

World Society for the Protection of Animals



Celebrities sign up to support orphaned bear cubs

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Celebrity animal lovers, including Christian Slater, Billy Piper and Dame Judi Dench, have signed teddy bears to be auctioned online to support the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) Liberty campaign to save the world's bears.

The bears will be auctioned on internet auction site e-bay next month (September) in a bid to raise money for the Idaho Rehabilitation Centre which cares for orphaned bear cubs with WSPA's support.

Jane Rockliffe, WSPA's Regional & Volunteer Fundraising Manager, said: "We are thrilled that so many high profile personalities value the world's bears and have provided autographed teddies. The internet is a fantastic medium and allows fans from around the world to have a chance to bid for these exclusive and beautiful bears. The funds raised will go towards helping beautiful real life orphan bear cubs be rehabilitated and released back in to the wild."

The Idaho Rehabilitation Centre cares for bear cubs that have been orphaned. Most cubs arrive in late summer or early fall after a summer of food shortages, droughts, and fires. The centre's goal is not to place orphan bears in zoos, or wildlife parks, but back into environments suitable for bear habitation. WSPA provided funding to the centre and recently assisted in the design and construction of purpose built facilities in order to accommodate even more cubs in need of care.

"The centre has an ongoing commitment to these cubs and to those who follow them and as such WSPA's support is essential. Every bear sold will go to help these cubs and WSPA's continued support of the Idaho Rehabilitation Centre," stressed Jane.

To date, celebrities who have donated bears are: Christian Slater, Dame Judi Dench, Michael Palin, Sienna Miller, Billy Piper, Ronan Keating, Jeremy Irons, Diana Rigg, Dawn French, Brian Blessed, Rolf Harris, Joanna Lumley, and David Jason.

