

NEWSLETTER  
**BEARS MATTER**

Issue 22, October 2022

**'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 22 of Bears Matter! We are delighted to bring you news of our summer distribution of funds in 2022 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.

Our work is so important to ensure that bears around the world enjoy a life free of fear and pain. We hope you enjoy reading about the projects we have been supporting.

## **Our Founder and CEO – B.E.M. update**

In our last newsletter we shared the news with you that our founder and CEO, Lesley Winton, had been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Animal Welfare. We all enjoyed a lovely day at Lesley's investiture ceremony in Cockburn Halls.

This was hosted by East Lothian's Lord Lieutenant, Roderick Urquhart, who gave a wonderful speech and presented Lesley with her medal. Lesley was surrounded by friends, family and colleagues who celebrated with her. Another special touch was that Lesley's proud mum, Barbara, who lives in a care home in Edinburgh, was able to join in via Zoom. The wonderful care team put on a cream tea for her, and the other residents, and they watched proceedings live, joining in with the celebrations.

Lesley said it was the best day and felt like she was in a dream!

Lesley has been enjoying the trip of a lifetime in the USA, if you follow our Facebook page you will see her updates.



Photo – East Lothian Courier

## Summer distribution of funds

### Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre – Romolina adoption

This is the lovely Romolina, who we adopted two years ago. She was rescued from Kampung Romol, Sapulut, in the interior division of Sabah and was handed over to the Sabah Wildlife Department then sent to BSBCC on the 7th of July, 2018. On arrival, she was tiny. She weighed only 5.95kg. She was subsequently found to be malnourished, her bodyweight was inappropriate and she showed signs of stunted growth (small body with some of her teeth being permanent teeth) as a result from improper diet (rice, cereals, sausages and fruits) and being confined in a small cage which restricted her growth.

Since then, Romolina has enjoyed her new found freedom in the forest at BSBCC. She has shown great enthusiasm in being able to explore the forest canopy! She loves to be alone, independent and active in learning the forest skills. Romolina is a superb climber and looks absolutely amazing! She loves to stay high up on a branch. She has adapted well to the life as a near-wild sun bear.

We are delighted to renew our adoption of Romolina this year and support the incredible work of BSBCC.

**£60 donated**



Photo by Yvonne Chong

### International Animal Rescue and Wildlife SOS – Chitra adoption

The second of our donations sees us once again very proud to support the International Animal Rescue and Wildlife SOS through one-off donations and our annual bear adoption of Chitra, which we have renewed again this Summer.

Chitra was the 500th bear that was rescued in India, just before Christmas 2008. Her poor muzzle had been pierced several times, leaving it painfully swollen and inflamed with a huge tear down one side. Her canine teeth had been knocked out leaving gaping, infected cavities in her gums. She was rescued from her Kalandar owner from a village in Chitradurga Karnataka and was severely malnourished and neglected. Forced into becoming a dancing bear, she had been subjected to years of abuse and injustice. Made to starve for months at a stretch, she had lost all hope.

When, thirteen and a half years ago, a nervous Kalandar walked into the Wildlife SOS Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre with an old, emaciated bear, being tugged at the end of a 2-foot long rope, her new life was about to begin.



Photo – Wildlife SOS

Chitra weighed a scrawny 62 kilos when she was first brought into the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Sanctuary and crouched in fear, expecting to be beaten. The ring through her delicate nose had to be surgically removed, along with the ropes wound tightly around her neck.

Nervous and starving, Chitra was given tasty fruits sprinkled with vitamins to improve her health, and lots of TLC. Slowly her appetite and health improved, and she became more trusting and gregarious.

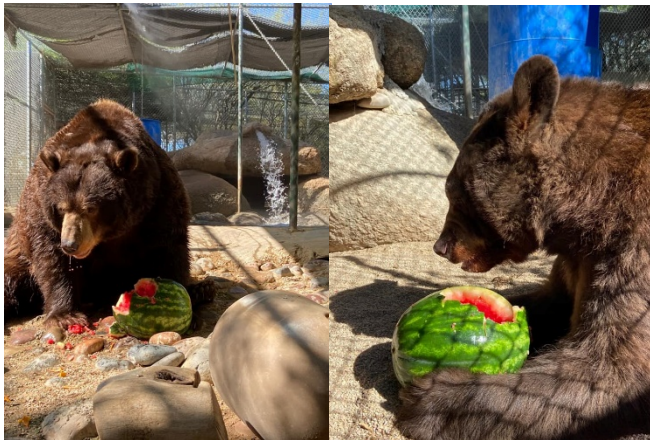
Today, Chitra spends most of her days resting in freshly dug mud pits, or hammocks to bask under the warm winter sun. As she is over twenty years old, Chitra has been placed under geriatric care and receives specialized veterinary attention along with a carefully curated diet that enables her to fight off diseases and maintain her strength. Chitra undergoes regular dental procedures which helps the veterinary team keep close scrutiny on her dental hygiene to avoid long-term damage to enamels and gums.

