



BEARS MATTER

Issue 1 Dec 2010

'Adopt an animal, become its voice, learn everything you can about it and work with people that want to better its existence, too.' Anon

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of 'Bears Matter' the official newsletter of The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears. The newsletter will be produced twice a year to update you on the progress of the Foundation as we work to help end the abuse and exploitation of bears throughout the world. There are eight species of bear worldwide and they are all under threat due to humans and their activities. They are one of the most persecuted animals in the world. The Foundation is working to help fund and support new and established projects to help bears.

Launch Party

10.10.10

The Foundation was officially launched earlier this year on the memorable date of 10.10.10. The Launch was combined with a Silent Auction and attended by around 40 guests with a beautiful harp recital by Janet Annand.

The auction raised £340.17 and the launch of the Foundation was marked by the symbolic opening of 'The Honey Pot' and a toast by Deryk Gould.



Deryk Gould giving the toast



The opening of 'The Honey Pot'



Guests enjoying the launch and auction



Ruby Scott (age 8) winner of 'Guess the Teddy's birthday'

TWO BY TWO CHALLENGE

In the run up to the launch, Lesley Winton and her Labrador, Holly took part in their 'Two by Two' challenge which saw Lesley swimming two miles (129 lengths of the local pool) then Lesley and Holly walking two miles. Thank you to John Wynne, personal trainer who supervised the swim and Ben Wickham who supervised the walk. This venture raised £486.00 and became the first official fundraiser for the Foundation.



Ben Wickham and Holly on the sponsored walk

A GRANDS GRAND!



*'Sohrab' relaxing in the Balkasar Sanctuary
Photo ©WSPA and the Bioresource Research Centre*

The beginning of November saw the Foundation raising its first £1000 which allowed us to release our first batch of funds to help the bears. We were able to send a donation of £700 to WSPA (The World Society for the Protection of Animals) run sanctuary in Balkasar, Pakistan which provides a refuge for bears rescued from the cruel and illegal bloodsport of bear baiting.

The funds donated by the Foundation will be used to help with the costs of medical equipment, drugs and food for the bears as they recover from their ordeal and begin to enjoy a life free from pain and suffering.

How You Can Help The Foundation...



Regular Giving – if you would like to set up a regular donation to the Foundation, please contact us and we will send you the relevant form.

Collecting Cans – if you know of any shops, clubs, libraries etc that would take a collecting can, please let us know.

Craft Items – we will be holding a number of stalls in 2011 to help raise funds and awareness. We are looking for craft/homemade items/jams etc to sell at these events.

Spread the Word! – Tell anyone you know about the valuable work of the Foundation and ask if they'd like to help or be added to the mailing list.

Arrange your own fundraising event – organise your own fundraiser for the bears, large or small, every penny counts.

(contact details below)

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." - Edmond Burke

WHAT'S NEXT? LET'S SEE...

We certainly won't be stopping at our first £1000 and efforts are already underway to help our next project.

Dancing bears have been eradicated in Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria but unfortunately they still exist in India, Pakistan and Nepal. Bears used for 'dancing' endure a lifetime of physical and mental distress. Many people are unaware of the cruelty behind the spectacle. A bear cub is often caught after its mother has been shot. The bear then has a ring forced through its nose and a rope is pulled through a hole in its upper palate. Tugging on the rope causes the bear great pain. The bears are then beaten on the legs and buttocks while music plays, they then associate pain with music and therefore 'dance' in anticipation of pain.



Bear cub forced to endure life as a 'dancing' bear
Photo courtesy of International Animal Rescue



One of the sanctuary's blind ex dancing bears
Photo courtesy of International Animal Rescue

In the coming months, The Foundation will be raising funds to assist with the cost of an amazing project run by International Animal Rescue to 'Help a bear see in the New Year' at their sanctuary in India for rescued dancing bears. All bears in these sanctuaries have been horrifically abused and it takes time for them to settle in their new surroundings and learn to trust the people caring for them.

This transition is even more of a challenge for the bears that have gone blind during their time as 'dancing' bears often losing their sight through malnutrition or being beaten. These bears are particularly frightened and unsure when they arrive at the sanctuary and need special care.

In order to help them feel safe and secure again, a team of vets and nurses is going to carry out cataract operations on around 45 bears to help restore their sight. The Foundation aims to help this project in anyway possible.

If you would like to help this amazing project to 'Help a bear see in the New Year', please send donations to the Foundation at the undernoted address marked 'India'. Thank you!

The Foundation's vision is for a world where no bear will ever again be hurt, exploited or tortured for human gain, profit or entertainment. Where bears can live free from fear and peril inflicted by humankind and can be their majestic selves, living full and natural lives.

Contact Us

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Please make any cheques payable to 'The Winton Foundation'