

Grizzly Bear

Ursus arctos horribilis

Description

The grizzly bear has a distinctive shoulder hump, round ears, a long snout, and large paws with long, curved claws used for digging. Unlike the black bear it cannot climb trees. Grizzly bears can weigh between 350 and 1,500 pounds and can reach up to 5 feet tall when standing. Males are larger than females, and their fur colour ranges from cream or silver to almost black.

Also known as brown bears, their mating season is from May to early July. Cubs, usually born between January and March, are blind, furless, and weigh around one pound. They are weaned at about five months but stay with their mother for two to three years. Cubs can climb trees until about a year old.

Grizzly bears are omnivorous, eating berries, roots, fungi, grasses, fish, carrion, small and large mammals, and insects.

FUN FACTS

- The grizzly bear has a fat layer for cold protection and can be easily awakened during winter, as they do not truly hibernate.
- Grizzlies typically forage for food in the early morning and evening, spending much of the daytime resting.
- They are skilled at catching fish and use their claws to dig for insects and small mammals.
- Grizzly bear sizes can vary greatly based on what their main food source is.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

