



The Winton Foundation
for the Welfare of Bears



NEWSLETTER

BEARS MATTER

Issue 6, Jul 2013/Aug 2013

'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 to the sixth edition of Bears Matter. We have had such an incredibly busy first half of the year, so we'd like to hit the ground running to share with you what we've been doing and what your support has helped us achieve...



(photo courtesy of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge)

In January we donated £100 to the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, based in New Jersey, USA. They have been rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing Black Bears since 1995. Our funding will help pay for material needed to secure the fence in their large bear enclosure to make it impervious to mischievous bears and their claws! Because it's not quite strong enough at the moment, WWR need to wait until their rescued cubs are larger before moving them in to the bigger enclosure. However, it would be very beneficial for the cubs to be moved into the bigger enclosure sooner, so by helping fund the new fencing, we hope WWR will be able to do this.

The Winton Bear Foundation is a staunch supporter of the Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Centre. In February 2013, for the first time ever, a 7 year old Momma bear and her cub were brought to IBBR. The Momma bear had been shot in the front leg and was about 80lbs underweight and with a cub, she deserved a second chance. Sally Maughan who runs IBBR said upon their arrival "The opportunity for learning about Mom and Cubs behaviour is priceless. Both are beautiful – Mom's wound has been treated and for now she is resting, eating and gaining strength." WBF made a donation of £100 (US\$160) towards the cost of caring for this special duo before their successful return to the wild earlier this year.

(Photo courtesy of IBBR)



How to contact us or for further information:

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By e mail: info@wintonbearfoundation.org **Website:** 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'
You can also now donate online too



(photo courtesy of the BEAR League)

In April 2013 we sent £200 (approx US\$300) to the BEAR League who work incredibly hard to keep their Lake Tahoe bears safe and to teach people how to live in harmony with bears. This donation is being used to support the BEAR League's Cub Rescue Program. The funds will be used to purchase additional safe capture equipment and medicinal formulas for stabilizing emaciated and dehydrated cubs immediately after rescue. This is all very expensive and is always the difference between life and death when a cub is not found until almost the point of no return. Nothing matters but saving his or her life and it is vital that the team have everything on hand and ready to go or they risk losing a precious bear cub.

In April 2013 we donated £100 (approx \$CAD160) to the Valhalla Wilderness Society, a brand new beneficiary of the Winton Bear Foundation. The Valhalla Wilderness Society are based in New Denver, BC, Canada. We are delighted to have started supporting them and this, we hope, will be the first of many contributions to their vital work to save the Kermode 'Spirit' Bear and its habitat.

(photo courtesy of the Valhalla Wilderness Society)



The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears is continuing to support the wonderful work of the Get Bear Smart Society in Whistler, Canada. In January 2013 we donated another £100 (CAD\$160) to help them continue their work to enhance bear habitat. The funds will be used to plant more berry trees in the wild to give the bears an adequate food supply to help deter them from wandering into residential areas which of course immediately puts them at risk. We are delighted to help support GBS's habitat enrichment programme to help protect their bears.



Grubs Up!

(photo courtesy of www.bearsmart.com)

Animals Asia – China Sanctuary

In January we made a donation of £100 to Animals Asia to buy something for the six new bears they had just rescued from bear farms in China. Our donation was used to buy a new stereo so that the bears could be played calming and relaxing music while they are in their recovery cages to help them settle into their new home and recover from their horrendous ordeal – here they are listening to their new stereo.

Quarantine bears listening to their new stereo.

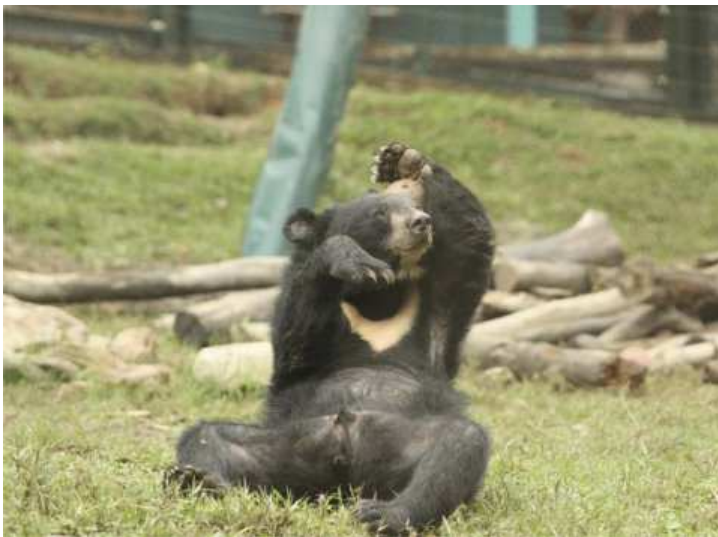
(photo courtesy of Animals Asia)



HAPPY BEARS!!