We are delighted to adopt the lovely Chitra again

**£48 donated**

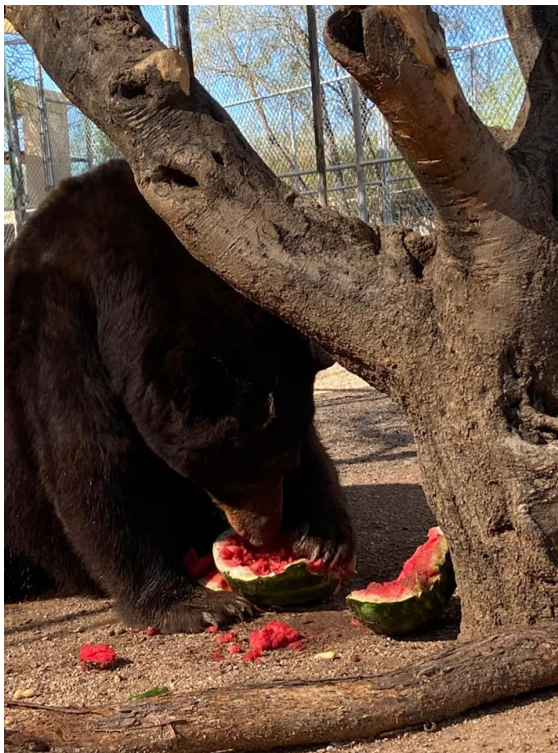


## Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center



After meeting the bears at the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center in Arizona in 2018, it has been a tradition of ours to send £100 to buy them some watermelons to keep them cool in the blistering hot Arizona summers.

Here are some photos of Grizz, Igasho and Heavenly enjoying their watermelons



**£100 donated**

Photos – Southwest Wildlife

## MongoliAid

We have again sent funds to MongoliAid International to help with the provision of supplemental feed drops to the Gobi Bear as part of our Summer 2022 distribution of funds.

MongoliAid is a small charity, founded in 2009. They are based in Australia, and work closely with the researchers and others active on the ground in the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area. They work with the MAMA NGO organization to feed the bears twice a year - in spring and autumn - and these feeding stations provide researchers with great information on the health of the bear population.

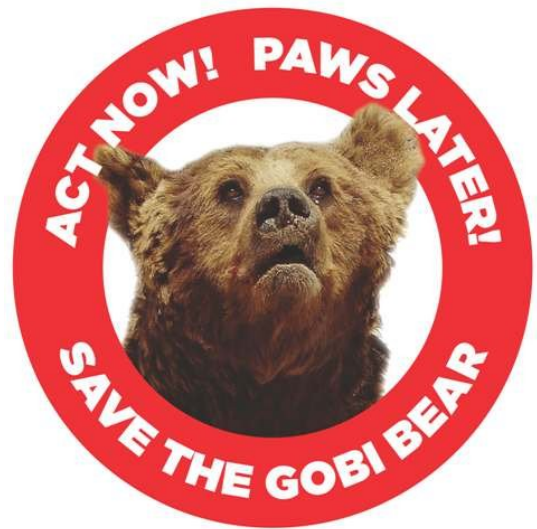


Photo – MongoliAid

**£250 donated**

## ECO-Halych Wildlife Rehab

We are delighted to report on the next of our distribution of funds for Summer. We have donated the sum of £350 to beneficiary ECO Halych Wildlife Rehab based in Ukraine, who we have been supporting since December 2016. We have been supporting their efforts to build a natural bear habitat for mistreated and abused bears by helping fund wooden enrichment for their rescued bears. Bears in Ukraine are often held in horrendous conditions, with lack of care or food, living in pits, rusty cages or even in garages. Eco-Halych has been building a sanctuary to rehome mistreated bears.

Thankfully, since the Russian invasion, Eco Halych rescued a further three bears during the war and all their bears are currently safe in sanctuaries in the West of Ukraine. We are keeping in regular contact with our friends at Eco Halych and thinking of them all during this terrible time. Whenever we can help, we will.

## Wildwood Trust

The last of our distribution of funds for Summer 2022 went to the Wildwood Trust in Kent, England and their Bear Husbandry Workshop being hosted in the UK. Prior to the pandemic we regularly supported the Advancing Bear Care Group conferences and workshops held throughout the world bringing bear caregivers and experts together to learn from each other. We would contribute by sponsoring talks, networking sessions and delegates fees as well as attending in person where possible.

Jon Forde, Senior Bear Keeper at Wildwood Trust this year, organised a Bear Husbandry workshop held in September.

We were delighted to be able to sponsor two presentations with our donation of £300. The first was on Tree Management, such an important topic when so many trees surround and form part of bear enclosures.

The second was for the presentation by the team from White Rock Bear Shelter in Ukraine. You may

recall earlier this year, shortly after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, we sent emergency funding of approximately £350. At that time, they had seven bears in their shelter, east of Kyiv. When bombing started the bears were disturbed from their hibernation, so needed nutritious food much earlier than expected. We were more than happy to help during this time of crisis, and it is a pleasure once again to support them by sponsoring their talk.



Photo – White Rock Bear Shelter



## TOPPING UP 'THE HONEY POT'



Each year the Foundation makes two distributions of funds to a selection of beneficiaries - one in Summer and one in Winter from what we affectionately call our 'Honey Pot'. We have donated thousands of pounds to date to over 40 organisations in 19 countries around the world. To read more about previous donations visit the 'Honey Pot' page of our website

[https://www.wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/honey-pot?fbclid=IwAR0A9ta\\_slA3FjIhg3eVwfXrU1pI72-BKfWDFyPipGYRXC9yIC3eu-ZWE6I](https://www.wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/honey-pot?fbclid=IwAR0A9ta_slA3FjIhg3eVwfXrU1pI72-BKfWDFyPipGYRXC9yIC3eu-ZWE6I)



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>



# Coffee for Bears

Could you spare us the cost of your cup of coffee? Each donation you make will make a big difference to bears around the world.



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](mailto:info@wintonbearfoundation.org) **Website:** [www.wintonbearfoundation.org](http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org)

We also have an active Facebook Page

**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/](http://www.paypal.com/signin/)  
and send to [lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org](mailto:lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org)  
Be sure to select "Send Money to Friends and Family"

*"Making it Bearable"*

Background © Orphan Bear Rescue Centre [www.wintonbearfoundation.org](http://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/](http://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](http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org)

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