them start their own rehab programs. We can teach other rehabilitators how to successfully raise and release orphaned cubs.



Chakotey - 1996

## An Open Letter From Sally

We all share a memory of that special teddy bear from our childhood. The little cub below may look like that stuffed teddy bear, but she is real cub. Unlike our teddy bears, worn with years of love, she was an orphan. She had no mother to care for her. She was scared, alone, and very hungry. If not for Fish and Game she would have died an orphan.

Everyone has found an injured bird long term care for them. Cubs can would you feel, finding a helpless Can you imagine putting that little long as I can prevent it, that won't



or a baby animal. Veterinarians can't provide be in rehab for as long as ten months. How cub like this and having no place to take it? bundle of black fur to sleep? I can't, and as happen. However, I do need some extra help

this year to save these orphaned cubs.

For the past eight years, I've had the rare privilege of spending my life with bears. Caring for the cubs each day while developing the rehab program was my responsibility. Many people contributed in various ways so I could do the work necessary. Since this may be the last opportunity I have to thank them, I'd like to mention them now:

- Idaho Fish & Game officers - for finding and bringing in the orphaned cubs
- John Beecham - for sharing his knowledge, supporting my efforts, and always being there
- Jeff Rohlman - for finding the dens and doing the follow-up after release
- Dr. C. Leon Johnson - for providing the medical care and attention the cubs needed
- Mrs. Pret Maughan - for everything; for saving me and this program more than once
- Tom and Kathy Robb & family - for endless hours of support and help
- Steve Audain - for giving me the insight and vision to accomplish the impossible
- Morris Travel - for making it possible to do my job, care for the cubs, and manage the program
- Tom Robb, Valerie LeBoeuf, Toni Bastida Hicks, and Sri Galindo - for bear sitting
- Lloyd Zenick - for the hours and work it took to build the enclosures
- Ame Dexter & Tim Cochnauer - for their long standing encouragement
- Andy Peery - for always offering to help and being there when help was needed
- Sri Galindo - for helping me to manage when I needed it most
- Jim & Jeanette Soden & family - for more than I can mention here and for the fruit each year
- Bonnie Dufty - for giving so many children an opportunity to learn about bears
- Olga Rothchild - for her donation at a time when it was desperately needed
- My neighbors - for caring about the cubs; for their constant support

There are so many individuals that donated food, time, and work to help me. I can't name them all here, but I'm grateful to each of them. It made a difference. However, even as I'm saying thank you, I'm asking you and others to help just once more.

It takes about \$400 per cub to put them through the rehab program. Until five months old, the cubs are on a special formula closely matching their own mothers milk. It can cost up to \$150 a week for enough formula to feed three cubs during their peak intake. After weaning, from June to November, their main food source is fruit, dry dog food, trout, salmon, grass, and acorns. The cubs can go through 20 pounds of dog food a day and several cases of fruit each week.



Sierra & Chakotey - 1996

Up to now, I've been able to support this program through my job. Sometimes I had only one cub, sometimes as many as 13 at one time. I invested \$3000 to \$6000 a year, all my spare time and energy into caring for the cubs and putting together the Idaho Black Bear Rehab Program. If I had the funds, I'd build a rehab center so cubs everywhere would have a place to go. However, until Publishers Clearing House pays me a visit, I can only take as many orphaned cubs here in Idaho as I can manage. And now, at least for this year, even that is threatened.

The **good news** is that it's just the immediate future that is at risk. If there is help now, I can take cubs this year. And, it won't take bundles of money to save the program. The formula and fruit are the two items that cost the most. The formula is vital to their growth and development. It even brought older cubs

back from the brink of starvation. That's an expense there is no way to avoid. However, I can cut the expense of buying fruit. There are many people with fruit trees. Along with fruit, I need 3 or 4 freezers in good working condition to store it.

It is also critical to find one individual to oversee the collection of the fruit each week. My days are 20 hours long. Caring for the cubs is a full time job in itself. I just don't have any more hours in my day to give. One volunteer to find and coordinate a few other volunteers each week to pick up donated fruit can make all the difference. This is an important responsibility. Without sufficient food, the cubs won't put on enough weight to survive hibernation.

## WHAT'S IN THE FUTURE?

I wouldn't ask others to help without making a renewed commitment myself. I decided to go for broke, literally! The main threat to the program this year is the change in my job status. In December, my job of 23 years moved to Salt Lake. I probably had the only job in Boise that would let me bring cubs to work and stop to feed every three hours. The only way now to manage the program and care for the cubs is to work at home. So, I invested in office equipment to do just that. Until I have a new job that allows me to work on the computer at home, I can't provide the finances needed to support the program. And until then, I can't take orphaned cubs. So if anyone knows of opportunities like that, **PLEASE** let me know. It's my job pays the bills and feeds these cubs.

