



NEWSLETTER

# BEARS MATTER

Issue 14, July 2017/August 2017

**'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 Issue 14 of Bears Matter! Hard to believe we're into our 14<sup>th</sup> newsletter and our seventh year. We are now helping more than 33 different bear projects in 17 different countries around the world - quite an achievement for a small charity built from the ground up. Of course, we couldn't do any of it without you and we are so grateful for your ongoing support of and commitment to the Winton Bear Foundation. Since the last newsletter we've been working really hard to continue to be as effective as possible and help as many bears and bear projects around the world as we can including existing beneficiaries and new ones. We are also welcoming more bears to our WBF 'Orphanage' where we adopt animals from other organisations to assist them financially but also to raise awareness of each species of bear and the threats they face. So with that in mind and without further ado, we would like to tell you more about what we have been doing, with your help, since the beginning of the year. Enjoy!

## Forest Animal Rescue

At the beginning of the year, we received an emergency appeal for help from our friends at Forest Animal Rescue to help buy some toys and enrichment for their new bears. We were delighted to help and donated US\$220 to buy a jumbo boomer ball that went down a treat!



*Photos courtesy of Forest Animal rescue*

## 'Bears Matter' Newsletter

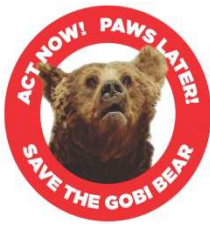
If you have not already signed up for our newsletter and our regular updates please let us have your email address and we will add you to our mailing list.

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

**By Post** - The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears (SCIO), 54 West Windygoul Gardens, Tranent, East Lothian, EH33 2LA, U.K. **By e-mail:** [info@wintonbearfoundation.org](mailto: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'**



## THE WORLD'S RAREST BEAR



### MongoliAid



You may recall in our Summer 2016 newsletter we told you about a new WBF beneficiary - MongoliAid who work tirelessly to help the Gobi Bear - the world's rarest bear. Well we are delighted to report that we are again supporting MongoliAid with this years food drop. The food drop consists of bags of pelletized biscuits and the formula involves maize and dry tomato husks Each food drop cost \$2425 USD, which includes the hire of two trucks for approx eight days, 1000L of fuel, the hire of helpers, food and a satellite phone hire. The Winton Bear Foundation will be providing funding for one of these eight days a total of US\$320 (£269.21). We will include photos from this years food drop in our next newsletter.

*Photo courtesy of MongoliAid International*

### Get Bear Smart

This year we also donated to Get Bear Smart based in Canada. One of their goals is to minimize the number of bears killed as a result of human-caused problems and preventing conflict encouraging police and bear managers to choose non-lethal bear management practices. There are several tools available to help keep curious or hungry bears away from you, your home, business or campsite. Bears are often attracted to urban areas by human food sources and once a bear becomes comfortable accessing these foods, they sometimes follow their nose and enter people's homes in search of more food. This is without a doubt the point at which even the biggest bear lover says NO!



*Photo courtesy of Get Bear Smart*



*Cartoon: Evelyn Kirkaldy  
www.bearsmart.com*

One passive deterrent device is an Electric Unwelcome Mat that can be placed in front of doors and windows to discourage bears. The mats automatically provide negative feedback to bears if they attempt to access the property. They are not harmful to bears or any other animals

One mat costs \$800 so we donated \$400 towards the cost and the mat purchased will be loaned out to residents who have experiences of bears peeping in their windows and doors. The mats are the most effective deterrents on the market. Sylvia Dolson of Get Bear Smart says "We've had so many instances where we could have used one and saved a bear's life."

## Our Little Orphanage!

The Winton Bear Foundation's little orphanage is growing rapidly! We have decided to 'adopt' a different species of bear from organisations that are currently beneficiaries. This way, this allows us to support their work and also raise awareness of each species of bear and the threats they face. In our last newsletter we told you of our adoption of Fluffy and Scruffy at Wildwood Trust to join Bodo (Animals Asia) and Max (Liberty Sanctuary) who we have adopted for a number of years now. We are delighted to report that we have now adopted another two bears to add to our little orphanage. We will renew each of our adoptions on an annual basis, helping to raise awareness of the dreadful conditions many bears are rescued from and the organisations trying to help them.

