



## CASE STUDY

Veterinarians at the Animals Asia Foundation need to weigh large and small animals. With the necessary flexibility and features, the CPWplus platform scale is ideal for use at the sanctuary.



## The Simple Bear Necessities: Adam Equipment CPWplus

It's time to weigh the bear cubs at Animals Asia's Vietnam bear sanctuary, and Senior Veterinary Surgeon Kirsty Officer turns to her trusty Adam Equipment CPWplus scale. The CPWplus is perfect for the job she needs to do — make sure those young bears are thriving and gaining the proper amount of weight.

These aren't ordinary baby bears. They are very lucky bears, rescued from a bleak future at a bear bile farm. These farms harvest bear bile for use in traditional medicine to cure ailments ranging from headaches to hemorrhoids, and sore eyes to liver problems.

Adult bears are slowly dying from bile extraction procedures. Cubs that are too immature to produce adequate quantities of bile are slaughtered for their whole gall bladders and paws. The process of bile extraction is crude and painful, often resulting in dangerous leakage of bile into the body and a slow, agonizing death from peritonitis.

### Preliminary veterinary checks

Called moon bears because of the moon-like markings on their chests, the Asiatic black bears are highly sought-after for their bile and are dwindling in number as a result. Across Asia, thousands of bears live a life of torture on bear



farms. They are confined in cages for as long as 30 years, causing physical and mental suffering.

“The bears are subjected to cruel, inhumane methods to remove the bile from their gall bladders,” said Jill Robinson, Animals Asia’s founder and CEO. “Our Moon Bear Rescue Centers strive to end bear farming and the bile trade.”

## CPWplus measures growth

Once the bears arrive at the sanctuary, they are logged in and given an initial check-up by veterinarians to establish any severe medical conditions. They are taken to quarantine, where they are given water and food, which consists of fruit and browse (tender shoots, twigs and leaves of trees and shrubs).

The next day, the vet team performs a more in-depth examination, weighing the animals, documenting injuries and ailments, prescribing medications and scheduling the necessary surgeries. Vets also repair or remove teeth that are broken from years of bar-biting, or deliberately cut back by farmers. Their eyes are checked, and their blood is analyzed. If the bears are injured or need to undergo surgery, they are monitored in recovery cages.

When the bears are ready, they are moved into a bear house with a grassy enclosure, Robinson said. They are grouped based on age, temperament and available space and are gradually integrated with other bears, learning to be bears again. Once the bears become accustomed to

their new surroundings, they enjoy swimming, wrestling, climbing and playing.

Their daily diet includes fruit, vegetables, nuts, honey, dog food and a variety of browse. The cubs are weighed frequently, as much as daily when they are very small, Robinson said.

“This ensures proper growth and the daily adjustment of milk formula,” she added. When they get a little older, they are weighed three times a week, and eventually reduced to once weekly or monthly. When the bears are full-grown, they are weighed quarterly to monitor their general health.

So what makes the CPWplus scale perfect for weighing the cubs? “The size of the scale is ideal, as it is small enough to move around easily,” Officer said. “It’s also helpful that the CPWplus accurately reports small changes in weight, crucial when a cub is tiny.”

According to Tom Storey, Adam Equipment vice president, this particular model of the scale is ideal because it can handle a maximum weight of 35 kg, adequate for a

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growing bear cub. Not only that, it has features designed to help workers deal with weighing wiggling cubs while trying to get an accurate weight.

“The CPWplus provides dynamic weighing, along with a hold function,” Storey said. “This can be set to lock in the weight on the screen.”

Generally, the cubs cooperate at weighing time as long as the treats keep coming, Officer said with a chuckle.

To find more information about CPWplus scales, visit [www.adamequipment.co.uk/cpwplus-weighing-scales](http://www.adamequipment.co.uk/cpwplus-weighing-scales).

*Adam Equipment has designed and manufactured precision balances and scales for professionals worldwide since 1972.*