

NEWSLETTER

BEARS MATTER

Issue 17, Winter 2019/2020

'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 17 of Bears Matter! We are delighted to bring you news of our distribution of funds during 2019 and the amazing projects around the world we continue to support. 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 we were created in 2010, we have donated £22,916 to 40 beneficiary organisations, helping bears in 18 countries. Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam. We are also approaching our 10th birthday which we will celebrate on October 2020 so we are very proud of what we have managed to achieve, with your help, during that time, especially since we are a very small charity run entirely by volunteers! Our latest distribution of funds sees us support two new beneficiaries and move into one new country furthering our reach even more. So without further ado, we would like to tell you all about what we have been doing, supported by you, during 2019. Enjoy!

Summer distribution of funds

Animals Asia

It's always a pleasure to renew our "Befriend a Bear" adoption commitment to Bodo, at Animals Asia's China Sanctuary and this we did early in 2019.

Bodo has been described as one of "The six bears who REALLY run our sanctuaries" on AA's blog page. He is "the Food Taster."

As moon bear Bodo celebrates nearly 16 years of sanctuary, it is hoped this most sociable of bears will be able to enjoy at least another decade of happiness.

When moon bear Bodo arrived at Animals Asia's China sanctuary back in November 2003, he was less than two years old. Although he came from a bile farm, he had never suffered the agony of bile extraction due to his age.

When he arrived, Bodo was hugely stressed, showing repetitive behaviours so common in bears held in extreme captivity and in a desperate attempt to cope with trauma he was self-mutilating – chewing his own paw.

Thankfully, in time, Bodo came to realise that nobody would hurt him ever again. He would have the space he needed, he would be able to express the natural behaviours his mind craves and he would have friends to share his new life.

Amount donated - £40



(Photo: Bodo at CBRC 2018
Credit: www.animalsasia.org)

The Wildlife Centre of Virginia

This is the first of this Summer's distribution of funds to have gone to a new beneficiary - The Wildlife Centre of Virginia. This is a hospital for native wildlife, teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment, since 1982. Our donation will go directly towards the care of bears currently in their facility.

Amanda Nicholson, Director of Outreach told us: "We are (thankfully) having a smaller cub year (so far) than normal, but as you guys know, bears require long-term care, so we'll be feeding and housing this group of cubs

until next spring. We also recently admitted a 2 ½ year old bear with a severe case of mange, so he's undergoing treatment but all seems to be going well so far."

The Centre has been receiving bear cubs for many years; in 2013, the Centre constructed a special Black Bear Complex, designed for bear cubs who need space in which to grow up.



Photo Credit: www.wildlifecenter.org

In the 2013 cub season, the Wildlife Centre successfully raised and released 15 bear cubs; the 2014 cub season "only" had five cubs throughout the summer; and the 2015 cub season brought seven bear cubs that were raised and released. In 2016, the Wildlife Centre received a record-breaking 36 bears total, many of which were cubs.

Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre

We are proud to support the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre through one-off donations and our annual bear adoption of Montom, which we renewed this Summer.

Over these past few months, Montom has developed his independence and confidence, and takes great pleasure enjoying his freedom days in the forest enclosure. In the wild, sun bears live alone due to a limited food supply in the forest. They are together only when the mother is with her cub, or during the mating season. At BSBCC, sun bears are kept in groups to conserve space and encourage healthy bear behaviour and this is part of the rehabilitation process.

In 2017, nine bears were released. In 2018, a total of 17 bear cubs were rehabilitated and released back to the wild.



Photo Credit: www.wildlifecenter.org

In late April 2019, the Wildlife Center of Virginia began admitting this year's bear cubs from locations throughout Virginia. These bears were likely born between early January to mid-February of 2019. In most cases, the cubs were separated from their mothers. The young bears will be cared for until next spring, at the time when they would begin naturally dispersing from their mothers and will be released in the spring of 2020.

To limit human interaction, only a few staff care for the bear cubs. Depending on their age and condition when they arrive, cubs may live in a Zinger crate, in the Centre's Large Mammal Isolation enclosure, or in the Centre's Black Bear Complex, where they have a half-acre of forest to explore.