We are delighted to welcome...

### Kudat

Kudat was displayed as a 'Panda' in a mini zoo. He looks curiously at his environment and marvels at all the tall trees. Kudat likes splashing water from the trough but does not enjoy getting too wet.

Malayan sun bears are the smallest bears in the world and are only found in Southeast Asia. These bears continue to be threatened by forest degradation, illegal hunting for bear parts and poaching to obtain young cubs for pet trade.

Kudat is in the care of the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre.



# Chitra

The first lady in our orphanage, Chitra was forced into becoming a dancing bear by her Kalandar owners. She had been subjected to years of abuse and injustice. Neglected and made to starve for months at a stretch, she had lost all hope. Unsurprisingly Chitra is wary of humans and prefers the company of her fellow bears. In fact, she plays leader to her girl gang comprising of bears Kasturi, Arushi, Kashi, Avni and Binni. Chitra has a hearty appetite and likes eating watermelons, coconuts and chewing on sugarcane sticks. She absolutely loves dates and ends up stuffing mouthfuls at a time, she even hoards them inside a small mud pit to prevent the other bears from seeking them out!

Chitra is currently in the care of International Animal Rescue and Wildlife SOS at the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre in India.



Our lovely little orphanage - Max, Bodo, Fluffy and Scruffy, Chitra and Kudat



# 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, are coming up and ways in which 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.

## BEARS MATTER MONTH 2017



**Bears Matter Month**  
**'Life through their eyes'**  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - Mar 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

The biggest event in our fundraising calendar 'Bears Matter Month' this year ran from February 14<sup>th</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally we run this from Valentines day to Mothers day and sometimes this is longer than a month.

During this month we run a variety of fund and awareness raising posts and activities on our Facebook page. We include special features on prominent days during the month including International Save Bears Day, International Polar Bears Day and World Wildlife Day.

Huge thanks must go to Julia Attwood for all her hard work during Bears Matter Month.

We also promote our lovely Gift Certificates available for Valentines Day and Mothers Day. We also have them available for Christmas and Birthdays (more information can be found on our website

<https://www.wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/gift-certificates>



At the beginning of BMM we set the Foundation up as a Give As You Live charity. This is a fantastic way to raise money for us as you shop. Check out their website and see how you can help us raise more money for the bears. <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wintonbearfoundation>

Our Bears Matter Month raffle was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March and raised £203. The main prize 'George' was won by Helen Ashworth who very kindly donated it to Shaaray one of our lovely Fostering Compassion children who has done incredibly well and is devoted to animals.



## TWO FANTASTIC PIECES OF NEWS!

### SPECIAL LEGACY FUND



Also as part of Bears Matter Month this year, we launched our 'Special Legacy Fund'. The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears was lucky enough to receive a legacy last year of just over £8,000. Thanks to this generous supporter's boost to our funds, we have decided to set up a special annual award of up to £1,000 to a single bear-related project. This means these funds will last for at least 8 years and will hopefully be of significant help to the individual or organisation who wins the award. Applications can be made NOW for the 2018 award, to be announced on 10th October, 2017 - the anniversary of the date the Foundation was launched.

Please share this news with as many bear-welfare organisations as possible. Project details can be sent to [info@wintonbearfoundation.org](mailto:info@wintonbearfoundation.org) for consideration.

### AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST....

### CEVA AWARD WINNER

We are delighted to close this newsletter with some wonderful news. Our very own Founder and CEO Lesley Winton won this years Ceva Animal Welfare 'Charity Professional of the Year' Award for her charity work. She was presented with a lovely framed certificate and engraved trophy at a glitzy awards ceremony at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham in April. Lesley said 'This is as much for me as it is for all our wonderful volunteers and supporters - I have a great team!' This is a great boon for the charities and will really help in raising our profile. You can view the ceremony here <http://www.cevawelfareawards.com/>



So on these two wonderfully positive pieces of news, we draw this newsletter to a close. We hope you have enjoyed this update and we'd like to thank you very much for your ongoing support for our work.

**Together, we will make the world a better place for bears.**