

NEWSLETTER

BEARS MATTER

Issue 23, March 2023

'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 23 of Bears Matter! We are delighted to bring you news of our winter distribution of funds in 2022/23 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.

Bears Matter Month

Every year, from Valentine's Day to Mother's Day, we celebrate Bears Matter Month. This has just drawn to a close, but if you still wish to donate there are a number of ways listed at the end of our Newsletter. We felt this was a lovely time to remember George Hay Winton and the reason the Winton Bear Foundation was established.

A Tribute to a Loving Father

Every Bears Matter Month, on the 26th February, we like to remember George Hay Winton. The Winton Bear Foundation was set up in memory of George Winton and as a tribute to him.

Thirteen years ago our CEO Lesley Winton, set up the Winton Bear Foundation as a tribute to her father. His memory lives on in WBF's ongoing tremendous efforts to highlight the plight of all eight species of bear around the world, and its work - along with others - to help end their exploitation. Lesley also set up Fostering Compassion (so successful it is now a charity in its own right) - a project that is particularly poignant and relevant given that George himself, was brought up in a kinship care environment. We are still closely linked to Fostering Compassion through our educational work for the bears, and we support Fostering Compassion's 'Meet the Bears' workshop.

Both the work of the Bear Foundation and Fostering Compassion serve as a fitting tribute to the father Lesley never knew, but always misses.



Winter distribution of funds

Libearty Bear Sanctuary - Romania

You may recall for many years we have supported the Libearty Bear Sanctuary in Zarnesti, Romania through the adoption of two of their bears Max and Monica. Sadly, being old bears, both Max and Monica have now passed away, but we still wish to support the work of this wonderful Sanctuary to help bears. Therefore, we are now adopting another bear - Baloo!



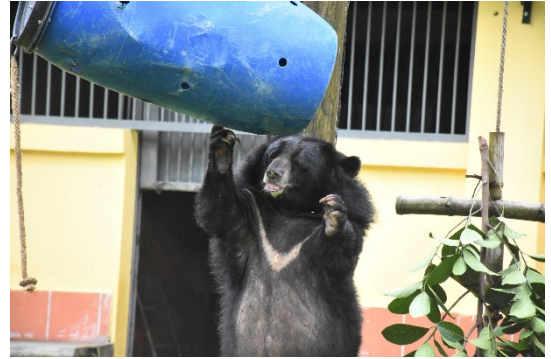
Baloo is the oldest of the 5 captive bears who used to live in a Mini Zoo, near a Restaurant in Bancu, Harghita county. The first 3 years of her life were the hardest. She was little, alone and scared. But things changed the day 2 new-born cubs Mitsi and Motsi joined the "club". Older and wiser now, Baloo had to be strong and supportive for her new cell-mates.

They were small and scared, as she once was. After 3 more years, history repeated itself. Two more new-born bear-cubs Gina and Sofia joined the family. But Baloo didn't have to worry about the fate of the little ones too much, because all three of them were about to be re-homed soon. In October 2006, Baloo joined Gina and Sofia in the first big enclosure of the Sanctuary, not knowing that one month later they will be all together again with Mitsi and Motsi.

We are delighted to adopt Baloo and have donated £55.98 (60 euros) to do so and will continue to adopt her for the rest of her life.

Animals Asia

Every year at Christmas (or thereabouts!) we treat our very special Animals Asia's Vietnam bears, who had been rescued from bear farms, to very special snacks and toys - usually a coconut each.



This year we have donated £100 for the Vietnam team to buy the bears whatever they would like to make them happy and fill their tummies!



Animals Asia sent us these pictures of the bears having lots of fun with their enrichment toys.



ECO-Halych Wildlife Rehab

We have been supporting Eco Halych for a number of years now and in particular 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.

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. Unfortunately, as the war continues in Ukraine, Eco Halych now have to wait for de-occupation of Eastern territories of Ukraine at which time there will be many more bears in need of their help.

To help them when the time comes, we have made a donation of £300 to Eco Halych and hope it will go some way to help the many bears that are now no doubt in great need. We will bring you more updates when we can.



Photo by Volodymyr Burdiak Photography
Photo courtesy of Eco Halych

Wildwood Trust

We are delighted to once again be renewing our adoption of Fluff and Scruff the lovely, rescued Brown Bears at Wildwood Trust in Herne Bay, Kent

Fluff and Scruff arrived at Wildwood in November 2014 after being rescued from a shocking life in Bulgaria. Fluff and Scruff were born at a brown bear breeding centre (their exact birth date is unknown), bred to be hunted. They lived their entire lives there, in barren, small, concrete pits until the centre was abandoned. They were severely underweight, and showing signs of serious stress, anxiety, and psychological trauma. They now live in a spacious woodland home, with inside denning areas being given the most natural life possible by their wonderful keepers, and a chance to express natural behaviours. For the first time in their lives, Fluff and Scruff entered torpor (a form of semi hibernation) in 2015, a crucial natural behaviour that they had never had the opportunity to undergo before.

