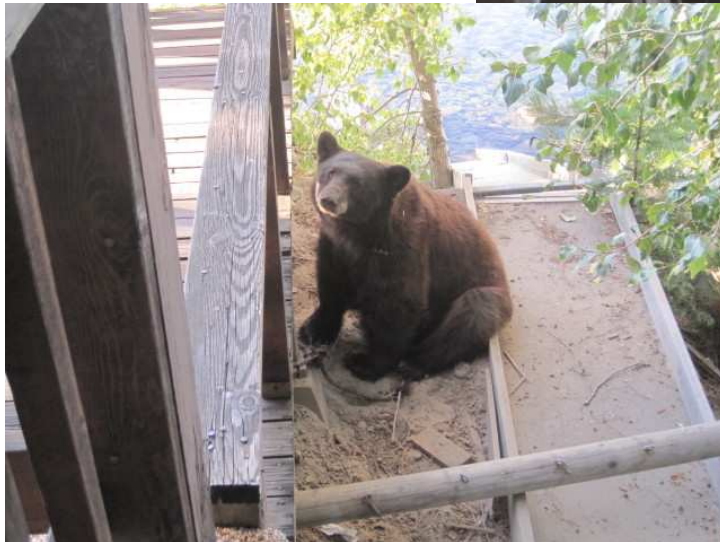


A TRUE BEAR STORY

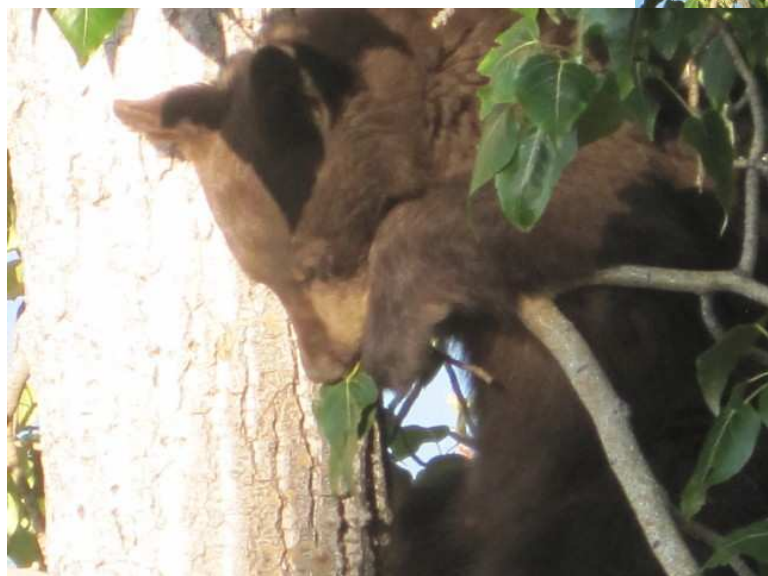
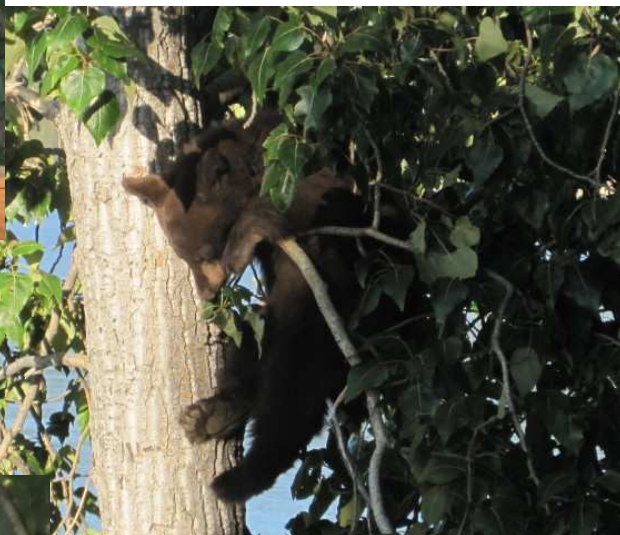
Once upon a time, it happened to be midnight Sept. 28, 2012 that bears crossed highway 28 in Tahoe Vista to plunder the dumpster of the gourmet restaurant Captain Jon's, like they did so many times before. Unfortunately cars are speeding to fast through this dangerous turn, where the little bear was invisible in that dark night. The driver was very sad, called instantly the police and informed the Bear League (530 525 PAWS) and mama bear with the help of her other cub pulled the hurt cub from the road to hide with them under the stairs of the impersonal office building next to Captain Jon's. Lateron the mama bear discovered the Holiday House next door with late arriving guests, lights and lots of flowers. Thinking, how much they like pets, she moved her little ones towards their main deck. She dug a lot of earth out under the deck, moved a big heavy wooden boulder to lock off the way to the parking lot and put both cubs under the protective deck. She had to sleep outside, because she was too big to fit underneath.



