



Ellie Bear

Ellie Bear is an eleven-year-old black bear who was rescued from a roadside zoo in Payson. She had lived all her life alone, isolated from other bears, in a small cage with a concrete floor. She had been routinely harassed in order to appear mean to entertain visitors.

Ellie was rescued in July 2001 but, because she had never lived with other bears, she was terrified of them and refused to integrate with them. Ellie was forced to remain alone because even the sight of other bears in nearby enclosures frightened her so much that she refused to come out of her den. Her food and water had to be placed just outside the den entrance, as she would not come out to even eat or drink. Fearing for her physical and emotional health, Ellie was moved to a small indoor-outdoor enclosure where she could not see the other bears. Unfortunately, this enclosure was far too small for Ellie.

A new enclosure for Ellie away from the other bears was essential to her health. She now has a large enclosure with a concrete den, built by our volunteers and equipped with an evaporative cooler for her comfort in the summer. She has trees and rocks to climb, toys to play with, and plans are underway for a pool for her. She now feels safe and secure. She comes out of her den to eat and drink, roams her enclosure at will, and happily plays with her toys and twigs from the trees. She is no longer depressed and frightened but happy and busy.