

## POUNDS, SHILLINGS AND PENCE APPEAL

Three orphaned triplets were exposed to the elements of a cold March day when workmen clearing an overgrown garden in an urban seaside area of Sussex moved a large shipping container. Fortunately for the cubs, the container stood 30cm above the ground and they were unharmed when it was rolled away from its site. A quantity of hay and other bedding material was then observed on the flat ground, together with three very small badger cubs.



Unfortunately, this occurred during the early morning and it was a further six and a half hours before a call was made at 4.30 p.m. to

Jackie on the Badger Trust – Sussex Hotline whose response was swift, although initially the caller was reluctant to divulge the address. Tony, the local Field Officer, arrived to assess the situation and decided that for their own protection, the cubs should be removed. A Tom Cat was prowling hungrily nearby, Tony knew there were foxes on site and the temperature was dropping very rapidly. There was no sign of the mother. As Tony was on his way to work he contacted Jeff and Pat and arranged to meet them in the Car Park of a local Pub in order to hand the cubs over.

The rapid response Land Rover kindly loaned to the Group by the Born Free Foundation was deployed and the tiny cubs in their nest of bedding covered with a soft blanket for additional warmth, were transferred to the heated front seat of the vehicle. Jeff and Pat made the c. 30 mile journey to the Group's local wildlife hospital as quickly as possible and handed the cubs into their care at approximately 6.45 p.m. The cubs were very vocal during the journey, constantly wickering and squeaking. The hospital had been alerted and a warm incubator was ready and waiting for the two little girls and their baby brother. They were as cold as ice when found and it is doubtful that they could have survived outside for very much longer.

Annette and Dave, who run Folly Wildlife Rescue (see their Website on [www.FollyWildlifeRescue.org.uk](http://www.FollyWildlifeRescue.org.uk)) left them to warm up for two hours before giving them their first feed of a special milk formula which closely replicates the mother's milk. When admitted, they each weighed c. 340g and were estimated to be approximately two weeks old. As is usual at that age, their eyes were still closed, they had a sparse covering of soft hair and surprisingly long toenails! They survived the night and when the



Group made an anxious call to the hospital the next morning, they found all was well, all three cubs were eating for England and still wickering!!

At present the babies are fed at intervals of three hours, day and night, their weight has increased steadily and in addition to the milk, they are receiving antibiotics as a

precautionary measure. The milk powder is really expensive and sadly, in the coming weeks there will be other young cubs found in similar circumstances all over the country and each youngster will require similar attention.

A substantial amount of money will be needed to rear these three cubs who have been named Copper and Penny for the females and Bob for the male, hence the name of the Appeal! Apart from the costly milk powder, they will need other nourishing food once weaned. There will also be all the expenses associated with finding a suitable release site and the building of an artificial sett. Following release in early Autumn, they will need supplementary feeding for a short while until they acclimatise to their new surroundings.

The Trustees of Badger Trust – Sussex have decided to mount a fund-raising appeal towards the expense of rearing not only Copper, Penny and Bob but also other orphaned cubs requiring similar help during 2009. You can help by making a donation for the benefit of motherless cubs. No matter how small the donation, every penny collected will help cubs such as Copper Penny and Bob and we should like to thank all donors in advance for their kind assistance.



## ***HOW TO DONATE***



*You can either:*

- *send a cheque payable to Badger Trust – Sussex, c/o P.O. Box 708, East Grinstead, RH19 2WN*
- *or pay your donation direct to HSBC, Sort Code 40-24-37, Account No. 81216260*

Of course, the ideal situation for all cubs is that they remain with their mother in the wild and are reared by her. But accidents happen, perhaps Mum is run over and sometimes in such circumstances a cub will struggle out of the sett and be lucky enough to be found and cared for. Our aim and that of Folly Wildlife Rescue is to rear the cubs as wild animals in order that they can be returned to the wild. Copper, Penny and Bob will be bottle-fed by one person only and once they are weaned they will be put into an outside pen where they will receive minimal human contact. We would do them no favours by making pets of them. If these three cubs all survive, they may be joined by one or two more and the entire group will be released into a suitable site during the

Autumn, helped with a little food initially and then left to fend for themselves as Nature intended.

Finally, if you ever find a young cub that appears to have been abandoned, please do not delay. If you know the number of your local Badger Group, ring them immediately. Contact details for Badger Groups can be found on-line on [www.badgertrust.org.uk](http://www.badgertrust.org.uk). Otherwise, ring the national organisation, Badger Trust, on 08458 287878 who will be able to assist you to make local contact. If you feel you may be able to offer a potential release site, the national organisation will be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you for reading this and for any donation you feel able to make. We hope you like the photographs and shall update this note with further pictures of Copper, Penny and Bob so you can enjoy watching their progress.

BADGER TRUST - SUSSEX  
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