

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (October 17, 2011) Upon further investigation by veterinarians, it was determined that the two cubs were both males.

At the scene of the incident, both cubs displayed normal respiratory rates. Following transportation to Richmond for further examination by a veterinarian, the bears were up and moving.

TWO BEAR CUBS RESCUED FROM TREE

SUFFOLK, VA (October 17, 2011) Two bear cubs were rescued on Route 58 this morning after being stranded in a tree for four hours.

The Suffolk Police Department received several calls around 7:30 a.m. this morning reporting the sighting of multiple bears on west bound Route 58 near the downtown Suffolk exit.

Police officers responded and discovered two bear cubs (one male, one female estimated to be 30 to 45 lbs. in size) stranded in a tree. Their mother, a 2-2 ½ year old bear, was killed after being struck by a car while crossing the highway.

(more)

Members of the Suffolk Police Department, Suffolk Animal Control, Suffolk Traffic Engineering Division and the Virginia Department of Transportation joined with biologists with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to rescue the bears.

The bear cubs were tranquilized to aid authorities in getting them down from their perch in the tree. The cubs will be taken to Richmond for an examination by a veterinarian.

Aaron Proctor, District Wildlife Biologist, said, "This is the third time I've responded to a bear rescue this year. We are seeing more bears due to a good reproductive season and the heavy amount of rain which has pushed the bears into different areas."

Alternate lanes of Route 58 west bound were closed for short periods of time during the incident to assist authorities in moving personnel and equipment in to assist with the rescue.

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