

Bear Safety in Alberta

Did you know?

Alberta is home to the black bear and the grizzly bear. Black bears are a species of least concern with estimated populations of 36,000. Grizzly bears are a threatened species in the province at estimated 856-973 bears. Statistics on grizzly bear populations have not been updated in recent years meaning has the potential to be higher. Historically found throughout the whole province, both bears ranges have been diminished. With recovery efforts in effect we have seen some expansion back to historical ranges. This is why you hear more “bear news” in recent years as the number of human wildlife conflicts rises. **See below for tips on ID:**

Black Bear Cubs at AIWC



Being Bear Smart - Encountering a Bear:

- It is not uncommon for you to encounter a bear while driving or enjoying outdoor activities in the mountains, foothills, and forests of the province.
- Both black and grizzly bears have an incredible sense of smell and are highly food motivated animals. Make sure food and smelly items are kept in vehicle or smell proof container when in bear areas.
- Know how to use and carry bear deterrents like bear spray when hiking or camping in bear areas.
- Always hike with a friend or in groups. talking, singing, and other noises are a good idea to let bears know you are in the area.
- If you **encounter a bear**, back away slowly and calmly. If the bear approaches: stand your ground, make yourself look big, talk in a loud voice, shout and prepare your bear spray for use.
- Never run if a bear approaches, as it triggers a predatory response.

Human Wildlife Conflicts:

These conflicts in Alberta are primarily caused by habituation, food conditioning, and agricultural attractants. The expansion of both urban areas and bear populations In recent years has made the chances of encountering a bear much higher than in the past. Always be “Bear Smart” when enjoying active bear areas.



**ALBERTA INSTITUTE
FOR WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CONTACT US

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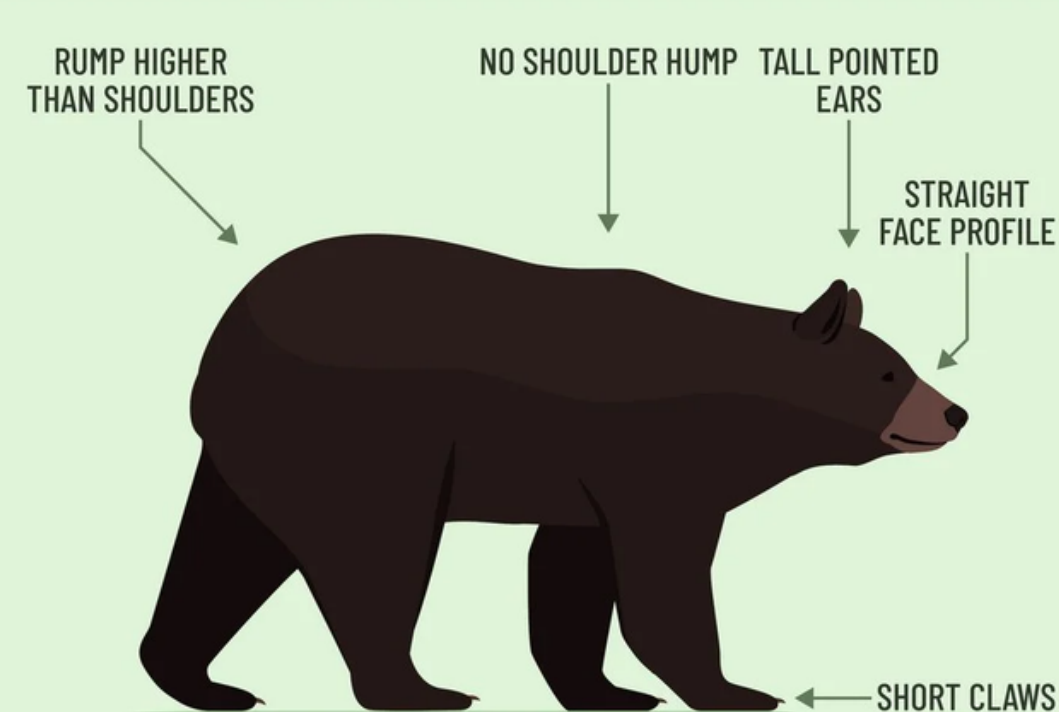
www.aiwc.ca

