

Casey and Brutus

As a kid, Casey Anderson loved animals. His nickname was “animal magnet.” He grew up in Montana and spent a lot of time in the wilderness. He studied wildlife biology in school.

After college, Casey worked at a job helping to save wild animals in Montana. He traveled to Kenya to work at an elephant orphanage. Later he worked as an animal keeper and trainer at a wildlife park. He also worked as an actor.

In 2002, Casey went to Yellowstone Bear World. It was an overcrowded park. The bears were kept in poor conditions. Casey adopted a newborn bear cub to save it from a life in the park.

Casey named his bear Brutus. Brutus was a grizzly bear. He grew very fast and very big. He needed a special place to live.

In 2004, Casey built the Montana Grizzly Encounter. He made it for Brutus. Brutus lived there along with several other bears. At the encounter, Casey was able to rescue other grizzlies. He studied the grizzlies that he rescued to learn more about the majestic bears.

Brutus was comfortable around people. So Casey trained him as an acting bear. Brutus starred in TV commercials and educational videos. Casey



and Brutus appeared together on a National Geographic special. They also acted in a movie called *Iron Ridge*.

Casey worked with a lot of bears, but Brutus was his special friend. Brutus was even the best man in his wedding. He was sad when Brutus died in 2021 at the age of 19. But he will never forget his furry friend.



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Why did Casey adopt Brutus?
 - a. Because Brutus was a cute cub
 - b. Because Brutus lived in an overcrowded park
 - c. Because Casey wanted to study grizzly bears
 - d. Because Casey was an “animal magnet”

2. What park did Casey build for Brutus?
 - a. Yellowstone Bear World
 - b. Grizzly Universe
 - c. Montana Grizzly Encounter
 - d. Montana Bear Rescue

3. Which job was NOT mentioned as something that Casey did?
 - a. Actor
 - b. Trainer
 - c. Keeper
 - d. Veterinarian

4. What does “the bears were kept in poor conditions” mean?
 - a. They weren’t treated well
 - b. They didn’t have much money
 - c. They lived a good life
 - d. They were in an orphanage

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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