



# BEARS MATTER

Issue 4, Jun 2012/Jul 2012

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

## Best paws forward!

Welcome to the fourth edition of Bears Matter. We are delighted to report that we hit the ground running in 2012 and have been putting our best paws forward ever since, to continue to help as many bear projects around the world as we can. Below is a brief summary of our work over the last six months, but please visit the wonderful new page on our website 'How we're making it bearable' which gives you a more detailed description of all the projects we're supporting as we continue our work – here's the link,

<http://wintonbearfoundation.org/bear-zone/making-it-bearable/>

We are proud to announce our support of the wonderful work of the Get Bear Smart Society in Whistler, Canada.

This amazing organisation works tirelessly to promote harmonious living between bears and humans. Sadly, many problems arise when there is not enough food in the wild for the bears to eat and they wander into towns, following their noses, in search of food. This often results in bears being shot or being involved in motor vehicle accidents.



© Get Bear Smart Society



Planting berry trees.  
© Get Bear Smart Society

WBF is delighted to report that we have made our first donation of £100 towards GBS's spring planting project. Our contribution will buy around 12-15 berry trees to be planted in the wild to help ensure enough food for the bears and prevent them wandering into towns and subsequently into danger.

In January we began supporting The Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter, in Canada. NLWS work to give a second chance to wildlife in need and since its opening in 1990, has helped 236 bears, including 3 Kermode Bears and 9 Grizzly Bears. It is the only government permitted organisation allowed to work on grizzly cub rehabilitation. NLWS works to help young bears in need and care for them until they can be returned to the wild.

We are helping fund NLWS's rehabilitation success studies and their Black Bear release project in 2012, which will see around

5 bears released with radio collars to allow them to be monitored via GPS. This is a vital aspect of rehabilitation work to show that rehabbed bears adapt well to the wild, once they have been returned.



Yogi having a snooze  
© NLWS



© IBBR

We made a second, much needed donation to IBBR in May 2012. Each year IBBR face repairs from mischievous bears.

This year they were facing a major repair and rebuild after the swim tub became completely unusable. When the bears came out of hibernation they were checking the tub constantly for water. Sally Maughan, founder of IBBR, said "To see them without the swim tub broke my heart as it's their number one source of joy and fun. Therefore, the IBBR Facebook admin. team decided that it was time to try and raise some funds specifically for a new swim tub for the cubs.

Life's good again! © IBBR

In January 2012, The Winton Bear Foundation donated £340.00 to the Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Centre. The funds were needed to help with the cost of repairing and replacing nine out of their twelve dens after a very rowdy bunch of eight Washington bear cubs destroyed all but two of them before their release. Let's hope the next residents at IBBR are more appreciative of their surroundings!

This photo clearly shows how well the Washington cubs did with their 'Demolition Derby'! Mind you, it looks like one of the current residents is having a good go at finishing them off!



The goal was \$3,000 which was *nearly* met due to the extremely generous help of IBBR's supporters who managed to raise \$2846.35 – when we heard this at The Winton Bear Foundation, we quickly decided that we would make up the shortfall to take it up to \$3000; hence our \$160 donation. We were delighted to be part of this incredible fundraising effort by IBBR and its supporters. Happy swimming cubs!



In May 2012, we donated £100 to The Spectacled Bear Conservation Society – Peru (SBC). The donation will go towards the cost of their work to protect the spectacled bear whose habitat is currently extremely threatened and we hope to continue to support their vital work.

© All rights reserved by Spectacled Bear Conservation Society - Peru



Bill testing out the hammock WBF bought for the Vietnam Sanctuary

We are also delighted to be able to give ongoing support to Animals Asia's Enrichment Program – vital to the recovery of bears rescued from bear farms. In November 2011, we funded another two fire hose hammocks, this time ones that were desperately needed by the bears and cubs in Animals Asia's Vietnam Sanctuary. Bill (left) was the first to inspect the new gift, and after testing if it would take his weight he gave it his full approval and the cubs piled on too!



The cubs are happy it's strong enough for them both too!

Photos courtesy of Animals Asia

The Winton Bear Foundation is extremely proud to be able to continue to support Animals Asia's incredible work to rescue bears from the brutal bear farming industry. The ongoing care of these severely traumatised bears after rescue is vital and we are staunch supporters of their wonderful 'Bear Enrichment' program which provides toys and play structures that stimulate the bears and help them exhibit natural behaviour – an immensely important aspect of the bears' recovery. 'Bodo' is WBF's adopted bear but we also have a special place in our hearts for Oliver, a truly remarkable bear whose story we featured in Bears Matter, Issue 2 and we are in the process of buying some special toys for Oliver and his friends.