When introduced to other bears, each cub has a temporary coloured tag placed in its ear. These tags will be removed prior to release and will be replaced with permanent green ear tags from the Virginia Department of Inland Fisheries. The temporary coloured tags allow the Centre staff to monitor and identify the cubs. The green "release" tags identify them as rehabilitated bear cubs.

Amount donated - £110

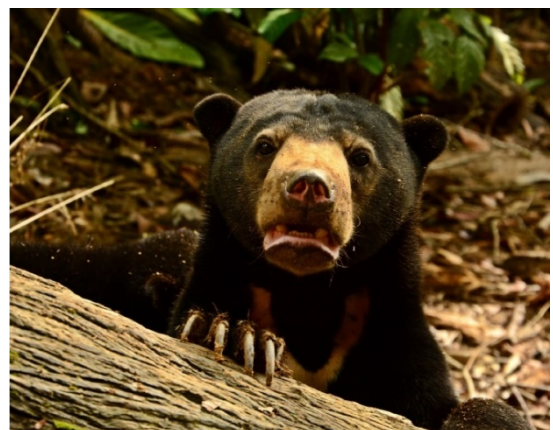


Photo Credit: www.bsbcc.org.my

Amount donated - £60

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Centre

We may well have started another tradition in our funds distribution list this Summer.

The Southwest Wildlife Conservation Centre, which our founder and director Lesley Winton visited while in Arizona in Summer 2018, is currently caring for five black bears, and we have sent funds again this summer to keep them in watermelons - which they love - for several months.



photos from www.southwestwildlife.org

Southwest Wildlife rescues and rehabilitates wildlife that has been injured, displaced, and orphaned. Once rehabilitated, they are returned to the wild. Wildlife education includes advice on living with wildlife and the importance of native wildlife to healthy ecosystems. Educational and humane scientific research opportunities are offered in the field of conservation medicine. Sanctuary is provided to animals that cannot be released back to the wild. SWCC was, and still is, the only accredited wildlife sanctuary in Arizona with the facilities to care for large mammals, such as bears.

Amount donated - £101

Northern Lights Wildlife Society

Northern Lights Wildlife Society rescue starving and distressed orphaned bear cubs, raise them until they can survive on their own, and then release them back into the wild. The Langens of northern British Columbia run one of the busiest bear rehabilitation centres and are the only people in the world licensed to raise and release grizzlies. The bear rehab team gets clawed, scratched and bitten, for no pay, and they're on call 24/7. But it's all worth it when they see a cub take its first steps back into the wild.

Here, bears get a second chance at life in the wild.

At the last update (about 30-June) Northern Lights Wildlife Society had 14 blacks and 2 grizzly cubs. Here are two of this year's intake.



Photos : www.facebook.com/NLWSCanada/

Angelica from NLWC told us "The primary reason why we get bears is highway or train collisions, I would say that's about 75 per cent of the cubs we get come from those reasons."

When we contacted Angelica about our intended donation, this is what she told us, "The shelter has been growing extremely fast and a lot of funds are needed for rescues and releases, not to mention time spent on such journeys. We are trying to get my daughter certified on tranquilization, but so far it is only me, which essentially means I am needed on every trip. We already rescued 7 cubs this year and I have a feeling that there will be many more. If it is ok with you than I would put your donation towards the purchase of a low impact tranquilizer gun. The guns the Conservation Officers use are meant for adult bears and we just lost 2 cubs due to dart impact. If we owned a low impact gun we could tranquilize much safer and without government assistance."

So this is what they have purchased, with our (and your) help.

Amount donated - £201



International Animal Rescue and Wildlife SOS - Chitra

We are proud to support the International Animal Rescue and Wildlife SOS through one-off donations and our annual bear adoption of Chitra at the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre in India, which we renewed this Summer. She was the first female bear in our "orphanage".



Photo: www.internationalanimalrecue.org

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. She found hope again at the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Sanctuary.