Animals Asia – Vietnam Sanctuary - Bear lovers will recall with great sadness the threatened eviction of 104 of Animals Asia's beloved rescued bears from their Vietnam sanctuary at the end of 2012. Following the wonderful news that the eviction was overturned, we at the Winton Bear Foundation decided to buy a coconut for each and every bear in the sanctuary, as a special treat so that they could celebrate staying in their new home. We received this lovely thank you from the Vietnam team and take great pleasure in sharing the photos. Some of the bears preferred to throw some yoga poses and rub the coconuts on their heads – well, we never said they HAD to eat them! Enjoy!

“Animals Asia's bear rescue centre in Vietnam received a very kind donation from the Winton Bear Foundation. The donation was made after the bear rescue centre was saved from eviction. The team purchased whole coconuts, one for every bear, which is a real treat for the bears as it is a novel, long lasting and tasty food item. Only our sun bears receive coconuts every week and they are cut in half. But this time around all our bears in the centre were able to fully enjoy the pleasure to play with coconuts, work out how to open them and get rewarded with the fresh juice and the tasty flesh. It took many of the bears a long time to work out how to open them, most thoroughly enjoyed rubbing the coconut with the brown husk all over their body before dropping it onto the ground. After repeated drops the coconut would finally break open. We have a group of disabled bears at our centre too, most of them missing part of their front limb. They were given the advantage of an already split coconut so they too could enjoy the tasty flesh inside. On behalf of all the bears at the Vietnam bear rescue centre, a very grateful thanks for such a thoughtful donation!”



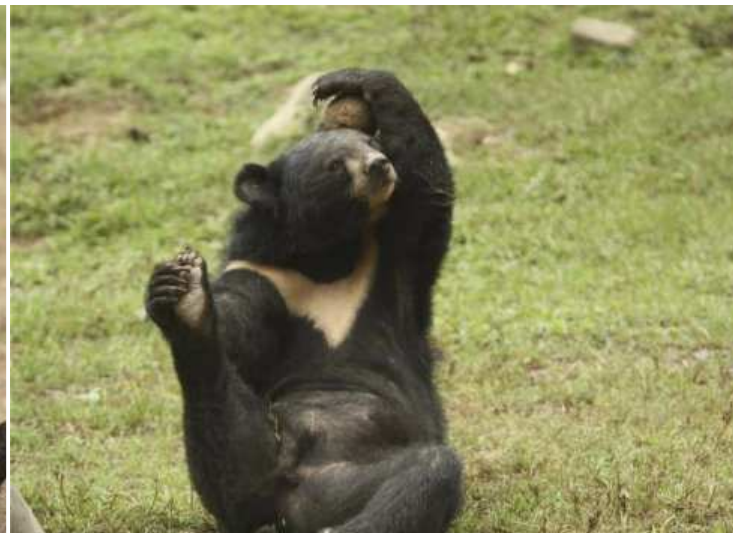
Yin Yang enjoying the feeling of the coconut husk on his head!



Cromwell is taking advantage of the large truck tyre, resting his coconut on it to make it easier to eat!



David, the lovely Sun Bear managed to break open the coconut easily with his large and sharp claws.



Yin Yang again, now throwing in some yoga poses too whilst continuing to rub the husk over his head – multi-talented!

We continue to pledge our ongoing support for our friends and neighbours at the Five Sisters Zoo in Scotland and in particular after the devastating fire that hit them in April 2013. The Five Sisters Zoo rescued three ex-circus bears Carmen, Suzy and Peggy in 2012 and have given them an incredible new home and have lovingly nursed them back to health. Here are some of the ways we are helping.



'Vegging Out'
for
Carmen, Suzy and Peggy

Being Scottish based and neighbours to the Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian, the Winton Bear Foundation is launching its new special fundraising initiative: **'Vegging Out' for Carmen, Suzy and Peggy** - the three bears rescued from life in the circus and now living out their remaining days in the wonderful Bear Sanctuary created especially for them by the Five Sisters Zoo team.

Spurred on by the tragic fire that hit the zoo in April 2013, we would like to pledge our ongoing support to help care for the bears. As one of the biggest costs is that of providing fruit and vegetables for the bears throughout the summer months, we would like to set up a 'food fund' especially for these three scorable bears, to help towards their shopping bill as long as it's needed.

Anyone who would like to donate to WBF's special food fund for Carmen, Suzy and Peggy can do so in the normal way via our website (link below) and simply add the reference **CSP**. At regular intervals throughout the summer months, we will use funds raised to buy and deliver fruit and veg to the bears so, with the help of all our wonderful supporters around the world, our Scottish based Charity can do our bit, on an ongoing basis, to help care for these special Scottish bears!