Unbelievably, poor Oliver spent THIRTY years trapped in a cage suffering the torture of bile extraction and being confined in a painful, heavy metal jacket. 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'. After the incredible efforts of Animals Asia's team, Oliver was rescued and brought to their sanctuary.

#### **Oliver, incarcerated for a horrendous 30 years**

However, due to the dreadful conditions Oliver had to endure, he is not as physically active as some of the younger bears who are more able to fill their time with rough and tumble games, so it is vital that Oliver can be given other activities to do to keep his mind and body active. Despite his stunted legs from being caged for so long, he loves playing in the water and with all the sanctuary toys. In this picture, he's obviously a keen fundraiser, as he appears to be running a tombola!

**Photos courtesy of Animals Asia**



We would like to continue to help care for Oliver and assist his recovery, so we have funded some special toys, appropriate for Oliver. We have purchased a selection of enrichment toys including three white canisters and some bamboo for making his special toys. These toys are used to hide treats and food in to encourage Oliver and his buddies natural foraging behaviour, staving off boredom as they spend lots of time trying to get the piece of yummy fruit or veg out of them. The bamboo toys in particular are used for the bears recovering from hospital treatment so you can imagine how important they are to the bears and the team (more photos to follow). To read more about Oliver's incredible rescue and Animals Asia's wonderful work please visit our website.

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP THE WINTON BEAR FOUNDATION – AT A GLANCE!**

***For all you busy people, here, in brief, are ways you can help...***

- ✓ Make a donation
- ✓ Set up a direct debit
- ✓ Help us fund our Fostering Compassion programme
- ✓ Help us fund our 12.12.12 showing of 'It's a wonderful life'
- ✓ Donate tombola items
- ✓ Volunteer at our stalls or with our work

#### **How to contact us or for further information:**

**By Post** - The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears, 54 West Windygoul Gardens, Tranent, East Lothian, EH33 2LA

**By e mail** – info@wintonbearfoundation.org

**Website**: - [www.wintonbearfoundation.org](http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org)

**Telephone**: +44-(0) 1875 614 899 or +44-(0)7904 733 137

**And don't forget – Facebook too!**

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

## EDUCATION

Education and changing the hearts and minds of the next generation is going to be an important part of the Winton Bear Foundation's work and we have a couple of very exciting pieces of news to bring you.

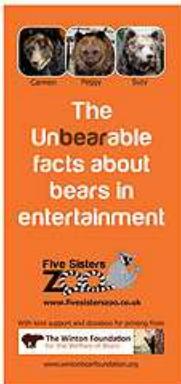
We are working closely with the owners and staff at The Five Sisters Zoo in West Calder in Scotland following their rescue of three ex circus bears, Carmen, Suzy and Peggy. Many of the animals taken in by the FSZ are animals no longer wanted by their owners or other zoo males surplus to requirements, that would otherwise have been destroyed.

The FSZ's highly dedicated, hard working and compassionate team of animal lovers, worked tirelessly to rescue and re-home Carmen, Suzy and Peggy who would otherwise have been euthanized and the team are committed to giving the bears a happy, free and comfortable retirement. We are delighted to say that we are working together with them to produce educational materials to raise awareness of the appalling abuse bears exploited for 'entertainment' endure. Our first joint leaflet was produced in March 2012 and it's been heartening to listen to the children visiting the zoo talk about how bad it is that the bears were subjected to such suffering. We have also recently funded the cost of special vitamins and enrichment toys needed for the bears and will feature this more in the next edition of Bears Matter.

'The unbearable facts about bears in entertainment' leaflet produced jointly by the Winton Bear Foundation and Five Sisters Zoo.

Please visit the new 'educational materials' section on our website to see the leaflet in full.

<http://wintonbearfoundation.org/news/educational-material/>



© Winton Bear Foundation

The second exciting piece of news we have for you is the launch of our new **Fostering Compassion** programme. We will be working with local foster children and their foster families to take them on visits to the FSZ to meet the bears and learn about these wonderful animals. We hope we will be able to talk to the children about the plight of the bears and how damaging it was for them to be treated badly and help teach them about empathy and compassion. We hope to give them little gift bags with educational materials about bears, to make their day really special.

Through our **Fostering Compassion** programme we hope that, as well as helping teach children about animals, in turn, we will be able to give something back to these special, vulnerable children that have also had a rocky start to life and have very often been treated badly themselves and bring some enjoyment and happiness into their lives. Sadly, following studies in the past, there is enough weight of evidence to show that children that have suffered abuse, find it hard to show compassion to fellow creatures and often get led into a life of crime. We hope that through this unique programme, we can do a little to help reverse this trend, teach them empathy and steer them down a better path than they may otherwise have taken. This will be an ongoing project that will start small and locally, but that we very much hope to expand. We would also like to measure its effectiveness by involving the children in writing stories or poems about the bears and perhaps hold a gathering every few years for the children involved in **Fostering Compassion**, to see how much it helped them.

For a number of reasons, this project will have to be handled very sensitively, but we very much look forward to keeping you informed.

We have a small budget to get this special project started but if we could get an individual, small businesses or a company to sponsor it, we could help many more children and in turn help encourage compassion towards animals. If you would like to contribute to this exciting venture or have a generous boss who may like to get involved – please let us know.



©Lesley Winton

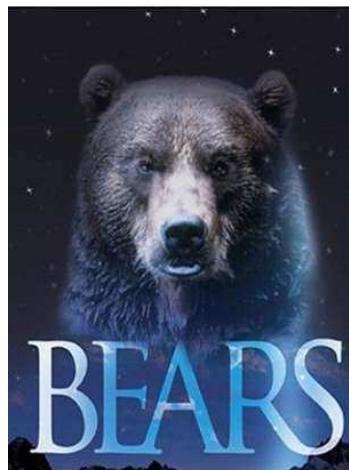


## TOPPING UP 'THE HONEY POT'

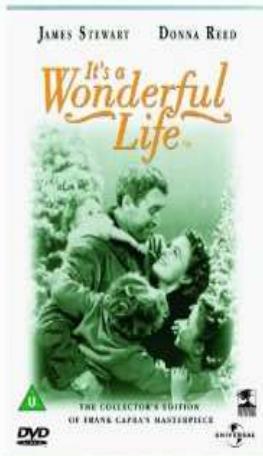


Because the Bear Foundation is progressing so well, so quickly, we've decided to have a dedicated fundraising section in the newsletter. This will cover events that have happened, that are coming up and ways you can help. Funds raised are put into a pot of funds affectionately known as 'The Honey Pot.'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

Earlier this year we were over the moon when the Director David Lickley gave us permission to show his wonderful film **Bears – Rulers of the Wild Frontier** to help with our fund and awareness raising efforts. We were delighted to hold our first showings of this incredible documentary at the lovely Dominion Cinema, in Edinburgh in April. The event was a tremendous success.



The matinee was around half full and the two evening showings were sell outs. We got great feedback and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the comfort of this wonderful little cinema – sitting in their comfy sofas and armchairs, with their feet up and sipping a glass of wine, watching a stunning documentary on bears! Thank you so much to everyone who attended. We raised just over £300 net profit.



Following on from the success of the Bears film we are going to wrap up the celebration of the special dates of 10.10.10, 11.11.11 and 12.12.12 that we have been marking since our launch by again hiring the Dominion Cinema, Edinburgh on 12.12.12 for a showing of the classic film **'It's a Wonderful Life'**.

We hope to make this a lovely Christmassy event by serving mince pies and mulled wine. We anticipate it will be a very popular event, so please drop us an email at [info@wintonbearfoundation.org](mailto:info@wintonbearfoundation.org) to register your interest in tickets and let us know you'd like to be kept informed.

We are also hoping very much to get local businesses to sponsor the cost of showing the film, to enable us to maximise our profit. If you have a boss who may be interested in contributing to the event, please let us know!

**£12,000 by 12.12.12**

Can you help us in our challenge to raise £12,000 by 12.12.12? Anything you can do, big or small will be very much appreciated. From making a donation or saving loose change to holding a coffee morning or a sponsored event, can you help us reach our target? Think how many more bears we could help with £12,000! For more ideas:

<http://wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/12-12-12/challenge/>



© LovePets Show

We are pleased to announce that we have booked a stand at the Love Pets Show at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. This will be our first big exhibition and we hope it will help raise WBF's profile, recruit more supporters and raise a lot more awareness of our important bear welfare work. We have managed to book a great stand right beside the main arena and the expected footfall is around 5-6,000.

We are hoping to hold a raffle one day and a tombola the next so if you have any tombola items you can donate, please get in touch. We would love to have a giant cuddly teddy bear to raffle, so if anyone would like to donate one or knows any friendly toy shops who would support us, let us know.

