

The Organization

Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. (IBBR) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving orphaned and injured bear cubs by utilizing proven scientific methods for successful rehabilitation and release back into the wild.

IBBR provides high standards of cub care, veterinary treatment, and data monitored follow-up after release. IBBR does not rehabilitate bears to be placed in zoos, sanctuaries, or research facilities.

History

In 1989, very few states were involved in bear cub rehabilitation, and fewer still had programs designed to prepare bears for life in the wild. For over twenty years, working closely with state, national, and worldwide bear experts, Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. (IBBR) has developed a successful rehabilitation program for the American Black Bear. (*Ursus Americanus*).



Mission

To give all orphaned cubs a second chance at a life of freedom 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 black bear rehabilitation as a standard part of their wildlife management policies.
- Educating the public about black bear rehabilitation and our shared responsibility to protect wild bears and their habitat.



The Future

Ethical and science-based protocols concerning injured and orphaned black bear need to be incorporated into state or province regulations and management plans for wildlife. Wildlife agencies should integrate the fluid nature and adaptive needs of bear cub rehabilitation when drafting policies and procedures meant to regulate bear cub rehabilitation. Most important, black bear rehabilitators should be a part of, and major contributor to, black bear management policies as they affect black bear rehabilitation.

Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc.



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What is *BearWise*?

As IBBR continues to affect positive change in the lives of individual bears and world-wide bear populations, we're excited to announce the development of additional programs that will help to educate the public about bear rehab and the wild environment of bears.

As a part of those efforts, we're introducing our *Be BearWise* initiative in communities and parks around the state of Idaho. We hope that our efforts will make a lasting and positive impact on wild bear populations and on the people who live and recreate in black bear habitat.



Why do *BearWise* habits matter?

Orphan cubs come to IBBR for a variety of reasons... all too often, cubs are orphaned because their mother is killed because of perceived nuisance behavior... some are found injured and separated from their mother for reasons unknown. Some cubs have had their mothers killed in motor vehicle accidents. Many of the situations that result in orphan cubs, 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 in their wild environment. IBBR is committed to sharing information with the public, and wildlife agencies - information that can offer potential solutions to problems that lead to injury, illness, and orphaned bear cubs.

We are working to build compassion, protection, and ownership for the welfare of bears and their environment by developing and sharing successful methods and practices for living, working, and recreating in bear habitat.



Be *BearWise*

Hiking

- Hike in groups of 4-5 people in areas where bears live.
- Make sure when hiking to make a lot of noise to alert bears. Consider using an air horn.
- **THINK TWICE** before running away from a bear.
- Carry bear spray at all times while hiking or camping.



Camping

- Use a portable electric fence when camping in remote areas.
- Look around first. Camp well away from natural bear food sources - berry bushes, waterways, and carcasses.
- Use bear-proof containers to store food or hang high between trees.
- Store garbage so it's inaccessible to bears.



At Home

- Cut back or remove brush around your home, walkways, or play areas.
- Feed your pets inside and store pet food inside including dog bones.
- Birdfeeders do attract bears, only use them when bears are hibernating during winter.
- Keep your lawn mowed and weeded. Grasses, dandelions, clovers are natural food sources for bears.



Bear Manners

- Respect all wildlife by keeping your distance.
- Remain calm when you see a bear. Keep your head and trust your instincts.
- Never feed bears or attract them in any way. Bears are very curious creatures.
- Give bears plenty of space and a safe pathway to escape. NEVER corner or crowd a bear.

