

## Tattle Tails

3 June, 2009



### SEIZURE OF BROWN BEAR

Kuwait City, Kuwait. The Kuwait Society for the Protection of Animals and Their Habitat (K'S PATH), in association with the Animal Friends League of Kuwait, has prompted the first ever confiscation of a mammal under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) agreements.

CITES is the international body that governs the trade of animals and plants and their derived products as a means of protecting and preserving species that are in danger of extinction. The CITES agreements act as a treaty between countries and binds signature nations to meet certain criteria for the regulation, seizure, housing, and repatriation of protected species. Kuwait became a member of CITES in 2002. However, a lack of complimentary animal protection laws and of political willpower has, until recently, prevented Kuwait from taking steps to adhere to the CITES agreements.

Beginning in May of this year, K'S PATH began receiving calls from concerned citizens regarding the sale of a Eurasian Brown Bear (pictured) being offered for the sum of KD2000.

K'S PATH and its subsidiary, the Animal Friends League of Kuwait, launched an extensive investigation aimed at locating the bear and helping the government to seize the animal.

The investigation discovered the bear living in a small cage in Kebd, exposed to the sun, chained by the neck, living on a diet of rice, and only offered water twice per day. After reviewing the evidence presented by K'S PATH, the MOI Police force, along with representatives from the Kuwait Environment Protection Agency and the Kuwait Zoo began the process of confiscating the bear and several other illegal animals being housed at the same location. The bear is now being housed in the Kuwait Zoo, and K'S PATH is attempting to find a suitable sanctuary in the natural range of the Eurasian Brown Bear.

The illegal trade in wildlife is a major concern around the world, raking in over 10 billion US Dollars per year, making it the third most lucrative illegal trade behind the arms and drug trades. According to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): \*continued on next page.





“Today, anything large enough to be eaten or lucrative enough to be sold is hunted on a massive scale for its meat, skin, fur or feathers, for the pet trade, or as an ingredient in traditional medicines,” said Elizabeth Bennett, director for WCS’s Hunting and Wildlife Trade Program. “Wildlife populations are crashing, and wild areas increasingly are losing their wildlife, becoming devoid of vibrancy and life.”

The seizure of this bear in Kuwait represents a significant step forward in the fight against illegal animal trafficking. In the past decade, Kuwait has become a significant importer in the trade. Available on Kuwait’s black market are lions, tigers, cheetahs, white lions, white tigers, bears, jaguars, endangered birds, gazelles, jackals, chimpanzees, baboons, and all manner of other illegal endangered or protected animals. Most animals are stolen from their mothers while they are still small enough to fit into tiny smuggling compartments, in suitcase linings, or in specialized pockets beneath travelers’ clothes. The result is mortality among smuggled endangered species in excess of 80%.



**Most smuggled animals are transported in dangerously cramped conditions. More than 80% die in route.**

K’S PATH and its partners are working to stop the illegal animal trade in Kuwait by rescuing animals, cooperating with the government to pursue enforcement of CITES, and educating the public about the trade. To find out more about K’S PATH and our work in fighting the illegal animal trade, visit [www.kspath.org](http://www.kspath.org) or call 6700-1622.

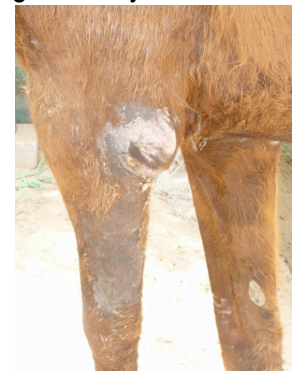
## TRANSPORTS AHOY

It is transport time again!! As usual, Animal Friends is working very hard to find homes for the precious animals that come our way and our transport program allows this to happen. We have ten dogs waiting to be transported this month. They all have their flights booked and people waiting for them on the other end but we still need the funds to make this happen. It costs us 100KD per dog to transport. Your help and support will make this happen. Help us save the animals.



## BRAVO THE HORSE

We received a call on Bravo on the 25th of April. He had wandered into a chalet and appeared injured and emaciated. We immediately transported him to the Equine Hospital where he was found to have large untreated wounds full of maggots and untreated breaks in his ankles resulting in severe bone malformation and arthritis. Bravo has been undergoing treatment since then and is almost ready to move into his new stables at the Animal Friends’ Shelter. The stables were donated by Khalid Al Khorafy and we thank him for his generosity!



**All our efforts and activities cost a large amount of money. If you would like to see us continue our work, please consider supporting us with a donation.**