



Reference: 266048

December 8, 2021

**VIA EMAIL: [bcbearalliance@gmail.com](mailto:bcbearalliance@gmail.com)**

Sylvia Dobson, Co-Chair  
Christine Miller, Co-Chair  
BC Bear Alliance

Dear Sylvia Dobson and Christine Miller:

Thank you for your recommendations for improvements to the rehabilitation and release of bears dated July 26, 2021, to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and myself. I have been asked to respond and I apologize for the delay.

We are currently working on this issue and we will consider your input carefully. The Wildlife and Habitat Branch and Conservation Officer Service (COS) recognizes people are passionate about wildlife, and especially wildlife that may be orphaned. Conservation Officers receive training in the handling and care of animals, which includes guidance from the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian. The COS understands that ensuring the safety and well-being of bear cubs in the field and in transit is critical to the success of orphaned cub rearing and takes this very seriously. The COS works in conjunction with authorized wildlife rehabilitation facilities to transport, transfer and release orphaned cubs.

The COS has reviewed procedure and practice and is currently developing Best Practices and Standards of Care for orphaned black bear cubs that are brought into rehab for rearing and release. The Best Management Practices will cover all aspects of orphaned cub rearing and release, including capture, transport, care, and release. Input into best practises is being sought from all three rehabilitation facilities in BC that are authorized to raise bear cubs, the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian, and provincial biologists and Conservation Officers. The intention is to have consistent and effective standards that will become part of the permit conditions for the rehabilitation facilities.

In addition, recently (May 2019) a review titled "Management of Orphaned Black Bear Cubs in British Columbia: Jurisdictional Summary, Recommendations for Best Practices, Summary of Research on Captive-Rearing Efficacy, and Study Proposal" was completed by Dr. Ramona Maraj and is being used to help develop the best practises documents.

Page 1 of 2

Your input is welcomed to this review as well as the development of plans for implementation and training. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Psyllakis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer Psyllakis  
Director, Wildlife and Habitat

pc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development