Please give generously:
<http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/donate-connect/>


(photos courtesy of WBF)
www.wintonbearfoundation.org

'Vegging Out' appeal poster and the trolley full of goodies!

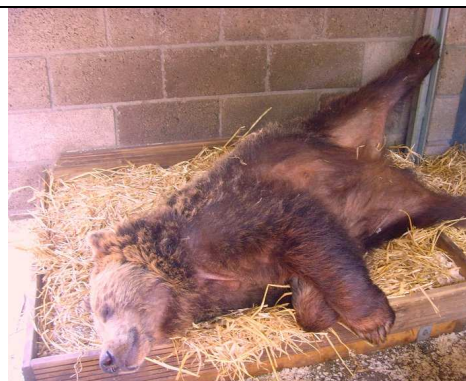
In April we launched our special 'Vegging out, food fund' appeal for these lovely bears to ensure their tummy's would stay full over the summer with fruit, veg and their favourite treat of melons.



We are also paying for their glucosamine medication to help ease any arthritis in the elderly ladies' joints and to help keep them as comfortable as possible. A big thank you here must go to Pamela McDonald who donated a years supply of 'human' glucosamine which is also suitable for the bears to help keep them mobile.



"It's exhausting work eating all these melons and honey!"



"It takes a lot of skill and talent to get a traffic cone on my head"

We have also donated £500 to assist with the purchase and build of a large swim tub for the bears to play in. This is in the process of being constructed and as soon as we have photos, we will share them with you.

© All Photos, copyright Lesley Winton

"I love the Winton Bear Foundation as it helps so many bear organisations by pulling together individual donors - I could never afford to support them all, so I support WBF. It is my favourite bear charity - it's like a special offer - help more than one bear charity for just one donation."

The words of Julia Attwood, Winton Bear Foundation Supporter.

Fostering Compassion

The Winton Bear Foundation

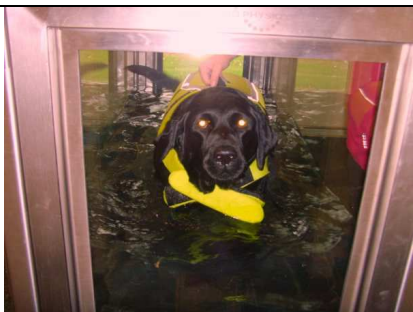


© Winton Bear Foundation

Our unique and ground breaking **Fostering Compassion** programme is receiving great acclaim and positive feedback. Our work for 2013 is well underway and we are currently working with local foster children and their foster families. We are working with these special, vulnerable children to help bring a little enjoyment to their lives and at the same time teach them compassion and empathy towards animals. Sadly, following studies in the past, there is enough weight of evidence to show that children who have suffered abuse find it hard to show compassion to fellow creatures and often get led into a life of crime. We hope through Fostering Compassion to reverse any worrying behaviour before it escalates and at the same time help these children feel special and treasured.

We have three activities for the children to enjoy – first a trip to meet Carmen, Suzy and Peggy at the Five Sisters Zoo. The children are given a melon and a jar of honey each to give to the bears as a treat, so they feel they are helping look after the bears. They are also given a big goody bag full of books, quizzes and treats all about bears. The children are then given a special award certificate as a ‘thank you’ from the bears.

This trip was made so special when one of the little girls exclaimed ‘this is the best day ever!’



Secondly, we are working with the Links Veterinary Group and Canine Rehabilitation Centre in Haddington, East Lothian. The children have a special visit to the vets to see where injured and sick animals are treated. They are given a little information about the basic care of animals and get the chance to meet a Therapy Pet.

‘Water therapy on the treadmill’

Our third project is a Magic of Nature workshop run by Emotional Intelligence Therapist, Fiona Ogg. Taking inspiration from nature, these special workshops encourage children to interact with nature and their environment in unique ways that help them to express their emotions and thoughts.

Lastly we will be holding a special Christmas party for the children in December with a showing of ‘Kung Fu Panda’ at the Winton Cinema in Tranent. This gives all the children, foster parents and kinship carers of 2013, a chance to meet each other and hopefully stay in touch.



We are working closely with the Child Welfare and Protection team at East Lothian Council who are guiding us with regard to which children will benefit the most from Fostering Compassion. It has become clear very quickly that there is a massive demand for this project. At present, we only have a budget to help five families a year and we are desperately trying to secure sponsorship and funding to expand this much needed program. Our Fostering Compassion model is being developed and piloted in East Lothian and we very much hope to expand it far and wide as soon as we have sufficient funding

“Yesterday was such a perfect day...we call these ‘memory days’. The kids had a great time and they really took to you, they think you help the bears the way I help them...they really understood the connection. The day was so perfect for all of us and the kids are still talking about it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this – it couldn’t have been more perfect – it was magical.” Foster Mum.