I'm also taking the following steps to help support the program long term:

- Incorporate as Idaho Black Bear Rehab Inc.
- Apply for Non-Profit status
- Establish a bank account for donations
- Acquire 3 or 4 freezers to store fruit
- Find Volunteer Coordinator to collect fruit
- Find people with fruit trees
- Request donations to buy formula



Poco - 1996

To protect the program and to insure it's continuation , I've established the Sally A. Maughan Trust.

Everything I now own, or will own, goes into this trust. In the event of my death, (probably from exhaustion) everything will go to Idaho Black Bear Rehab Inc. to

continue the work I started. It will be months before the steps above are completed. Until then, cubs this year won't have any place to go. They could start arriving any day now. I'm asking for everyone's help so I can accept them for the rehab program.

Many of you reading this update already know me and know the needs of the program. The people I need to reach most right now are the ones who don't know me. **SO, PLEASE, SHARE THIS WITH YOUR OWN FRIENDS, RELATIVES, CO-WORKERS, AND ANYONE ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF.** Make copies for them. If you know someone you believe will help, call me with the name and address and I'll send a copy to them.

In time, the board may establish a membership and an adopt-a-cub program. There is so much needed in this world today and we all do what we can. Please give what you can without taking away from the needs of your own family. Maybe you can give a dollar, a bag of peaches, a sack of dog food, an old freezer. Maybe the kids can spend a little time collecting those pears that dropped off your tree before they rot. Maybe their school has a program for kids to help in the community. **THE TIME IS NOW! THE NEED IS NOW!**

Until we are incorporated and non-profit, your donation isn't tax deductible. However, Wild Animal Rehabilitation of Idaho, Inc. is trying to help the bear program this year. If you indicate your donation is for the Idaho Black Bear Rehab Program, it will reach us and they will send you a tax deductible receipt. Their address is: 1713 Redbird Road - Lewiston, ID 83501. If you aren't concerned about a receipt, you can contact us at the address on this update. I will send out newsletters to anyone who donates to the program. I'll share with you some of the wonderful experiences I've had working with the cubs. I'll introduce you to the endearing Nipper, the amusing antics of Griz, and the special spirit of Shoshone. I'll tell you how we care for the cubs and take you along as we place them in dens for hibernation.

Native Americans say the strength of bear medicine is the power of introspection. If you follow the power of bear, you have the power of knowing. Your goals can then become realities. I've cared for many species of wildlife during my eighteen years as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. There is none more knowing of who they are and what they are about, than the bear. I love and respect the spirit of this animal. I consider myself blessed to be a caretaker for their young. If I have any bear medicine after sharing my life with these cubs, then my goal to continue saving orphaned cubs this year will become a reality.

For the many who asked, Poca, Sierra, and Chakotey are now in dens in the woods. After delays due to weather and closed roads, we placed them in dens during the first two weeks of February. All went well. Mollie McCarty from KBCI Channel 2, went along and did a great story on Poca and his trip back home. Thanks Mollie!



Ruggles - 1989 - He started it all!

I thank all of you in advance for any help you can give this year. Most of all, I thank the bears. They gave me far more than I ever gave in return. I'll leave you with a thought by British naturalist William Beebe that I keep foremost in mind while I'm working with these cubs:

**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.**

**PLEASE, WILL YOU HELP? YOU MIGHT BE THE ONE PERSON TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!  
IT COULD EASILY BE YOUR DONATION THAT SAVES ANOTHER CUB!**

## Bear Necessities - Wish List

**URGENT:**      **3-4 Reliable freezers**                      **Volunteer coordinator & volunteers**                      **Canned and fresh fruit**

**SPECIALITY ITEMS - AVAILABLE BY SPECIAL ORDER FROM PET-AG**

- Multi-Milk                      Esbilac (powdered)                      Vionate

**FORMULA ITEMS:**

- Jars of Gerbers fruit baby cereal - Flavored Yogurt - Honey - Cans of fruit
- Cans of condensed milk (not evaporated) - Natural applesauce - Boxes of oatmeal
- Gerbers baby rice cereal

**FOOD ITEMS:**

- Sacks of dry dog food - Bread - Acorns & Hazelnuts - Fish (salmon or trout)
- Raw carrots - Leaf lettuce - Avacadoes - Cans or jars of fruit
- **Fresh fruit of all kinds: apples, peaches, pears, grapes, plums, cherries, apricots, watermelons, cantaloupes, blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, strawberries**

**GENERAL SUPPLIES:**

- Clean grass hay for bedding - Bath towels - Hand towels - Dog houses for dens
- Lumber for roof and building dens - Large, medium, & small Vari-Kennels
- Large metal Army dog transport carriers - Postage stamps - Donated printing
- **Pipes & plumbing supplies to bring water to enclosure**
- **Plumber to donate work and equipment to lay water pipes**



**Idaho Black Bear Rehab.**  
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