

BROWN BEAR

The lifespan of brown bears of both sexes within minimally hunted populations is estimated at an average of 25 years. The total world population is estimated to exceed 110.000.

Ursus arctos Linnaeus, 1758



Nathan Ferlazzo

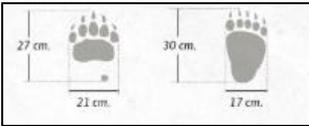
CHARACTERISTICS

Diurn in North America.

Nocturn in most of Europe.

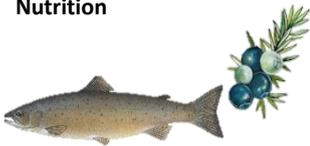


Sexual dimorphism, adult males are heavier (130/550kg) than adult females (80/250kg).



BEHAVIOUR

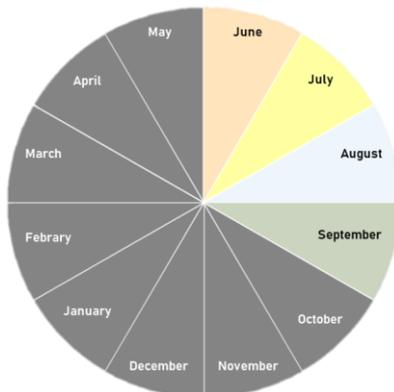
Nutrition



Grasses, roots, berries, nuts. Insects, rodents, ungulates, fish.

Hibernation (fig.1 period indicated in grey)

The shorting days of autum trigger hormones that act as sleeping pills. Bears generally do not eat, drink, defecate, or urinate during hibernation and experience a drop in heart rate from 40-50 beats per minute during the summer to 8-19 beats per minute.



CONSERVATION

Only the population in central Asia fall under CITES Appendix I, all others are CITES Appendix II.



DISTRIBUTION

Brown Bears occupy a wider range of habitats than any other bear, including parts of *Russia, Central Asia, China, Canada, the United States* (mostly Alaska), *Scandinavia, north Spain* and the *Carpathian region*.



Breeding

Implantation of the blastocyst is delayed about 5 month until six to eight weeks prior to birthing, which usually occurs in January or February.(Wilson, Ruff 1999).

The female brown bear enters her den pregnant. She wakes up as her 2-3 blind with closed ears and covered by thin whitish lint cubs are born midwinter but usually not leave den. Cubs feed with mom's milk (Tumanov, 1998).



By the time the mother wakes up in the spring, her baby is big enough to follow her out of the den. Cubs live with their mothers for up to three years, and then they're usually ready to face life on their own.