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## Wes Side: Naming Little Bear

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About five years ago, some Atlanta drug gangs illegally obtained a lion, a tiger, and a bear.

The Department of Natural Resources confiscated the animals and they ended up at Noah's Ark in Henry County. It's an animal rescue park that is getting an international reputation.

The park's latest resident is a cinnamon-faced black bear. The six month old cub not only needs a name, he also needs a sponsor.

The folks at Noah's Ark call him Little Bear. Zoos won't take him -- he must be raised by people with a wild animal license, or be put down. The Hedgecoths, who run Noah's Ark, prefer not to put any animal down.

"He's about seven months old," said Charley Hedgecoth. "He was in Detroit, and a guy had him -- was walking him around trying to pass him off as a dog."

He wasn't feeding the bear properly. It was emaciated -- and he didn't have a clue that when this animal gets big it can be very dangerous.

"He is very docile, but bears have really short tempers and everything," Hedgecoth said. "You've got make 'em think it's their idea."

Or they will lose that temper and somebody might get hurt. Some people may remember five years ago, in an Atlanta drug bust police confiscated a bear, a lion and a Bengal tiger. The druggies thought the animals would protect their stash. Well, Leo the lion, Sher Khan the tiger and Ballew the bear were raised together in the Hedgecoths backyard, and they are still there, living together not noticing they are different from each other.

Noah's Ark has taken in 1,000 animals, and relies on donations, and \$2 per child school field trips to feed them.

There are always financial problems. So, if you want to name a bear and adopt the cost of it for at least a year, or if you just want to help Noah's Ark take care of the unwanted animals, now is the time.

Anyone who wants to name Little Bear and help sponsor Noah's Ark, their Web site is at [Noahs-Ark.com](#)

**Video Available**  
[Wes Sarginson reports](#)




Little Bear at Noah's Ark

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