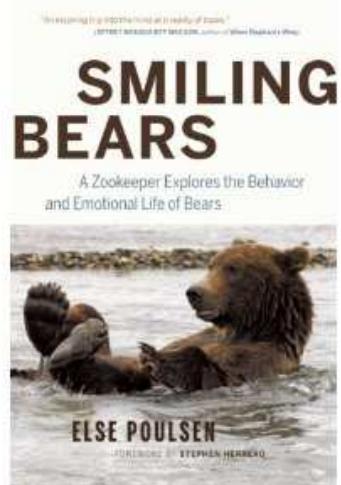
If you can spare a few hours to help at this event, please get in touch

## AVAILABLE NOW!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Else Poulsen, one of the world's best bear behaviourists for very kindly donating ten signed copies of her book 'Smiling Bears' to assist with our fundraising efforts to help bears around the world.

Books are available to buy now for £15 (which includes postage and packing) by emailing [info@wintonbearfoundation.org](mailto:info@wintonbearfoundation.org)

For more information on Else's work  
<http://www.elsepoulsen.com/>



## ALSO AVAILABLE!

OUR CAR WINDOW STICKERS

FOR £1 EACH

JUST DROP US AN E MAIL IF YOU WOULD  
 LIKE TO ORDER ANY



## Our website

We have made a number of changes and improvements to our website, including easier online giving and a comprehensive list of how we distribute funds. We feel transparency and accountability for the work done by the Foundation is very important as we want to show all our supporters how grateful we are for all your support and generosity and let you see how many bears we have been able to help, thanks to your donations. Bear hugs to you all! Please visit our website to get all the updates [www.wintonbearfoundation.org](http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org)

The home page shows the total to date of funds distributed as we go along and the 'Honey Pot' page and 'How we're making it bearable' page give more detailed information. Here are the links:

The Honey Pot - <http://wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/honey-pot/>

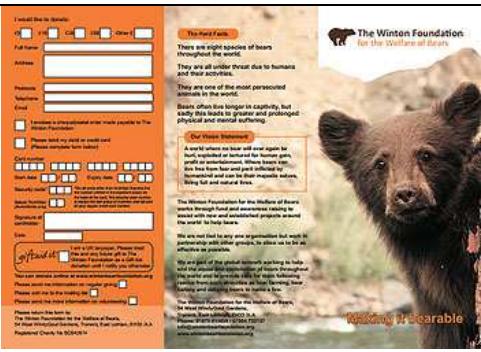
How we're making it bearable - <http://wintonbearfoundation.org/bear-zone/making-it-bearable/>

**Enjoy!**

**Some other news...** The last six months have been so busy and there is such a lot to report in this newsletter that there just isn't room for everything. However, here are some of the main highlights and achievements that we'd like to share with you...

## New Committee Members

<p>We are delighted and over the moon, to welcome Dr Heather Bacon BSc (Hons), BVSc, CertZooMed, MRCVS onto our committee. Heather is currently the Veterinary welfare education and outreach project manager at the University of Edinburgh and has been heavily involved with Animals Asia as their Veterinary Director and has a vast wealth of 'bear' knowledge. We are privileged and honoured to have her as part of the Winton Bear Foundation's team.</p>	
	<p>We are also delighted to welcome onto the Committee Lisbeth Rieshøj Amos who is based in Denmark and who set up and runs our Facebook page. Lisbeth is very well connected in the 'bear world' and in the last six months has managed to double our number of Facebook followers.</p> <p>Thank you both, for agreeing to come on the Committee.</p>

<p>We would also like to extend a big thank you to Fiona O'Donnell, Member of Parliament for East Lothian for writing a wonderful letter of support, to accompany our grant funding applications. This will help our applications carry more weight and hopefully increase our chances of getting additional funding. Thank you Fiona for your support and guidance.</p>	
	<p>A massive thank you also goes to Fiona Newton who has painstakingly spent hours producing our new general flyer (as well as our Fostering Compassion logo as mentioned above).</p> <p>Fiona has very kindly done all of this free of charge and we are extremely grateful to her.</p> <p>Fliers are available from us, if you would like any and the full flyer can be viewed on our website  <a href="http://wintonbearfoundation.org/news/educational-material/">http://wintonbearfoundation.org/news/educational-material/</a></p>

**Thank you everyone, for helping the Bear Foundation continue to go from strength to strength and help us continue 'Making it bearable' for many more of the world's bears.**

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.

**'We'll never make the world a perfect place, but we can make it a better place.'**