It is a common saying that the way to a person's heart is through food, however, we believe that this is true for the rescued sloth bears as well.

Our adopted bear Chitra can often be stubborn, flatly refusing to cooperate. However, after her care team started positive reinforcement training with her - where the keeper rewards the bear with a favourite treat for a desirable action - Chitra has slowly become cooperative with her keeper. This intelligent girl now knows that if she chooses to listen to her keeper, she will get her favourite dates or honey!

Chitra's transition from a scared, shy bear to a feisty, playful one has been a truly heart-warming journey to witness. This journey has been possible only because of the hard work of the team supporting her.

Amount donated - £48

Forgotten Animals

Forgotten Animals is a new beneficiary for us. Founded in 2011, they became the first international organisation to work in towns and regions of Russia. Unlike in the main cities Moscow and Saint Petersburg, the animal welfare community there was virtually non-existent. Instead of merely fighting the consequences, the approach is to target the root causes of the problems, whilst using Western animal welfare expertise and knowledge and understanding of local culture and mentality.

Since then Forgotten Animals, a registered charity in both UK and Russia' has carried out or directly supported projects in 60 cities across 5 countries, and counting. Today, Forgotten Animals closely collaborates with a number of animal welfare organisations around the world in order to bring positive change, one animal at a time.

Anna Kogan, Founder and CEO says: "I believe we can achieve major shifts in behaviour and attitude towards animals. We are doing it where the most difference in animal welfare can and needs to be made."

We have stipulated that our donation must go to their Bear Rehabilitation Project.



Photos: forgottenanimals.org

"In partnership with UTYOS we are building a Bear Cub Rehabilitation and Reintroduction Programme to rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned bear cubs back where they belong.

"After 15-18 months these bears are strong enough to be released back into the wild. We helped build a new natural enclosure and other facilities equipped with everything needed to monitor the well-being of cubs during their rehabilitation period.

"Despite being such a unique centre, located in the best possible area for the crucial conservation work they do, UTYOS doesn't receive ANY funding from the Government."

In 2018, with the financial support of the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, three orphan male Himalayan cubs and one brown bear cub rescued in 2017 finished their rehabilitation and were released back into the wild by Utyos Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, run by Eduard Kruglov in the remote forest of the Russian Far East. They will now contribute towards conservation of these iconic Russian species.

Amount donated - £206

Winter distribution of funds

Orphan Bear Rescue Centre

This is a new beneficiary for us this year. The Pazhetnov family rescue and rehabilitate orphaned bear cubs from around Russia, with the goal of mimicking the bears' natural upbringing in the wild as much as possible.

The centre works with animals that must learn to survive in the wild. The base condition of this skill is a sense of fear of humans. If the animal is not afraid of people, it will not survive in the wild and is doomed to death or life imprisonment in a cage. They do not raise bears in any way – they provide them with conditions close to their natural habitat, and semi-freedom, thanks to which they form all the behaviours necessary for life in the wild: food, defensive, nesting, fear response to humans.



(Photos from www.orphan-bear.org)

The centre can only rehabilitate orphaned bear cubs that were born in the current year and were not exposed to humans for lengthy periods of time. In exceptional cases, they can help orphaned bear cubs in the second year, if the situation is critical, e.g. in early spring when bears still hibernate in their dens and no food is available in the forest.

Unfortunately they cannot rehabilitate and release older bear cubs that either lived with people for some time, or were kept in captivity.

Amount donated - £200



Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat, Ontario, Canada.

This is another new beneficiary for us this year. The Cochrane Habitat was founded as an orphanage for polar bear cubs rescued from the wild, and opened in 2004. Cochrane focuses exclusively on polar bears and has expert staff and state of the art facilities. It takes in bears which cannot return to the wild; typically from zoos retiring “their” bears to a more natural environment. It does not breed bears.

The Polar Bear Habitat also takes part in vital research in partnership with Canadian and international universities and scientific organizations. These studies may be published as peer-reviewed journal articles or they may aid in the development of new research tools and techniques. Every research project that is proposed must be approved by the PBH Animal Care Committee (to ensure that the proposed methods are in accordance with PBH care standards). Once approved, animal care staff will begin data and/or sample collection, which can range in duration anywhere from 28 days to four years.

