

Tierpark Dählhölzli
Tierparkweg 1
3005 Bern

Phone 031 357 15 15
Fax 031 357 15 10
tierpark.daehlhoelzli@bern.ch
www.tierpark-bern.ch

Bern, 22 October 2009

Media Release

New bear park opened

Today, 22 October, politicians, sponsors and special guests participated in the official opening of Bern's BärenPark, the city's new bear park.

The historic centre of Switzerland's capital Bern, a UNESCO world heritage site, now features a bear park in which two bears live in an appropriate environment – a globally unique phenomenon.

Around 200 specially invited guests took part in the opening ceremony. Alexander Tschäppät, the Mayor of Bern, Ewald Isenbügel, Professor Emeritus of wild-life veterinary medicine, and Urs Berger, CEO of Swiss Mobiliar, the principal sponsor of the bear park, each spoke briefly to the assembled guests. "I am proud," said Urs Berger, "that Swiss Mobiliar has been able to make a decisive contribution to this internationally unique project. No other capital city can boast anything like this bear park at its very centre."

The BärenPark follows on to a long Bernese tradition. A bear features on the city's emblem, and bears have been living in Bern since 1315. Now, finally, they are held in an environment appropriate to the species. In the words of Bernd Schildger, Director of the Tierpark Dählhölzli Zoo and the BärenPark: "This is a great step forward for Bern. The BärenPark will no doubt add value to the city in every way."

The two bears, Björk and Finn, were moved to the park a few days ago. Björk, the female, immediately set out to thoroughly explore her new territory. The younger Finn, on the other hand, was much more cautious and reluctant to roam the park. Even when Björk came to tug him along by his ears.

A public festival to mark the opening will be held around the BärenPark on Sunday, 25 October, between 9:30 am and 5:30 pm. The festival programme can be accessed at www.baerenpark-bern.ch.

Swiss Mobiliar Insurance Company contributed CHF 2.5 million to the project. Further sizable donations were made by other partners and by the public.

For further information, high-definition images and videos in broadcast quality, please go to www.baerenpark-bern.ch. For inquiries, please contact Bernd Schildger, 079 250 93 14.

Presenting Partner

Die Mobiliar
Versicherungen & Vorsorge

Partner



CREDIT SUISSE



BKW



Donatoren



BECK GLATZ CONFISEUR