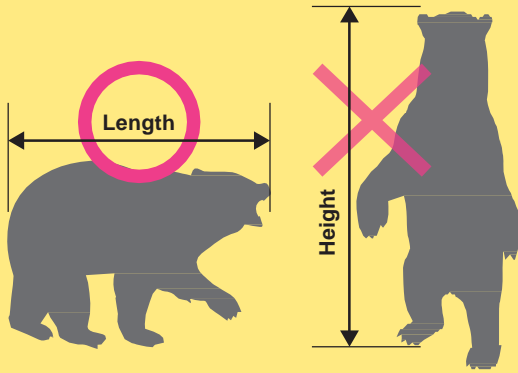
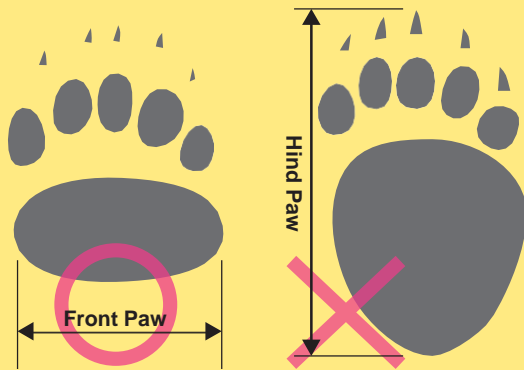


How to measure the size of a brown bear

● Length From nose to tail



● Tracks Width of the front paw



If you find a **bear** or **traces** near human settlements, please contact the **police** or the **Municipal Office**

Beware of brown bears! Follow SNS and download apps

The appearance of brown bears in urban areas of Hokkaido has become a problem in recent years.

If brown bears are frequently seen in urban areas, or in the event of an accident resulting in injury or death due to a bear, Hokkaido issues information such as "Brown Bear Warnings" or "Brown Bear Alerts" through SNS and other means.

Register for alerts and be prepared.

Hokkaido Brown Bear Warnings & Alerts

Check these out!



Hokkaido Government
Official Twitter
@PrefHokkaido



Yahoo!
Disaster Alert



Hokkaido Gov. HP
Brown Bear Warnings



So you and bears can co-exist

Living with Brown Bears

*Brown bear in Japanese is "Higuma ヒグマ"
Make sure to remember this word!*

Many regions of Hokkaido are home to brown bears.



Hokkaido Environment and Living Division

Translation : Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center
Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center (HIECC)

Life and Habits

● Male

Height: under 2.0m
Weight: 150~400kg

● Female

Height : 1.5m (approx.)
Weight : 100~200kg

- **Ears**
Excellent hearing. Sensitive to sound.
- **Eyes**
Vision is decent and allows them to move during day or night. However, it seems that they cannot see objects at far distances very well.
- **Nose**
Sensitive to smells.
Can even discover buried food.



● Behavior

Travel alone or in parent-cub pairs rather than packs. Most are quite cautious and avoid humans.

● Physical Ability

Extremely quick movements. Can knock over a cow with a single blow.

Beware of these activities

● Living in Bear Territory

Do not leave trash that could attract bears outside. Avoid going outside at night or when it is dim if there is news about bear sightings.

Walking dogs can also be dangerous as their barks may agitate bears.

● Foraging for Wild Plants

Wild plants often grow in bear habitat. Make noise and avoid walking alone while searching for edible wild plants.

● Camping

Do not camp where there are traces of bears.

● Stream Fishing

The sound of flowing water makes it difficult for humans and bears to hear each other, so extra caution is needed.

● Mountaineering

Mountains are bear habitat and you can run into them anywhere. There is an increased likelihood of encountering bears during the early morning or sunset.

A bear's year

MANY ACCIDENTS!

MANY ACCIDENTS!

Hibernation / Childbirth			End of hibernation		Cubs leave parents, breeding season		Little food left on mountains Damage to agriculture		Preparation for hibernation		Hibernation
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Preventing accidents with brown bears

How to avoid bears during outdoor activities

Check for bear sightings before leaving!

Check for information about bear sightings on municipal homepages, social media, newspapers, TV, radio, or with the visitor center.

Make noise while walking!

Avoid going alone. Talking with other people will make it easier for bears to notice and be aware of your presence. You should also wear a bear bell, and clap your hands or blow a whistle in areas with low visibility.

If you find traces of bears

Keep an eye out for tracks, droppings, and bite marks. If you find any, you should turn back.



Tracks



Droppings



Bitemarks

What to do if you encounter a bear?

If you see a brown bear in the distance

Stay calm and assess the situation. If the bear has not noticed you, quietly leave the area.

If the bear has noticed you

Quietly move away while keeping an eye on the bear's movements. Rushing causes accidents, so it is important to stay calm. Under normal circumstances, most bears should move away.

If the bear comes closer

Do not take your eyes off of the bear. Slowly back away while watching the bear's movements.

Running away is suicide

Do not provoke the bear. Stay calm and slowly back away while keeping an eye on the bear's movements.

A mother will always be near her cub

Don't get close just because it's cute!

If you find a bear cub, do not approach. Leave the area immediately. Mother bears will attack you in order to protect their cub.

Not a 100% perfect solution

If you are attacked

In North America it is recommended to lie flat on the ground and cover the back of your neck with your hands to prevent fatal wounds to the neck and back of the head. There are also cases in Hokkaido where injuries to the neck proved fatal. Bear repellent spray is an effective way to stop attacks.

True Fact!



How do humans attract bears?

Brown bears become very attached to food. If a bear familiarizes itself with the taste of human foods, such as kitchen waste (including compost), fruit, or dried fish, it will begin to repeatedly approach homes for food, and act without fear of humans. People who live where bears frequently appear, and people who go out into the wild should take care to avoid dangerous situations.



Compost



Cherries