



# Animal Tracks<sup>(TM)</sup>

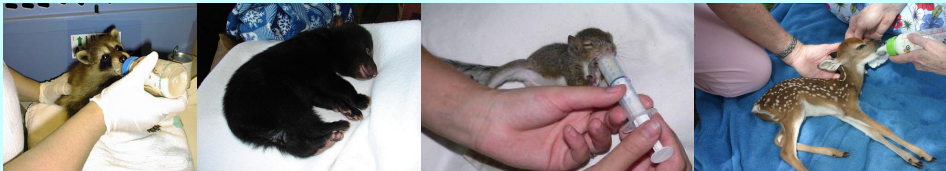
The Wildlife Sanctuary - 435 Cougar Lane, Ellijay, GA 30540

February 2011

## Creature Features - Sponsor an Animal Today!

Each month, The Wildlife Sanctuary will be featuring an animal by providing our readers with some in-depth information about them.

This month, we want to introduce you to all the animals and invite you to sponsor one (or two). You can sponsor an animal at the Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum or Life Saver level. All sponsors receive a Certificate of Sponsorship. Depending on the sponsorship level, you can receive free tour passes, a full color picture of the animal with a full description on the back, a t-shirt, and even your name on a plate at the animal's habitat.



To learn more, or to browse the animals available, please go to our [Animal Sponsors page](#) and choose one of our furry or feathered friends who appeals to your heart. You can be the sponsor or give the sponsorship as a gift. Please allow 4-5 weeks for the personalized certificate printed in the name of the sponsor to arrive, along with the other items at that level of sponsorship. These make great gifts for birthdays, general gifts, anniversaries, other special occasions or the holidays.

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**Send to a Friend:** Our sanctuary could use lots of supporters. Please encourage your friends to visit our web site and...

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



## T-Shirts

Support us by purchasing from over 40 T-shirt selections at our website! Profits go to help us rescue, raise and release wild animals, and educating the public about the importance of wildlife conservation and habitat preservation.

If you would like to submit a design for consideration, please e-mail a hi-res .jpg image to us. If your design is selected, it will be shown on our Contributors page with your name as the designer!

All designs submitted to us become the property of The Wildlife Sanctuary. All profits from the sale of t-shirts showing your design become funds of The Wildlife Sanctuary - but you get the bragging rights for supporting wildlife!!

## Black Bear Play Yard

### North American Black Bear

The Black Bear is the smallest bear on the North American continent and the most widely distributed. In the South, it is not a true hibernator. It becomes lethargic during the winter but may only sleep for a few days or weeks. It is an omnivore that eats mostly vegetation, although it will consume bees, ants, larvae, fish, and some animals. Bears love to snack on honey and will break into hives to extract the honeycomb, despite bee stings. They also love bird seed, although feeders can become lodged on their necks, choking them as they grow. Or, they may suffocate if their head gets stuck in a feeder globe. However, they have an amazing knack to get to even a suspended bird feeder (so take bird feeders in at night when bears are on the prowl).

Black bears can have fur color ranging from blond, cinnamon, or light brown to dark chocolate brown or jet black. Females can range in weight from 90 to 275 pounds. Males can weigh 125 to 550 pounds. They are incredibly powerful, able to easily flip over a 300 pound flat rock to get at food underneath. They are also excellent climbers. To protect their young, females will chase their cubs up a tree and then follow behind. Young bears will often climb trees to escape pursuit, and are commonly "treed" in local neighborhoods. Left alone, they will climb down and wander off. Bear cubs will stay with their mothers for 16 to 18 months. If a mother is killed with cubs less than a year old, the cubs will likely die unless they are brought to a sanctuary.

Too Playful With Others



Those of you who have visited the sanctuary know that we have a half acre of fenced land containing two dens and a 1500 gallon pool for our bears. You also know that this facility requires an electric fence inside the perimeter fence to keep our playful bruins in their yard. We are also in an area with many trees. Recent storms have caused some of those trees or large limbs to fall, and both the perimeter fence and the electric fence have been damaged, along with tunnels from the bear pens to the play yard.

It is time to rehabilitate the bears play yard, so we are investing half of every sponsorship of the North American Black Bear to fixing the bears half acre habitat. It will cost almost \$4,000 to complete all the work in tear down, new wiring, fencing, welding, testing and monitoring. If you would like to be a sponsor who sees real results from the money they donate, then become a North American Black Bear sponsor for 2011. Jake, Seymore, Annie, Nutty Buddy, Nonami and Jasmine are anxious to go out and play again!

### Contact Us:

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Thank you  
for your  
support to  
Save our  
Wildlife.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Cylke  
Wildlife Director  
and  
Tim Grady,  
Executive Director

**Note:** If you would like to become a Founding Member of The Wildlife Sanctuary Endowment Trust, please call the Executive Director in confidence and toll-free at 888-605-6400.

## New Events for 2011



The volunteers and staff at The Wildlife Sanctuary are very excited about 2011. If we are successful growing the support we have had, we will be able to rescue more animals and provide education programs to more people than ever before.

While we were in survival mode, we were developing our action plan to move the sanctuary forward. One of the support pieces now in place is our [Animal Sponsorship](#) program. It contains benefits for the sponsor and educational information about each species that we handle at the sanctuary.

We are occasionally asked, "Why isn't this animal here?" We always have the same answer; "Because that animal was successfully rescued, raised, returned to health, and released." It is our mission to free the animals in our care who can be returned to the wild, and love and keep those comfortable and happy that cannot be put back into nature.

We are also developing a new educational program so young and old alike can learn about the wildlife around us. While we would love to share what we know about new things in the works, we recognize that we are about 45 days from launch, so the news would be premature. We need to shake out the bugs and make sure people won't be disappointed when we release the first program. But, stay tuned. With continued support, good things are coming!

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