Saturday morning I got a call from guest, suite #6, they were from Michigan. "There is a big bear in front of our door! What should we do?"

I suggested to take pictures and promised to be right there.

The mama bear looked desparately at me and then I heard the little bear cry under the deck. The other little cub climbed up the tree, to get our attention away from her brother.



Bears are visiting me a lot. I always tell them with a soft, respectful voice: how beautiful they are and then suggest they should turn around and walk the other way and they obediently do exactly that.

But this time I told mama bear,
" I certainly understand and you can stay here. "

After that I called the Bear League.

They told me about the midnight accident and asked me if there was any possibility to let the bears stay at the Holiday House for 2 days.





I was afraid, all guests would move out, asking for a refund. But Ann Bryant (very famous, she even had a write up in the German Magazine Der Spiegel) gave me very good tips, how to win my guests to help the bears.

I explained the bear misery with a big sign at the entrance door and thanked in advance my guests for their kindness to bears.

Meanwhile fairies came out of the sky with melons, avocados and nuts to help the bears since they could not hunt for food, the mother was

still nursing. I was encouraged to put out fresh water in a bucket and dish. All guest dogs were on leashes and the bears, guests and dogs peacefully enjoyed together the beautiful weekend weather.

The next day the bears changed their location from West to the Eastside of the Holiday House to recover in the cool shade under pine trees next to my bedroom, all 3.





However when I watered my petunias and geraniums on the main deck I heard again the little hurt bear crying and in fact when I looked under the deck he looked very sad at me.

The bear league did not want to believe that we now have 4 bears. But later on I heard from a neighbor, living further West that a second little cub was hurt on his foot and escaped to his house. This was the one who found his mother again on Sunday at the Holiday House.

Now I saw my chance to secretly pull the very hurt cub from under the deck, bring



him to a hospital and have his broken femur repaired since we officially only had 3 bears all together.

In California it is against the law to give medical aid to a bear starting at a certain size. Fish and Game would rather see them killed. I can see now, why these bears came to me.

But Ann calmed me down “ Give them one more day and they will be healed enough to leave.” And that is exactly what happened



Meanwhile the healthy cub tipped over a stored hot tub cover to do gymnastics and then came to my window to come in but I told her this was not a good idea



Anyway, after sunset Sunday evening the bears got very busy and walked from the East, shady trees to the West and when it got dark they pulled the lonely hurt bear from under the deck. With lot of complaining he limped with the other 3 down to the Lake to drink the delicious, refreshing Tahoe Water and laid down with Mama and the 2 cubs in a soft ditch to sleep and collect energy. I dreamed that in their food and water were antibiotics, painkillers and prednisone, what an excellent idea,

Finally between 3 and 5 Monday morning all 4 bears carefully crossed highway 28 to walk slowly back to the mountains. I know the time, because my German shepherd Heidi would not dare to go in her garden, where so many bears lived behind her fence until 5 am.



One can worry that the hurt cubs can not escape their enemies fast enough, but this particular Mama bear does not let anyone come close to them. And I believe she will visit me sometime and we will twinkle at each other with grateful respect.

THE END