



# BEARS MATTER

Issue 2, July 2011

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

## Huge progress in only 6 months

We are delighted to report that since our launch and the last newsletter, we have been working incredibly hard for bears and have forged relationships with many wonderful projects around the world working for the welfare of bears and have pledged our support and assistance with funding to many of these remarkable projects. Since there is so much to report, let's crack on.....

### Now it's clear...



©International Animal Rescue

Our last newsletter ended with brief details of the next project we had in our sights. The Foundation pledged its support to International Animal Rescue's wonderful project launched at the end of last year to 'Help a bear see in the New Year'. The project aimed to restore the sight of around 45 of their rescued bears in their sanctuary in India who had gone blind as a result of horrific treatment during their days as dancing bears.

A team of ophthalmic veterinary surgeons flew to India to assess the bears and operate on those who would benefit from treatment. Restoring or partially restoring a bear's sight helps them feel safe and secure again and enables them to mix with their sighted bear buddies. **The Foundation contributed £200 to the cost of an autoclave, required to sterilise the equipment.**



©Roger Allen

## Bears in Rehab!



©Lesley Winton

The Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Centre has been working since 1989 to rescue bear cubs that have been orphaned after their mothers have been shot or killed during the hunting seasons. If left in the wild, these bears would most certainly die.

So they are brought to the sanctuary run by Sally Maughan, who for the next few months of their lives, acts as mother bear. She feeds, tends to and nurtures the bears until they are big enough to be returned to the wild for a second chance at life. **The Foundation has donated £100 to their work.**

**Learn more about Sally's incredible work saving orphaned cubs at IBBR at [www.bearrehab.org](http://www.bearrehab.org)**

## Featured Project

As the Foundation grows and we are building and establishing contacts with various organisations and projects around the world that will become recipients of funds, we'd like to feature one of these projects in each newsletter to help raise more detailed awareness of their work.

The first issue we want to highlight in this new section of the newsletter is the issue of Bear Farming and the work of the Animals Asia Foundation to help bears trapped within this industry and what we are doing to help. We hope you find this new section of the newsletter informative and will learn more about bears and the threats they face.

### Bear Farming

The horrendous practice of Bear Farming continues in China, Vietnam and Korea with an estimated 7000 – 12000 bears confined to coffin size cages where they cannot stand up or turn round and remain in this condition for anything up to 30 years. What the term 'Bear Farming' conjures up in one's mind could never describe in reality the unspeakable cruelty and torture that these bears are subjected to.

Photo courtesy of Animals Asia



The bears have holes punched in their abdomens and into their gall bladder through which bile "free drips" an excruciating process for the bear and one which can cause massive liver tumours and peritonitis. The bile is then used in Traditional Chinese Medicine despite the fact that the active ingredient in bear bile can be manmade.

The Asiatic Black Bear or Moon Bear as it's often called due to the crescent shaped marking on its chest, is the most affected by this cruel practice. This is an intelligent and sensitive bear and thousands of them are enduring a living hell on bear farms. One of the organisations working tirelessly to end this practice is the Animals Asia Foundation.

## Enriching lives



©Animals Asia

**Jasper in The Fire Hose Hammock -  
Do think he's comfortable enough?!**

The Foundation is supporting Animals Asia's superb work to help bring an end to the horrific practice of Bear Farming in China and in particular we are offering assistance with its wonderful 'Bear Enrichment Programme'. Established to enrich the lives of bears rescued from bear farms and to give them as natural and near to normal lives as possible allowing them to exhibit normal behaviour.

The Enrichment program introduces items that provide sensory stimulation, physical enrichment, toys and objects to investigate and keep the bears active and stimulated.

**The Foundation has made its first contribution, providing funding for a log wall and a fire hose hammock.**

### Adopting Bodo

The Foundation has also adopted 'Bodo' and has pledged to continue assisting with his care for the rest of his life. Bodo was rescued by Animals Asia from a Bear Farm in China. On arrival at their sanctuary, he was missing his right forepaw – probably as a result of being snared in the wild.

Bodo is a kind and gentle bear with a beautiful thin v-shaped crescent on his chest. He gets on well with all the other bears and is a great peacemaker. He often breaks up trouble between other bears, either by stepping in or pulling one of the bears away with his good paw! This brave and kind boy has overcome his disability to help the other bears. By adopting Bodo, we help provide him with special treats to keep him happy and occupied – treats like fruit ice blocks, rubber kongs (durable bear toys that he loves to toss in the air), honey, raisins and tofu-filled bamboo shoots (which keep him occupied for hours!).



**Bodo**  
©Animals Asia



## Animals Asia's Talk on Bear Farming Held in Edinburgh in June 2011

In June 2011, Jill Robinson MBE and CEO of Animals Asia and Dr Heather Beacon gave a talk in Edinburgh. The talk documented their work to rescue bears from the brutal bear farming industry and was heartbreaking as you can imagine. However, the work this organisation is doing to tackle this horrendous trade, is equally inspiring.