The Habitat has a total area of 110,000 square metres (27 acres) on a site of 70 acres of sub-arctic boreal forest. The five enclosures cover a total area of 97,853 square metres (24.2 acres). This makes it the largest facility in the world dedicated to polar bears.

Each of the enclosures has a live camera, which you can access on the website. www.polarbearhabitat.ca/about/

Amount donated - £211



(Photo – from Cochrane Bear Habitat)

Idaho Black Bear Rehab



(Photos – IBBR)

We have sent funds to IBBR as part of our Winter Distribution to help cover the transportation, vet bills and food expenses of the bears. They took in three cubs recently, two male and one female.

One of the males started having seizures when the IBBR team arrived to collect him, possibly due to overmedication when he was immobilised - each animal can react differently to these medications. A vet was quickly called in and he was treated, with no further adverse effects.

The second male was a big healthy cub, but had no mother. Sadly the female cub was rough shape. Despite the best efforts of the vets and the IBBR team she passed away.

Sally Maughan posted:

"It is so hard to face this challenge in rehab. We hope, we pray, we worry, we see improvement & then we see them going downhill. Sometimes the decision isn't up to us. We do all we can, the vet does all he can, WA did all they can and Maple made the decision. I'm glad she spent time with Amy in the end as I'm sure that was a comfort to her & maybe her way of acknowledging how hard everyone tried. Her sweet body just couldn't overcome it all."

Amount donated - £209



Libearty

A year ago, we heard of the sad loss of Max at Libearty Bear Sanctuary, Romania, who was one of our first adopted bears. We decided to continue to support the sanctuary by adopting another bear, and chose Monica. This winter, we are renewing her adoption for a second year.

Max's disabilities made him too vulnerable to live with more active, boisterous bears. But thankfully, he was never alone. His slow, gentle nature calmed Monica – a small, feisty brown bear – and they became friends and roommates. She had picked fights with most of the other bears, but Max and Monica found peace and happiness together, for the rest of Max's days.

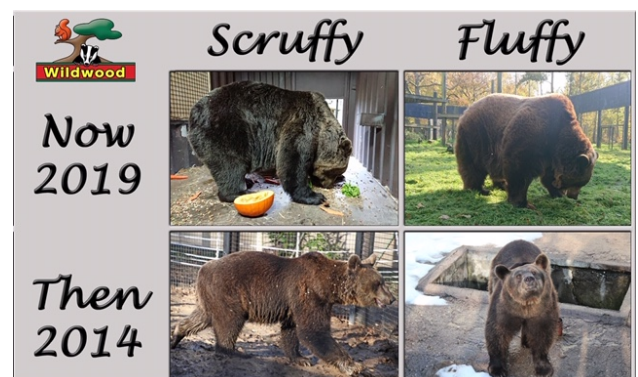
Monica had spent more than 15 years behind bars in a zoo in Ploiesti. In 2009 she finally said good-bye to this suffering - the steel bars and concrete floor of the cage.

Amount donated - £54



(Photos Libearty Bear Sanctuary, Romania)

Wildwood Trust



It's always a pleasure to renew our adoptions, and two of the stalwarts of our Winton Bear "Orphanage" are Fluffy and Scruffy at the Wildwood Trust, Kent, UK.

Their keeper, Jonathan, sent us a couple of recent photos, which we have contrasted with some old photos of the bears from back in 2014. This is the best condition they have been in their entire lives, and the keeper team are, justifiably, very proud. So are we.

As Milcho & Goscho they travelled from Bulgaria to Kent in November 2014, where keepers gave them the nicknames "Fluffy" and "Scruffy". These names have stuck!

