

Ambassadors
First shown at ZKM Pavillon
04.-06.07.2025
by Maximilian Zschiesche
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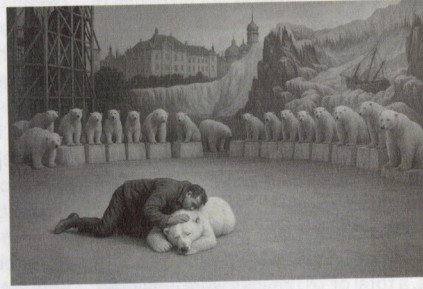
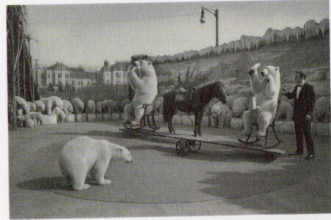
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AMBASSADORS

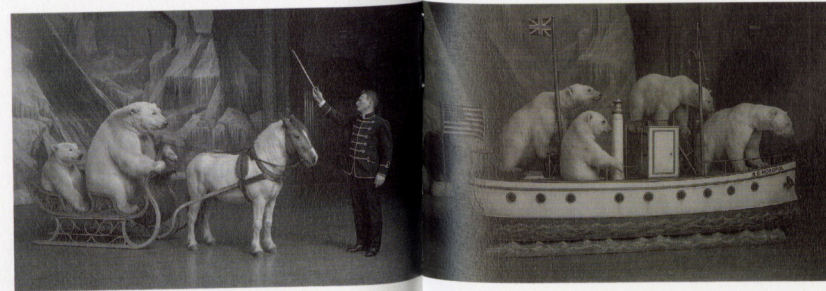
12 stories of artificial survival
by Maximilian Zschiesche



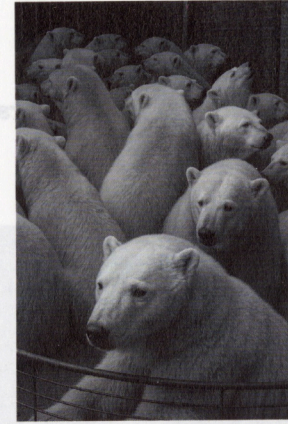
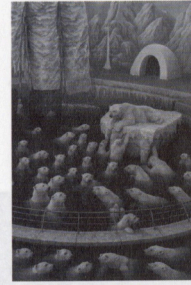
Polar bears as commercial products, advertised with one of the first and largest dressage acts by Wilhelm Hagenbeck, featuring 70 polar bears sliding down a slide, drinking beer, and show fighting.



[1] Wilhelm Hagenbeck Polar Bears



1965 – 1984

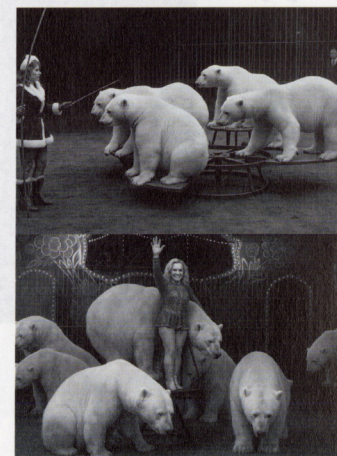
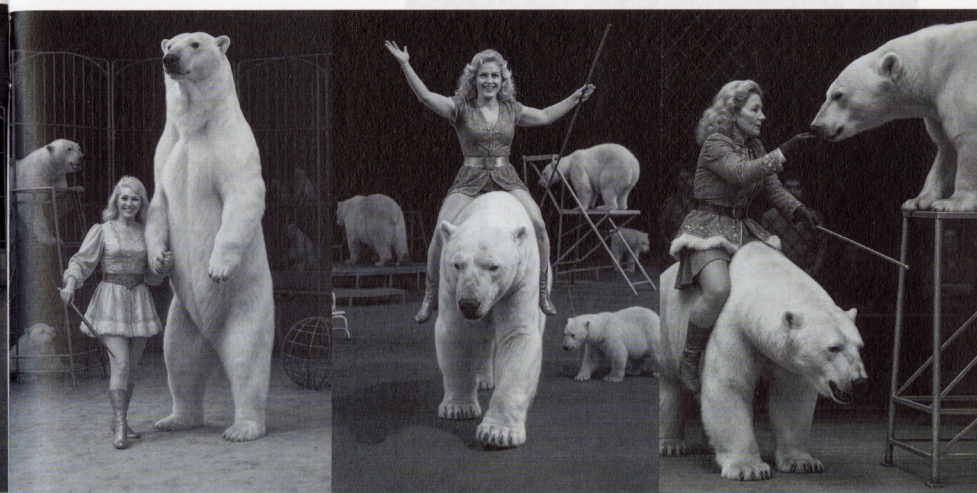


Polar bears as tamed beasts for entertainment in the most famous dressage of polar bear by Ursula Böttcher, who worked for the GDR state circus and toured the world multiple times.



