

# LTWC takes in bear cubs as Department of Fish Game investigates why man had them

By Kate Mather, Los Angeles Times

All the man was trying to do, he told authorities, was find the bear cubs a good home.

California Department of Fish and Game wardens are investigating a Northern California man found Wednesday outside a gas station with two baby black bears in a cage, department spokesman Patrick Foy said.

A passerby in North San Juan, 75 miles northeast of Sacramento, called a Fish and Game poaching line and said the man was selling the bears, according to Foy. Nevada County sheriff's deputies and a game warden went to the Sierra Super Stop, where the man told authorities he was "just trying to find them a good home."

The reason, he said, was because he had shot their mother on his property a few days before and assumed she eventually died.

"He told us he had shot the mother bear in self-defense and the mother bear ran off, leaving the cubs behind," Foy said. "He apparently kept the cubs for a couple of days, then made his decision."

Authorities went to the man's property to look for the mother bear's body, Foy said, but found no sign of her. The man had no injuries indicating a bear encounter.

"There's a lot of parts to this person's story that don't add up," Foy said.

Experts guess the cubs, a male and female that weigh 11 and 13 pounds, are 5 to 6 months old. Although they're in good health, they are too young to be released into the wild, Foy said, which is why they will spend several months at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

**Read the whole story**