We learned about the thousands of bears who are still held captive in farms across Asia in conditions that can only be described as torture chambers for bears, but we also saw wonderful slides of released bears, now living happy and healthy lives in Animals Asia's Chengdu sanctuary.

One picture in the presentation that brought sadness and hope in equal measures was a picture of three deceased bears lined up in a row on the grass in the sunshine. These bears hadn't made it and despite the veterinary teams best efforts, they couldn't save them. However, the warmth and compassion of the Chinese sanctuary staff shone through as they lovingly placed these bears on the grass, so just once they would have grass underfoot and sun on their backs.

However, by far, it was Oliver's story that was the most moving and although the brutality of the bear farming industry has been going on for years, I think this poor bear symbolises it more than anything.

Rescued in April 2010, after 30 years trapped in a cage, suffering the torture of bile extraction and being confined in a painful, heavy metal jacket Oliver, a brown bear and his strength of spirit, is an inspiration to all.

When the Animals Asia team found him, they were faced with a sad, distressed and physically damaged bear. He was unresponsive and in constant pain. He became known, affectionately as their 'Broken Bear'.

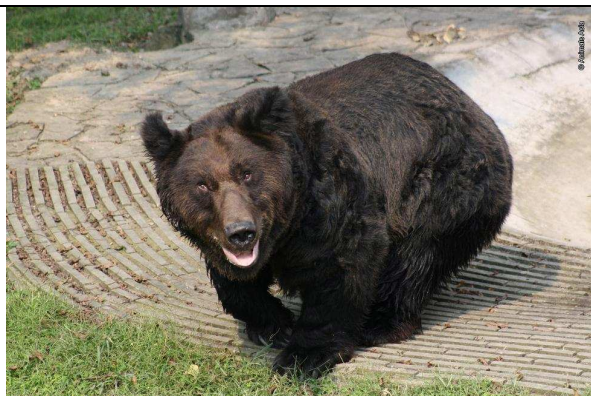


**Oliver, incarcerated.**

©Animals Asia

After release from his cage, came the journey from the farm back to the sanctuary. During this journey, Oliver's condition deteriorated rapidly due to the bear farm owner having ripped the catheter that had been embedded for years, out of Oliver's abdomen.

Under the most dreadful of conditions, the Animals Asia veterinary team had no option but to perform emergency surgery in the back of the truck where Oliver underwent a four hour life saving operation to remove his damaged gall bladder. Thankfully, there was an immediate improvement in Oliver's condition – perhaps this poor, sorry bear's luck was changing at last.



**Oliver, his smile says it all...**

©Animals Asia

Oliver's joy at being released from his cage was plain for all to see and he loves his new home at Animals Asia's Chengdu Sanctuary. Considering he spent 30 years – normally the lifespan of these bears in a cage, he is now a curious, inventive and active bear! Despite his stunted legs, he loves playing in the water and with all the sanctuary toys. He is stimulated and happy... and free.

Please visit the Animals Asia's website [www.animalsasia.org](http://www.animalsasia.org) to learn more about their incredible work to end bear farming and go to the link below to see Oliver in his new surroundings:-

<http://www.animalsasia.org/index.php?UID=A5BBV0MIAE7>

**The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears is currently assisting with the funding of Animals Asia's 'Bear Enrichment' Programme – a vital project which provides toys and play structures that stimulate the bears and help them exhibit natural behaviour. Please help us continue to support this immensely important aspect of the bears' recovery after rescue from bile farms.**

## In a League of their Own!

Another new project we have established a relationship with in the last six months is The BEAR League. Based in Lake Tahoe, California, the BEAR League is a volunteer, community based organisation that is committed to keeping bears safe and wild in their natural habitat. Their mission is to educate the public on how to live in harmony with their neighbourhood bears and to enlighten them as to the true gentle nature of the Black Bear



**BEAR League**

*People Living in Harmony with Bears*



The BEAR League team work tirelessly to teach the public about the Black Bear and dispel any myths. Gentle and docile, with a natural instinct to flee rather than fight, never has a single person been killed by a black bear in California, Nevada or Oregon.

The League work with Law Enforcement, Animal Control and Fish and Game Officers to keep bears out of places they do not belong and educates them as to where they do belong.



**Martha**



Their hotline is staffed 365 days a year 24 hours a day, to help anyone who has a problem with a bear, responding on site or by coaching people over the phone putting people at ease and helping them prevent future problems.

If it wasn't for the BEAR League, many bears would be shot, that don't need to be.

The Bear Foundation has, to date, contributed £200 to their work and will continue to support them in the future.

Learn more about the work of The BEAR League at [www.savebears.org](http://www.savebears.org)

**The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears' 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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**By e mail** - [lesleyjwinton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lesleyjwinton@tiscali.co.uk)

**Telephone:** 01875 614 899 or 07904 733 137

**Please make any cheques payable to 'The Winton Foundation'**





## TOPPING UP 'THE HONEY POT'



Because the Bear Foundation is progressing so well, so quickly, we've decided to have a dedicated fundraising section in the newsletter. This will cover events that have happened, that are coming up and ways you can help. Funds raised are put into a pot of funds affectionately known as 'The Honey Pot.' These funds are distributed at regular intervals to projects around the world working to help bears and protect them from abuse and cruelty.