[2] Ursula Böttcher Polar Bears

1961 - 1999

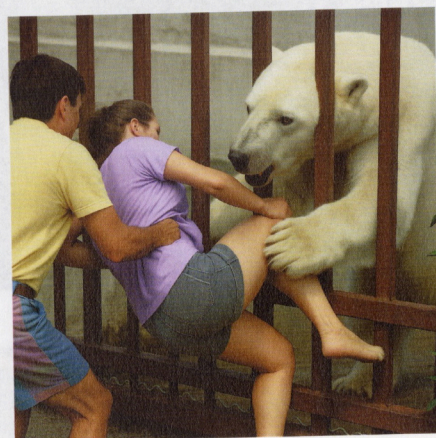


Polar bear attack
 Polar bears as dangerous animals, with Binky being one of the first polar bears to become famous by name because of an attack on a tourist who climbed over the first barrier separating the spectators from the enclosure.



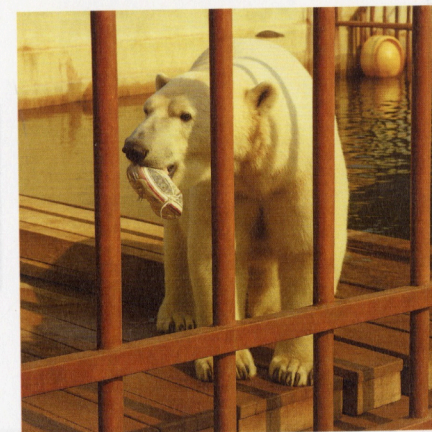
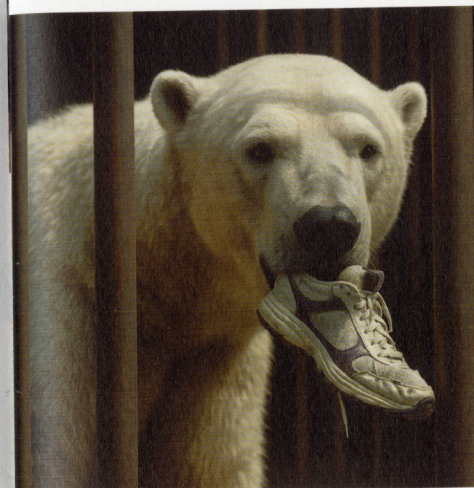
[2] Ursula Böttcher Polar Bear

[3] Binky



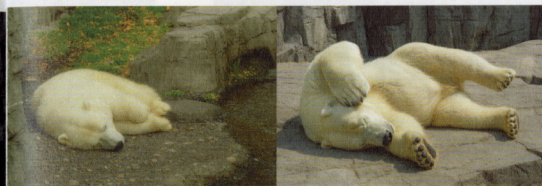
1975 - 1995

2004-2013



Ursula Böttcher Polar Bear
 2004-2013
 Binky
 1975-1995

Saddest polar bear in the world

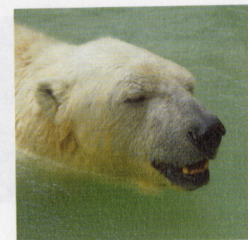
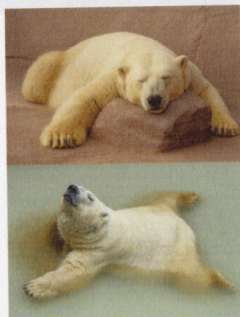


[4] **Gus**

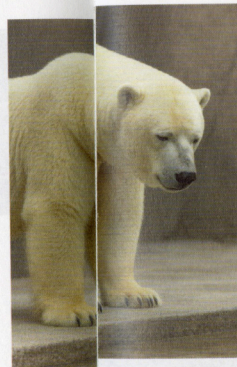
1985 – 2013



Saddest polar bear in the world
Polar bears as victims of human-ordered migration into Mendoza Zoological Park in Argentina,
with temperatures up to 40 degrees and only a 51 cm-deep pool for refreshment.



