

Dedication to Charlie

I named the little yearling bear that was euthanized after being shot. It broke his pelvis. I named him Charlie. I personally felt something should be said



concerning the death of this innocent little black bear.

I first saw Charlie on a day in July. It was a normal July midday so I was surprised to see a bear. I noticed he had a limp then I saw he was almost completely dragging a back leg. He looked to be in good health other than that. His weight seemed good and his coat was in excellent condition. He as the other bears came for the wild cherries and apples that grow on the property. I got to see him several more times and photographed him on many occasions. He seemed to be doing ok but it was clear he may never climb a tree or stand up on his back legs. That is a serious condition for a young inexperienced black bear.

One day I noticed a spot on his rump. I photographed it from a distance and it looked like a bullet hole. As I was told later it was a bullet hole from a small caliber weapon. The bear was shot from behind. Remember this

is a yearling bear and on its own just a short time. And it was not even hunting season.

I asked a ranger about Charlie. He noted that bears are very resilient creatures and can heal even when we think they cannot. He also mentioned a bear rescue that might be able to help him but if not he would be euthanized. I opted not to call them as he was coming and going well and I had no idea of when he would come back. Another person turned to the rescue. They ended up euthanizing the animal. I thought he deserved a chance as a bear last year was hit by a truck that really made a mess of the bear. He was back this year with patches of fur missing but doing pretty well. I thought Charlie deserved the same as he appeared well when he came around.

I have set aside space in this book for pictures of Charlie. He should be remembered as he was and not forgotten. He was captured and put to death do to his injuries. He did nothing but enjoy life. He will always be the captain of the soccer team to me and one very brave young bear. He was beautiful and will be missed.

David



