



North American Black Bear

Species Name: *Ursus americanus*

Mating Season: May-June

Despite the name, black bear fur can range from pure white to cinnamon-brown, to black.

They are impressive climbers. Their short claws give them great grip.

Males weigh an average of 150-300 pounds (some 500-600), and females are smaller.

Average lifespan in the wild is 10 years but they can live upwards of 30 years!

A black bear's sense of smell can be measured in miles. Their sense of smell is estimated at 7 times greater than that of a bloodhound!

Hibernation is a specialized, seasonal reduction in metabolism concurrent with scarce food and cold weather. Most black bears in the wild hibernate depending on local weather conditions and availability of food during the winter months. In regions where there is a consistent supply of food and warmer weather throughout winter, bears may not hibernate at all or do so for a brief time. In the Alameda Park Zoo, the bears do not fully hibernate but they do nap more and move more slowly.

Omnivorous: They consume both plant and animal matter. Plant: roots, vegetation, berries
Animal: meats, fishes, insects Other: they love honey and they even root through human garbage!

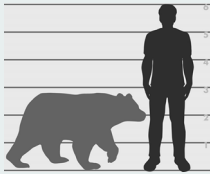
HERE AT ALAMEDA PARK ZOO:

The large male is named 'Tiny' and the smaller female is 'Winnie'. These bears love to search for peanut butter and monkey biscuits hidden all over their enclosure! Sometimes Tiny will come to the front of the cage when you call him over.

Distribution: across the U.S., Alaska, and northern Mexico



Fast Facts



Conservation Status:

Adult Body Length: 4 1/2 feet

Weight: 100-300 pounds, females smaller

Gestation: 220 days

Number of young: 2-3

Habitat: High mountains to fringe of desert, thick vegetation, harsh terrain



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