

# BLACK BEAR REHABILITATION



In 1997, NIWRA listened to a public outcry asking to save orphaned bear cubs when their mothers had died. But this was not an easy task. The staff learned about bear rehabilitation as quickly as they could, which proved to be an expensive endeavour costing over \$430,000.

Their fears quickly subsided when a major bequest from Arthur Knowles was donated. Other donors soon followed suit, including the Donner Foundation, an anonymous donor, plus hundreds of other



Dr. Malcolm McAdie performing a check-up

generous individuals and groups. Since then, the construction of a nursery, an examining room, a rehabilitation space, play areas, and pre-release enclosures were made possible. At present, NIWRA is able to rehabilitate two to twenty bears at a time thanks to these donations.

Over the years, NIWRA has released hundreds of black bears back into the wild while they continue to refine this process, for example, they now use radio collars to track the bears once they return to the wild.

A large part of NIWRA's mandate is to educate the public about wildlife issues. Knut and Rae (non-releasable black bears), who reside at the centre, give the public a closer view of these magnificent animals and educate visitors about bear behaviour. During the summer months, "bear talks" are given by our knowledgeable staff and volunteers.

Please become a part of this endeavour to save bears on Vancouver Island.

Young bears in rehab



Knut - Our resident bear