Also, in the last few months we have dipped a toe into the exciting world of corporate fundraising and details of how Bear Foundation supporters can benefit from this are below.



At the beginning of February we launched our 'Put a Pound in a Pot Appeal' to mark International Save Bears Day on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Supporters were asked to put a pound in a pot every day from February 1<sup>st</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> to raise £21. Thank you to everyone who saved their pounds – we raised just over £300!



Thanks go to all the staff and customers of Strawberry Corner for their invaluable support. Thanks also go to Amy Fulton for donating our new mascot bear 'George'.



Strawberry Corner Garden Centre near Wallyford (who very kindly donated our 'Honey Pot') have let us hold a number of fund and awareness raising stalls on their premises since the Spring. Despite cold and windy days, these stalls have brought in just under £200 to date and will continue throughout the summer.



Our new mascot 'George'

### Summer Fayre

On Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> July we are holding our first Summer Fayre jointly with the Edinburgh and East Lothian Animals Asia Support Group. The fayre will be held in the Corn Exchange in Haddington from 10am – 3pm. We have a huge variety of stallholders including a Health, Beauty & Wellbeing section, jewellery & craft makers, animal lovers stalls and a kiddies corner including a Facepainter! It will be a great day out for all the family, so please do come and join us. A Christmas Fayre is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Our 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party!

October will see us celebrating a year since our launch on the memorable date of 10.10.10. We have a very exciting 70's and 80's disco planned for Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011. It will be held at the Walkabout (Kiwi Room Function Suite) in the Omni Centre in Edinburgh. Tickets are available by contacting the Bear Foundation and are £12 which will include a buffet. It will be a fun night out with great 70's and 80's music, so reserve your tickets early. You can even dress the part if you like – so dust off your flares and don your platform shoes and come and join the party!





## Lesley's 11.11.11 Challenge

Having launched the Foundation on the memorable date of 10.10.10, it's Director, Lesley Winton would like to also mark the magical dates of 11.11.11 and 12.12.12 over the next two years.

To mark 11.11.11, Lesley is going to do a 'mini triathlon' of 11 miles, split between swimming for 2 miles, walking for 3 miles and cycling for 6 miles. She will start at 11 minutes past 11am on 11.11.11 and would love to raise £1111!

To support this event and sponsor Lesley please contact her on 07904 733 137 or e mail her at [lesleyjwinton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lesleyjwinton@tiscali.co.uk) **Thank you!**

**Feel free to organise your own fundraisers on 11.11.11 and 12.12.12 but don't forget to let us know and we will let everyone else know!**

## Website

January saw the launch of our fabulous website. This was a huge step forward for us and a vital way to help promote the Foundation. An absolutely massive 'Thank You' goes to Peter Haddow who painstakingly designed and built the website, completely free of charge. This is a step we wouldn't have been, financially, in a position to take for quite some time, so heartfelt thanks and big bear hugs go to Peter for all his patience and hard work. If you haven't already had a look at our website, please do check it out at [www.wintonbearfoundation.org](http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org)

## Facebook

Since we have our first big step into the world of the web, the next step we would like to take is to set up a Facebook page. Can you help with this? Please get in touch if you could assist us in this connection.

As mentioned earlier, we have now dipped our toe into the exciting world of Corporate Fundraising and have teamed up with three local East Lothian businesses who will offer discounts to Bear Foundation supporters and in turn, donate to the Foundation. Marissa at Skin Treats Mobile will offer a discount on her fabulous beauty treatments, Sharon from Granny Sally's Soap Kitchen will do the same with her wonderful handmade soaps that look and smell fantastic. And last but by no means least, we have the incredible Pet Portrait artist Kate Donohoe on board, whose work I think you will agree, is absolutely stunning. Kate will also offer a discount to Foundation supporters and then donate back to the Foundation a percentage of the sale. Full details are below.

**Feel free to copy the coupons and give them to family and friends – the more the merrier!**



[www.skintreatsmobile.co.uk](http://www.skintreatsmobile.co.uk)  
07582 712 105

This voucher entitles the holder to  
10% off any treatment at  
Skin Treats Mobile

For every new customer coming via  
the Bear Foundation, Skin Treats  
Mobile will donate £2

(10-12 mile radius of Prestonpans,  
East Lothian)



[www.grannysallyssoapkitchen.com](http://www.grannysallyssoapkitchen.com)

This voucher entitles the holder to  
10% off any purchase.

For every £10 of sales coming via  
the Bear Foundation, Granny Sally's  
will donate £1



PET PORTRAIT'S by  
Kate Donohoe

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Tel: 01620 820 860

This  
voucher  
entitles the  
holder to  
10% off any  
portrait.

Kate will  
donate 10%  
of the sale  
to us

