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Several years ago, I was at a cheerleading camp in the Great Smoky Mountains with the middle school team I coached at the time. While taking a break from practice one afternoon, I looked out of the hotel window and saw a black bear walking right behind one of my cheer parents, who was sitting at a picnic table. I went out to warn her, but the bear had disappeared. That's when I noticed two cubs scrambling up some trees in the nearby woods. I happened to have my camera and quickly snapped a few pictures before backing off. Moments later, the mother bear returned.

From a safe distance far enough away that she could not see me, I watched as she rose up, placed her front paws on the tree trunk and snorted encouragement for her cubs to climb down. Then she walked toward the parking lot, cubs trailing behind, and sat against a guardrail to nurse. The interaction between the mother and her cubs was beautiful and one of the coolest things I've ever seen.

— TRACY VAUGHN, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

SUBMIT YOUR SHOT

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet, wild animal or rescued farm animal? Send it to us for possible publication in *All Animals* or at humanesociety.org/allanimals, along with an explanation of 250 words or fewer about why it's meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 8-by-10" and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humanesociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to All Animals—Your Best Shot, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)