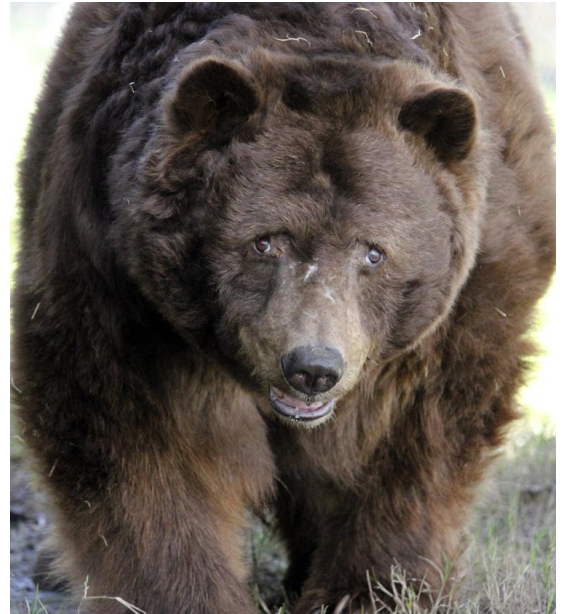


## PAWS Says Goodbye to Black Bear Arthur

March 20, 2019 – It is with deep sadness that we report the death of beloved black bear Arthur who arrived at PAWS 17 years ago this month. His estimated age at that time was about 10 years.

Arthur was born in the wild around 1991 and had been living in a culvert on a golf course in Southern California before his arrival at our Galt sanctuary. After receiving numerous reports about a bear seen "hobbling on three legs" at the golf course, he was finally captured by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). Unable to forage for natural food sources because of his injuries, Arthur had been surviving on garbage. He bore numerous scars on his face and an injury to his left eye from fighting with other wild bears before his capture. X-rays revealed the bear had been shot and the buck shot was embedded in his hips, too deep to be removed. Arthur was treated by veterinarians from both CDFW and the University of California, Davis, and transferred to his permanent home at PAWS' Galt sanctuary on March 5, 2002.



PAWS' co-founders Ed Stewart and the late Pat Derby designed an especially comfortable habitat with features that were easily accessible and could accommodate Arthur's special needs. Our veterinarian, Dr. Jackie Gai, developed a treatment plan to address his pain and arthritis.



Arthur's grassy habitat included two pools, pine and fruit trees, and honeysuckle vines. With his arthritis pain alleviated, he enjoyed searching through the tall grass and trees for acorns and bits of fruit that caregivers scattered in the brush or hid in the trees. Even though Arthur had two cozy dens to choose from, he often preferred to sleep under the stars. He would dig a shallow depression in the soft soil for himself which was lined with a deep layer of straw bedding. A favorite lounging spot during the summer was beneath his apricot tree where he would occasionally reach up, pull down a low branch, and snack on the fruit at his leisure without having to get up.

Arthur's mobility declined gradually over the past few months and it became increasingly difficult for him to walk. On March 19th, Arthur took a sudden downward turn and had great difficulty getting up from lying down. When he did get up, he could not walk more than a few feet before his legs gave out. His appetite also decreased and he could not keep down even small amounts of food. Dr. Gai administered a number of medications to try to help, but his condition did not change. When it was clear that Arthur would not improve, the heart-wrenching but most compassionate decision was made to euthanize him to prevent further suffering.

Arthur held a very special place in the hearts of his caregivers, who catered to his every need. When Arthur required eye drops for his old injury, care-giving staff were able to call him to the fence where he would stand patiently while eye drops were administered in a gentle mist. When he needed a nail trim, Arthur would let us clip his claws through the fence while he enjoyed a special treat. He had a calm and gentle nature and he taught us about resilience and welcoming every day with a positive outlook.

Arthur passed peacefully from this life on March 20th, surrounded by many who loved him. He leaves a giant, bear-sized hole in our hearts and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him and who had the honor of caring for him.