

## Bear Necessities

adapted from a guest column for Michigan Local News by Brittany Peet, PETA<sup>1)</sup> Foundation



- 1 Kind people are drawn to facilities that rescue animals, a fact that many for-profit breeders, dealers and exhibitors use to their advantage. Claiming to offer refuge to animals in trouble brings visitors through the gates and donations in the mail. Case in point: Oswald's Bear Ranch, a roadside zoo that shamelessly markets itself as a rescue facility, even though it has only taken in three orphaned cubs in the last decade. By contrast, it has bred 13 cubs in the past 24 years and purchased or received 70 others from shady captive-breeding operations for use in photo ops.
- 2 This roadside zoo's owner, Dean Oswald, treats vulnerable bear cubs as 28. In the wild, cubs stay with their mothers for years, and premature separation of cubs from their mothers causes extreme distress to both. Experts believe that a cub's immune system does not fully develop until after about 12 months, but apparently, that's of little concern when there are coffers to be filled. Oswald has taken cubs as young as 6 weeks old to a bar.

- 3 Bear cubs can catch common human illnesses such as colds and the flu. Removing them from their mother before the period of natural weaning causes abnormalities in brain development that can lead to stereotypic (neurotic) behavior, compromise natural exploratory and social behavior, and can be detrimental to their mental and physical well-being throughout their lives. Bears avoid contact with humans, whom they perceive as predators, and being forced into close proximity with the public causes them to feel trapped and vulnerable. Such exposure is a constant, never-ending stressor. When not being used as photo props, bears at Oswald's exist in conditions that are incompatible with their needs. Cubs are confined to a concrete-floored enclosure, which can lead to foot injuries and is particularly damaging to young cubs, as their developing musculoskeletal systems are fragile and can easily be injured if they run or jump on a hard surface.
- 4 As a Michigan native, I find it infuriating to see this kind of blatant animal exploitation in my home state. 30 Take notorious tiger abuser Jeff Lowe, who was featured in Tiger King: he lived in Michigan for many years and kept big cats there. When I was a kid, I used to visit a park in nearby Mt. Pleasant. There, a bear named Smoky paced around his cramped pen. He has been dead for a long time, but his suffering motivated me to fight to ensure that other bears would not be sentenced to a life of exploitation.
- 5 Bears belong in the woods, not in the arms of the public. If you care about animals, never pay to interact with wildlife. Urge Oswald's to let the cubs and other bears be transferred to legitimate sanctuaries so they can spend the rest of their lives in comfort and peace.

*Mlive.com, 2020*

noot 1 PETA = People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

## Tekst 8 Bear Necessities

---

- 1p 27 What is said about Oswald's Bear Ranch in paragraph 1?
- A It gets money in ways that are clearly illegal.
  - B It has more bears than it can accommodate.
  - C It is only interested in selling bears.
  - D It pretends to be something it is not.
- 1p 28 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 2?
- A high-maintenance playmates
  - B luxury goods
  - C money-making tools
  - D uncontrollable animals
- 2p 29 Komen de volgende beweringen over beren in gevangenschap overeen met de inhoud van alinea 3?  
*Noteer 'wel' of 'niet' achter elk nummer op het antwoordblad.*
- 1 Ze kunnen op den duur menselijk gedrag gaan vertonen.
  - 2 Ze lijden er levenslang onder als ze op jonge leeftijd bij hun moeder worden weggehaald.
  - 3 Ze voelen zich bedreigd als mensen dicht bij hen in de buurt zijn.
  - 4 Ze worden traag en lui omdat ze eten krijgen zonder daar zelf voor te hoeven zorgen.
- 1p 30 Which of the following sentences fits the gap in paragraph 4?
- A And Oswald isn't the only offender.
  - B Because Oswald started out better.
  - C But Oswald seems to have imitators.
  - D So that explains the focus on Oswald.
- 1p 31 What is the main goal of paragraph 5?
- A to appeal to authorities to outlaw the practice of keeping animals in captivity
  - B to discourage people from observing animals that are forced to spend their lives in captivity
  - C to mobilise people to stop supporting the abuse of animals living in captivity

---

### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift.