

# The Bear Necessities for Conservation and Welfare from WIN Wildlife Information Network

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A new conservation volume published by Wildlife Information Network to assist in the understanding and treatment of bear diseases and management has been released this week. Aimed specifically at the conservation communities around the world, the volume covers the natural history, husbandry, diseases and treatment of bears, enhanced by an extensive library of texts on bears and their management.

The module was sponsored by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) who, recognising the acute worldwide need for accurate and properly referenced scientific information on these beautiful animals, funded this programme. "I am delighted to have worked closely with WSPA on this project" said Iain Boardman, chief executive of WIN, "as our joint areas of expertise has resulted in an exceptional information resource that will be used by zoos, rehabilitation centres, sanctuaries and academic institutions around the world. All credit must go to WSPA for having that vision".

This volume is part of the Wildpro® Multimedia series and can be found on the WIN Website at [www.wildlifeinformation.org](http://www.wildlifeinformation.org).

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The "**Bears: Health and Management**" volume was funded by World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and supported by Balcombe Trust, British Airways, Dennis Curry Charitable Trust, First Great Western, Great North Eastern Railway, Marsh Christian Trust, The Royal Veterinary College and Twycross Zoo.

This volume covers the polar, brown, American black, Asiatic black, sun, sloth and spectacled bears. Pandas will be covered in a separate volume at a later date.

**The Wildlife Information Network (WIN)** is a charity dedicated to making information on the health and management of captive and free-ranging wild animals, and emerging infectious diseases, available to wildlife professionals and decision-makers worldwide. WIN was set up in 1992 and became a registered UK charity (No. 1048059) in 1995. The Wildlife Information Network is also registered as a US Not-for-Profit organisation.

**The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)** works to promote protection, prevent cruelty and relieve the inhumane treatment of



animals worldwide. As the world's leading international federation of animal welfare organisations, WSPA works in partnership with more than 740 member societies in over 140 countries. Through its campaigns, education, training and animal

rescue initiatives, WSPA seeks to ensure that the principles of animal welfare are universally understood and respected, and protected by effectively enforced legislation.

WSPA has supported bear protection work through its Liberty campaign since 1991 and has covered issues including bear baiting, dancing bears, bear farming for bile, bear parts trade, bear-human conflicts, bear cub rehabilitation, bears in poor captive conditions, and has also worked with governments and NGOs to create bear sanctuaries for confiscated bears in many countries.

[www.wspa-international.org](http://www.wspa-international.org)  
Registered Charity No. 1081849

**Wildpro® Multimedia** is the software developed and used by WIN to provide information on re-emerging infectious diseases and the health and management of captive and free-ranging wild animals on its Electronic Encyclopaedia and Library. It is a living document, with new information being added constantly through the development of new volumes. It is researched, developed and published by WIN to provide information to decision-makers worldwide. Users include wildlife managers, researchers, government officials, veterinarians, field biologists, zoologists, laboratory diagnosticians, zoological collections, conservation and welfare organisations, universities, and students of a wide variety of disciplines. Information is made available on the Internet, and on CD-ROMs for offline use (e.g. in the field).

WIN CD-ROMs currently available:  
West Nile Virus  
Wildlife Disease Investigation and Management (Birds)  
Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer and Elk  
Hedgehogs: Health and Management  
Pain Management In Ruminants  
Waterfowl: Health and Management  
Foot-and-Mouth Disease (2007 edition)  
Wildlife: First Aid and Care  
Wildlife: Oil Spill Response  
Elephants: Diseases and Treatment  
Bears: Health and Management