[5] Arturo



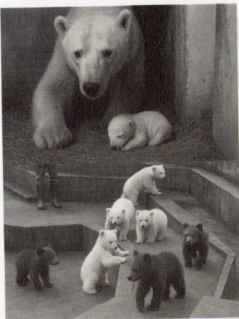
1985 – 2016



Arturo - the saddest polar bear in the world
Polar bears as victims of human-ordered migration into Mendoza Zoological Park in Argentina,
with temperatures up to 40 degrees and only a 51 cm-deep pool for refreshment.

Four escaped polar bears shot dead

Polar bears as breeding animals and victims of human error, with the Karlsruhe Zoo and its group of polar bears being one of the most successful breeding facilities for polar bears in the 80s, which was stopped due to an incident in 2000 when all polar bears were freed by an unknown person and shot to prevent them from attacking any humans.



[7] **Karlsruhe Polar Bear Shooting**

1967 – now



Most famous polar bear
 Polar bears as media stars and profit generator, with Knut the polar bear, who gained enormous fame being hand-raised by animal keeper Thomas Dörfflein, evoking protective instincts in the public and grief when dying because of an epileptic seizure that prevented the bear's ability to swim when falling into the pool and drowning.



[8] Knut

2006 – 2011



Successor of Knut

Polar bears as media star and profit generator replicas, with Flocke the polar bear, who was born a year after Knut and was also hand-raised, but grew up to become a mother of three who raised them on her own despite all assumptions that hand-raised polar bears couldn't raise babies on their own.



[9] Flocke



2007 – now



Hand-raised polar bears are often used in media and as profit generators. Flocke, born in 2007, was the first of a new generation of hand-raised polar bears. She was born a year after Knut and was also hand-raised, but grew up to become a mother of three who raised them on her own despite all assumptions that hand-raised polar bears couldn't raise babies on their own.

Successor of Knut

Polar bears as a media star and profit generator as second replica, with Siku, who was born after Knut and Flocke and was also hand-raised. He became famous at an even younger age, but after reaching his peak, he no longer received significant public attention.



[10] Siku

2011 – now



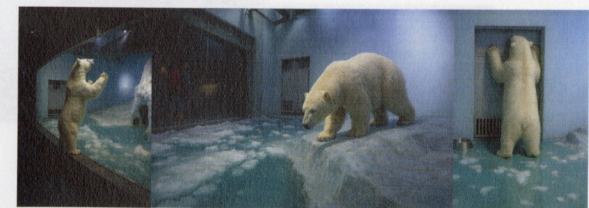
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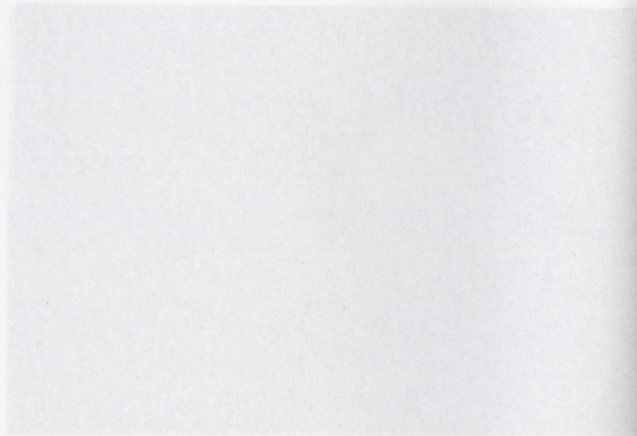
Saddest polar bear in the world
Polar bears as victims of human attraction in a mall in Guangzhou, China, kept in an enclosure without any daylight.



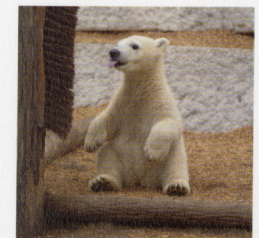
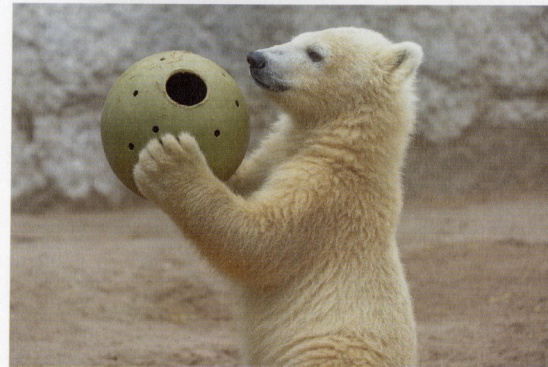
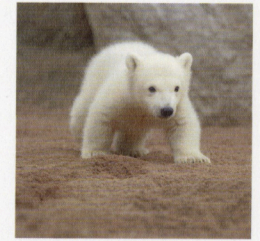
[11] Pizza

2013 - now





[12] Mika



2024 – now