

# Dehydrated, Emaciated Bear Cub Given New Lease on Life

*Even though we are no longer doing wildlife rehabilitation, the animals we have helped over the years are never far from our minds. In fact they are the reason we believe so strongly in our new education program - to give them a voice. As a tribute we want to keep sharing the stories of some of the amazing animals we met over the years. This story is about one of a handful of bear cubs we treated during our 15 years.*

The call came Friday afternoon from a high school student who said she found a bear cub. An adult had been recently killed on the road near by. She said she had picked the cub up and taken it home. My first thought was, could this really be a bear cub if she just picked it up? Given the lateness of the season cubs should be about 20 pounds, and not really happy to be scooped up. I thought perhaps she had a young groundhog and just thought it was a newborn bear (they are only the size of a hamster when they are born). When I asked her why she thought it was a bear, she replied "because it looks like a bear". Good answer! After giving her information on how to keep the bear safe during transport we anxiously awaited their arrival.

And sure enough, it was a bear cub. It was dehydrated and emaciated, under ten pounds, with a severe case of mange. We got to work, fluids, treatment for the mange and lots of blueberry shakes. After a few weeks he was



a new bear, his fur was shiny, his eyes were clear and he was moving about.

Our bear was now ready to move to another sanctuary to spend the winter. With more room and even some friends for him it was the perfect place to learn, play and grow. He was returned to the wild where we like to hope he still roams today.

## Bear Facts

- When born, cubs are about the size of a hamster.
- Much of their diet consists of roots, berries, buds, twigs and insects.
- Bears can be attracted to yards by garbage, pet food, birdseed and composts.
- Relocated adults are often females, meaning cubs are left behind to likely die

## Donation Coupon

Your donation to the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre will provide progressive education for young people and effective, humane solutions for the community to live in greater harmony with nature. Enclosed is my donation of:

\$25    \$50    \$100    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make cheques payable to: Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, P.O. Box 11051, Station H, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 7T8. Contributions are tax deductible under charitable registration number 13224-0284-RR0001

*Information is used only by the OCWC. It is not shared. .*

## Come visit us at the Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair

Saturday, April 22, 2005  
10 am - 4 pm

RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr.

The Centre has been a partner in the Eco-Stewardship Fair for the last two years. Donna DuBreuil is again serving on the Planning Committee, a substantial undertaking on the part of community volunteers that brings together business, government and community organizations in what is becoming Ottawa's premier environmental event.

Held on Earth Day, the Fair offers exhibits, seminars and childrens' activities. Last year, former Centre staff member Michelle Davy along with Gary DuBreuil manned the Centre's Exhibition booth, fielding questions on wildlife concerns. Board member Leslie James and Education Coordinator Kate MacNeil ran a popular Children's Corner. Over 60 exhibitors and 2,500 residents visited. We're expecting even more participation and great events this year.

**Free Admission!**   [www.ottawaecofair.ca](http://www.ottawaecofair.ca)