Amount donated - £80

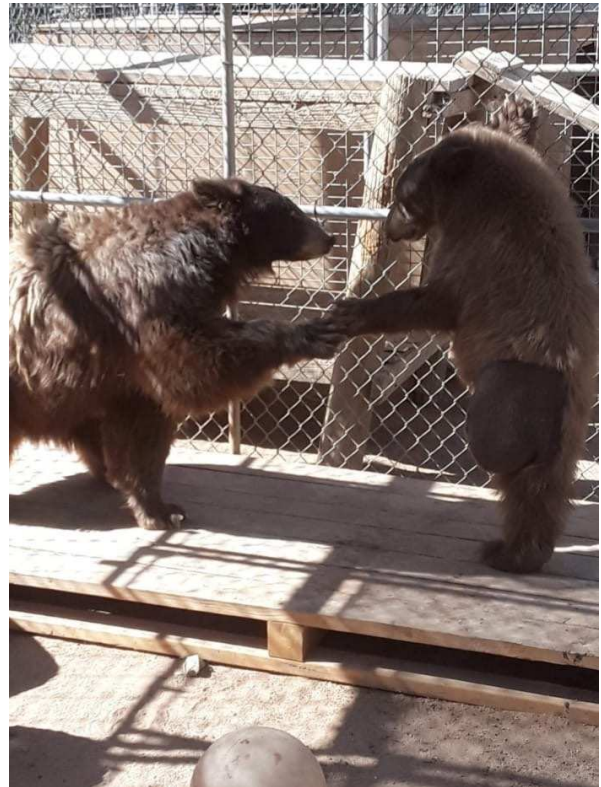
In The Company of Wolves

Last Summer, we introduced you to Sammy - resident bear at In The Company Of Wolves, CA. She was found all alone and very underweight in 2016, with one of her ears partially missing. It is likely that a car hit and killed her mother and swiped her as well - leaving her with head trauma and sight impairment. As a "special needs" cub she would not be able to survive on her own and could not be returned to the wild - she became a permanent resident at ITCOW.

Sammy, now 3 years old, has a new companion, Woody. He had been taken into rehab in August, after being found orphaned and underweight, He had become habituated to humans, and had severe injuries to his left rear leg - possibly caused by gunshot and/or a bite crush wound caused by an older male bear. Vets concluded that his leg could not be saved, and his habituation made him unreleasable, so he found his new forever home with ITCOW.

Woody and Sammy become friends immediately, and now share an enclosure.

Woody loves most all foods but he absolutely loves grapes - so we have sent a little something in our Winter Distribution, to keep the two of them well stocked with their favourite things!



(Photo "Friends for Life" from In The Company Of Wolves)

Amount donated - £75

Bear Care Group

One of our Beneficiaries this winter was the Bear Care Group - when we sponsored a presentation at their Advancing Bear Care conference in Scotland.

The presentation was on "The Development and Benefits of Captive Torpor in European Brown Bears" (starring Fluffy & Scruffy, our beloved adopted bears!)

This was presented by Jonathan Forde, Senior Keeper Hoofstock and Bears, The Wildwood Trust, Kent.

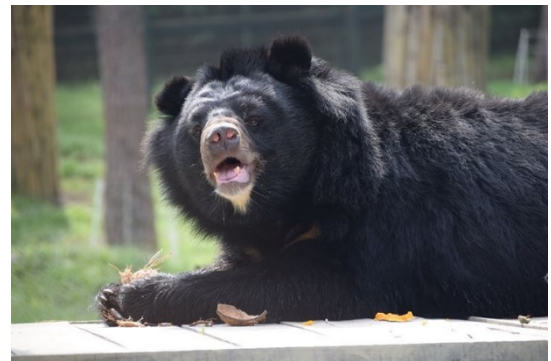
The conference partner this year was Five Sisters Zoo - you may recognise some of the delegates in this photo taken at the zoo, where they attended a hands-on practical workshop giving delegates a chance to practice welfare assessments after learning about the environmental, physical health, and behavioural needs of bears and how seasonality plays a role in their welfare.