info@aiwc.ca

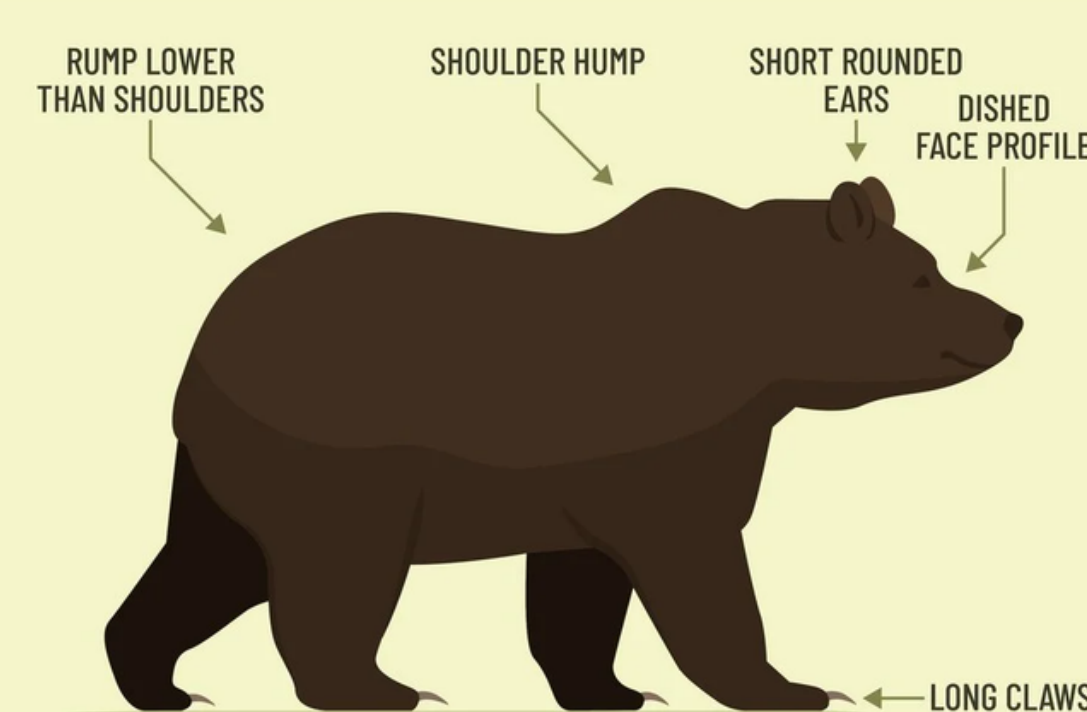
Rehabilitated Black Bear Being Transported to Release Location



BLACK BEAR



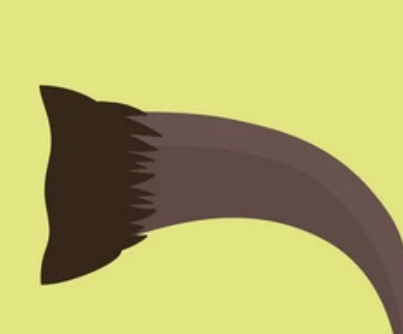
GRIZZLY BEAR



FRONT CLAW



FRONT TRACK



FRONT CLAW



FRONT TRACK

Black Bear Cubs Paw Compared to Human



Black Bear Paw Compared to Human Hand



Black Bear Cubs at AIWC

Bear Safety Resources

- <https://bearsmart.org/about-bears/know-the-difference>
- <https://www.alberta.ca/deterrents-bear-spray-and-noisemakers>
- <https://www.aiwc.ca/blog/black-bear-grizzly-bear-awareness-and-ethics/>
- <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/mtn/ours-bears/securite-safety/ours-humains-bears-people>



Parks Canada staff using bear spray in demo

If you would like more information on bear ID, bear safety, or what to do if you see a injured or orphaned bear cub, contact The Alberta Institute For Wildlife Conservation (403) 946-2361.