

From activism to arrest: one polar bear's adventure with Flood Wall Street

Guardian staff

Among the dozens of protesters arrested in New York on Monday, a polar bear befriended grizzled activists and broke through barricades. This is his journey

The polar bear joined the Flood Wall Street protests on Monday in New York City. The bear danced with the crowds as they descended into the city's financial district, the same area where Occupy Wall Street demonstrated (albeit without bears)

The bear joined a sit-in, during which protesters desperately tried to tell a police officer about the connection between capitalism and environmental destruction. Not only did the officer not sign their petition, he ruined the bear's afternoon by not making eye contact at all.



Photo: Bryan Thomas/Getty Photograph: Bryan Thomas/Getty Images



Photo: Seth Wenig/AP

The bear rested for a moment with two Captains Planet and linked arms with a man itching his goatee.

One of the largest predatory land mammals on earth was caught on video by the Guardian's Adam Gabbatt, who also saw a dog draped in the protest finery of an old T-shirt with some magic marker on it.

Standing proudly with the protesters, at least 50 of whom were eventually taken into custody, the bear did not realise that a monstrous 'Fossil Fool' lurked behind him, bedecked in some kind of tube outfit.

The bear lingered restlessly at the barricade's edge, trying hard to look inconspicuous for his big move.

The polar bear leapt majestically over the barricade, pausing for a moment mid-leap for his balding friend to help him get his foot unstuck, majestically.



Photo Andrew Kelly/EPA



Photo: Timothy A Clary/AFP/Getty



Photo: Timothy A Clary/AFP/Getty

The bear then accepted the help of a weary protester who had seen this coming from a mile away, because polar bears as a species grow to enormous size and are almost impossible to miss in Manhattan

By late afternoon, the bear's fame was spreading to Twitter.

As evening descended, after about 50 protesters refused to move from an intersection, the polar bear ended the night in hand-cuffs:

The bear, paws ready to be cuffed, considered telling police that the trick's on them, he's a man in a suit, really, and they they can't take him to animal jail, he's too beautiful for that

By 2am, the polar bear had made bail, and emerged triumphantly from people jail.

Shortly after 3am, the bear reunited with the Captains Planet.



Photo: Timothy A Clary/AFP/Getty



phan @KeeganNYC

They have arrested the polar bear. #FloodWallStreet



@Ows_Casper

"Finally #polarbear is #free god bless his bear soul.