Photo credit: The Bear Care Group

Amount donated - £209



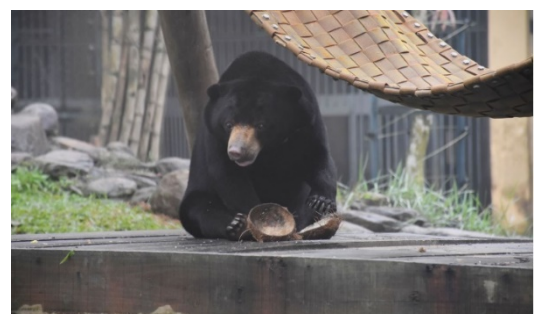
Animals Asia



It has become a bit of a Christmas tradition at The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears to buy coconuts for each of the bears at Animals Asia's Vietnam sanctuary. The two bears relishing their delicious coconuts are sun bear, Annemarie and moon bear, Milagro.

Amount donated - £200

(Photos – Animals Asia)



Fostering Compassion visit to Five Sisters Zoo



(Photos – Lesley Winton)

Also this year we funded a very special Fostering Compassion visit to Five Sisters Zoo, on a "Meet the Bears" day.

A group of children from Chernobyl (Ukraine), went to visit the rescued bears with our founder, Lesley Winton and part of the Humane Education project. Through a translator, she told them the stories of the rescued bears Carmen, Suzy and Peggy who were taken from their mum when they were cubs, and forced to spend more than 25 years in a circus - exploited for human entertainment - until they were rescued and brought to the Bear Sanctuary in the zoo in 2012. Sadly Peggy passed away in 2017.



Henk & Eso arrived at the Five Sisters Zoo in May 2018. They were probably the victims of illegal poaching and are thought to have been taken from the wild after their mother was shot. They were sold to the tourist trade and had been living in a small cramped cage at a roadside restaurant in Albania, where they were being used to "lure" tourists into the restaurant.

Amount donated - £75





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.

The Scottish Bear Fair

The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears was the Scottish Bear Fair's chosen charity this year when it took place in Troon in November.

Lesley Winton attended the event raised £251 for the Foundation.



(Photo – Lesley Winton)



Bears Matter Month 'Life through their eyes'

For our seventh Bears Matter Month, which runs from Valentine's Day each year, we held a number of awareness and fundraising events to help highlight the plight of all eight species of bears around the world.

Our main fundraiser – the raffle – raised £235.



This is the free and easy way to raise funds for the foundation, simply by shopping online.

Join for free and raise funds when you shop at over 4,400 stores. Your purchase will automatically generate free funds!

How Give as you Live works:

- Sign up free and choose from The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears as your charity.
- Search for a store you want to shop with on Give as you Live - there are over 4,000!
- Click on the store logo - you will be directed to the store website, and your visit tracked by Give As You Live.
- Make your purchase as normal.
- The retailer then pays Give as you Live commission for your purchase, which is converted into a donation to us!

If you already use Give As You Live - why not consider switching to us for a month? Every little helps.

So far supporters have helped us raise over £180, at no extra cost to them.

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wintonbearfoundation>

Thank you also to everyone who continues to donate to us and contribute regularly by direct debit.

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 **Website:** www.wintonbearfoundation.org

Telephone: +44-(0) 1875 614 899 or +44-(0)7904 733 137. **Please make any cheques payable to 'The Winton Foundation'**



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

HOW TO DONATE TO THE WINTON FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS

FROM THE UK - Please preserve the full value of your donation, by using one of these two methods:

Pay directly into our UK bank account:
Account Name: The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears
Account Number: 65526639 Sort Code: 08-92-99

Or login to your PayPal account www.paypal.com/signin/
and send to lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org
Be sure to select "Send Money to Friends and Family"

"Making it Bearable" Background © Orphan Bear Rescue Centre www.wintonbearfoundation.org



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

HOW TO DONATE TO THE WINTON FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS

FROM OUTSIDE THE UK

Use PayPal (either with a PayPal account or a credit card)
via the "Donate" button halfway down this page
www.wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/donate-contact/

PayPal will deduct a charge for these donations

"Making it Bearable" Background © Orphan Bear Rescue Centre www.wintonbearfoundation.org

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