

# Black Pine Animal Park

## Animal Facts

Breed: AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

Names / Sex / Age:

Wrigley      Female      Unknown, estimated 10-17 years

Previous Home: First kept as a privately owned “pet” by a man in southern Indiana, she was confiscated by DNR and placed with another private owner in central Indiana. DNR removed her from this second home in June 2009 and placed her permanently at Black Pine.

Native to: All of Canada, many states in the U.S. Much of their range is shared with the Grizzly bear in parts of the northern Rockies, western Canada and Alaska.

Weight: The average black bear weighs 100-300 lbs., with males being much larger than females. Wrigley is quite small, and weighs an estimated 200-250 pounds.

Life Expectancy: 25 years in the wild; up to 30 years in captivity. This is unlike the other animals which generally see a doubling in life expectancy in captivity.

Diet: All types of vegetation and plant materials, fish, small mammals, carrion, nuts, roots, leaves, corn, honey, bees. Bears will dig up underground wasps nests to eat honey. At Black Pine - fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, fish. Also, the occasional pies, cookies, marshmallows and pastries as a special treat!

Status: Partially protected; unregulated hunting, vandalism, or commercial exploitation for folk medicine or the pet trade are threats made by humans. Originally was distributed throughout North America, estimated 2 million in the 1500's, now less than 200,000 exist.

Facts:

- Generally a solitary animal
- A “woof” sound is made when they are startled
- A bear’s mood is indicated by the position of its head; walking with their head below their shoulders is likely to result in aggressive behavior
- Generally timid, they spend most waking hours hunting for food
- Males have a range of up to 200 square miles
- The regular stride is about a foot long, but increases to three feet when running
- Can reach ground speeds of up to 30 mph
- Not a true hibernator, but in winter the bear’s body temperature drops, respiration slows, and the metabolic rate is depressed. Through it all, though, they remain in a semiconscious state.
- Babies are born naked and blind, weighing no more than 12 ounces
- You can tell how old a bear is by cutting a canine tooth and counting the rings.
- Ancient native Americans worshipped the bear because they believed they were immortal. In the winter they would witness them “die” and bury themselves, only to “rise up” again in the spring
- Their gall bladders have recently been thought a magical “cure-all” and are one of the

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hottest items in Chinese medicine

### Personal History:

Wrigley is the third black bear to be adopted by Black Pine in its history. Isaac and Mr. Bear were retired circus performers who lived 32 and 31 years of age respectively. Both passed away after the park's relocation in 2006.

Wrigley was adopted in June 2009 after an officer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources called, desperate to find a final, permanent home for the lame bear. For about the first six years of the bear's life she was kept by a man in southern Indiana who reportedly used her as "bait" to train hunting dogs. Reportedly, the man would tie the bear up to a post with a chain around her neck and take money from people wanting to take their hunting dogs north to hunt black bear. The dogs would learn the bear's scent, behaviors, etc. As a result of fending off this abuse Wrigley has many missing and broken teeth, is blind in one eye, and suffered a broken front leg that was not treated and has left her with a permanent limp and lack of mobility.

In approximately 2007 Wrigley was confiscated from the abusive situation described and the DNR again placed her in another private home. There she lived with two other bears. In 2009 the bears' primary caregiver was found to have left the country, leaving the bears in the care of friends and family who were ill-equipped and frightened, so the animals were not being properly cared for. The two healthier bears were removed and sent to a sanctuary in Colorado, but with Wrigley's special needs the DNR asked Black Pine to give her refuge.