To read more about this unique project or to make a donation visit
<http://wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/fostering-compassion/>



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.

 **The Winton Foundation**
for the Welfare of Bears



Bears Matter Month
'Life through their eyes'
Feb 14th – Mar 14th 2013

Our first ever Bears Matter Month from February 14th – March 14th was a huge success. We gained 51 new followers on Facebook, 2 new regular givers, raised £234.50 through events and we launched our brand new Valentines and Mothers Day Gift Certificates and fabulous Bears Matter wristbands. We marked International Save Bears Day on Feb 21st and showcased the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Animals Asia, Liberty Bear Sanctuary, Get Bear Smart, BEAR League and the wonderful books written by Else Poulsen and Victor Watkins – Smiling Bears and Bear Sanctuary amongst many other things. Thank you everyone, for making our first Bears Matter Month such a great success – you are a fabulous team of supporters. Here's to making Bears Matter Month 2014 even bigger and better!!

Thank you to WBF Committee Member, Elaine Edwards who did a sponsored fast for 24 hours on February 14th. Elaine did this in recognition of the many, many bears that go without any form of nourishment or sustenance as they are all too often subjected to a life of misery. Elaine raised £160 – well done Elaine!

Thank you to Val Donnelly for organising a fundraising fair at the Priory Church, South Queensferry last February and allowing us a stall free of charge. We raised £24.50 – thanks Val for supporting us.

A big thank you again to Karen Scott who held a fundraising event at her work and raised a fantastic £361.08. This will be used to pay for the panda conservation posters featured in our last newsletter.

Our sponsored walk held at the end of last year to mark the date 12.12.12 saw Debbie Scott, Ros Lowrie and Lesley Winton walk 12 miles on a very cold day! Thank you to everyone who took part and sponsored us – we raised a massive £1024!

We are delighted to announce that the Winton Bear Foundation has teamed up with Charity Flowers. All orders processed with the Winton Bear Foundation's source code will result in a donation of 15% of the value of the flowers coming to us. Their website address is below and our source code is WFWB. They have a wonderful selection of bouquets and arrangements so, please bear us in mind if you are ordering flowers – don't forget the source code!

www.charityflowers.co.uk

Littleover Apiaries Ltd
the home of honey™

We also wish to say a huge thank you and give a big bear hug to Littleover Apiaries Ltd., honey suppliers based in Derby who have sent us a box full of jars of honey to take to the bears throughout the summer as a special treat and to help support Fostering Compassion too.



TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

Sunday, August 25th 2013 at Hopetoun House, South Queensferry.

We are very much looking forward to our next big event being organised by a wonderful team of bear supporters who are working incredibly hard to bring the event together. They are very kindly splitting all funds raised between three charities and we are very honoured to be chosen as one of them. We will have a lovely big stall with lots of merchandise and bear related goodies and you can come and learn all about our work. We will have a raffle and tombola and you can also come along for a sample animal rune readings given by our lovely friend 'Bob the Bear.'



For more information about the event and how you can purchase tickets, please get in touch.
You will have a chance to buy some of our wonderful new merchandise...



Advancing Bear Care 2013 Conference

We are delighted and very proud to announce that we are working with the renowned Else Poulsen and the Bear Care Group as part of this years ABC conference to be held in America in October. WBF ran a competition during Bears Matter Month for one lucky entrant to win their conference registration fee which was won by Angela Kyle from Scotland. WBF will also be represented at the conference – an incredible opportunity to raise the Bear Foundation's profile around the world, even further. We will report in more detail on this wonderful event in our December newsletter.



Bear Care
GROUP

It has been an extremely busy six months and for fear of forgetting to thank anyone, can we pass a massive bear hug to all our supporters and everyone involved in helping promote and advance the work of the Winton Bear Foundation in 2013. None of it would be possible without you.

Farewell Holly



On May 29th 2013, our beloved Head of Sponsored Walkies, Holly, lost her battle against her many health problems.

Holly herself had been a victim of neglect in her early years but thrived in her new loving home.

She regularly took part in sponsored walks to help raise money for abused and exploited bears around the world.

She is greatly missed by many, but will never be forgotten.

'Holly, The Mahogany Girl' has been written in memory of Holly and as a tribute to her. It tells her remarkable story and journey and highlights the incredible bond that can exist between humans and animals.

It also tackles the additional difficulties pet owners can face when the devastation of pet bereavement is not taken seriously.

Donations from sale proceeds will be made to the Winton Bear Foundation and to the Blue Cross Pet Bereavement Service.

The book is in the final stages of production but for further information and to register your interest in purchasing a copy, please email lesleyjwinton@tiscali.co.uk

HOLLY
The Mahogany Girl



Lesley Winton

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