We are happy, once again, to be supporting the Wildwood Trust in their exceptional care of Fluff and Scruff.



Photo – Wildwood Trust

*****NEW BENEFICIARY!*****

We are delighted to bring you news of a new WBF beneficiary! For the first time, as part of our Winter distribution of funds, we are donating to California based organisation PAWS - The Performing Animal Welfare Society. PAWS is dedicated to the protection of performing animals and provides sanctuary to abused, abandoned and retired captive wildlife. PAWS', San Andreas Sanctuary is currently home to three bears Boo Boo, Ben and Mack.



Boo Boo photo courtesy of PAWS

Ben was Born in captivity in 2001 and was confined to a 12x22 cement cage and kept as a tourist attraction in North Carolina where visitors occasionally threw pieces of bread to him. A lawsuit was filed on behalf of Ben by two concerned citizens and following more than a year of court battles, a judge finally ruled in Ben's favour. PAWS collaborated with other organizations to remove and rescue Ben and he was flown on a FedEx donated flight to California dubbed 'Bear Force One'!



Ben Photo Courtesy of PAWS



Mack Photo Courtesy of PAWS

Mack was born in the wild around 2016. He was captured by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife after he climbed a school yard fence, seeking human attention. Earlier, he had been spotted at a tree farm in the hills above Claremont, California, soliciting food from people. Only a few months old at the time, this little orphaned bear cub was missing part of his right hind leg. The injury – most likely the result of a snare was completely healed at the time he was captured and he looked to be otherwise healthy. Because of Mack's injury, and the fact that he was very friendly with people it was decided he should not be released back into the wild. This little three legged bear is gentle, playful and full of energy and curiosity. He loves to nap during the day and play at night!

We are delighted to be supporting Boo Boo, Ben and Mack who all now reside with PAWS in their natural habitat captive wildlife sanctuary and are free to roam throughout their vast natural spaces full with grasses, trees, and swimming ponds. They receive 24/7 optimum care that includes proper diets and veterinary care. We have sent \$370 towards their care. We very much look forward to bringing you updates, on our newest beneficiary PAWS.



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



- 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!

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!

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.



The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears

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

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

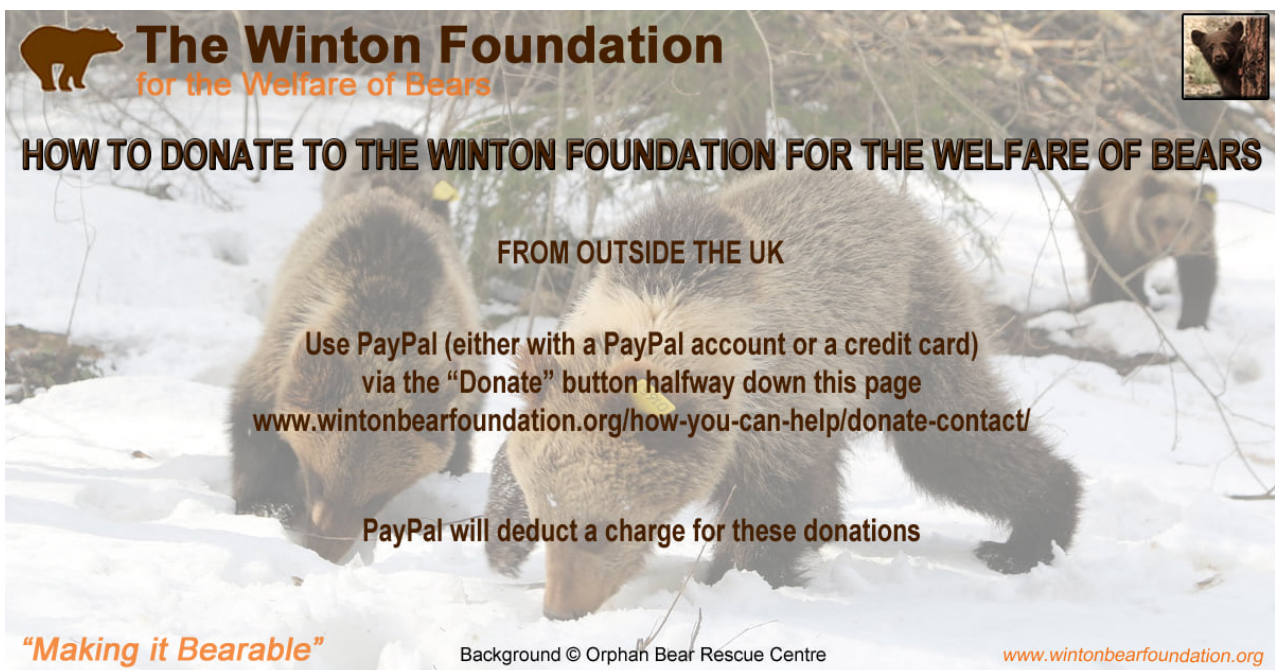
FROM THE UK - Please preserve the full value of your donation, by using one of these two methods:


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/
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.