

## BROWN BEAR (GRIZZLY)

*Ursus arctos*

The brown bears of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula are among the largest in the world. Also known as "grizzlies," a male may reach 1,300 pounds and ten feet tall. They feast on the rich salmon found in the coastal waters and streams. Built for the snow and cold, these bears are the same species as those found in the United States. Although the number of bears in Kamchatka is the highest in the world, the poaching of bears and the salmon they eat could threaten their future.



### Fun Facts

- Brown bears and polar bears are tied as the world's largest land-dwelling meat eaters. In America we call the large ones grizzlies. In Russia, they're called *Burii Medved*.
- Grizzlies technically don't hibernate. They do sleep through most of the winter, but can be awakened.
- Brown bears are omnivores - they eat plants and animals. They eat about 25 to 35 pounds of food each day.
- Bears, like people, walk on their entire foot, not on their toes like cats or dogs. They are pigeon toed.
- A grizzly can kill a cow with one blow, outrun a horse, and drag a dead elk uphill.
- Kamchatka's bears put on up to 400 pounds of insulation each summer so they can survive winter with a six-inch layer of fat.

### Meet the Bears

In the spring and summer of 2006, the Minnesota Zoo acquired three orphaned bear cubs in Alaska. They stayed at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) in Portage Glacier until April of 2008, when they came to the Minnesota Zoo.

#### **Sadie**

Found near a landfill in Kotzebue, Alaska, Sadie was rescued by the local Department of Fish and Game in June, 2006. Officials named her after Sadie Creek, near where she was orphaned, and transferred her to the AWCC. Sadie is the smallest of the Zoo's three bears with the lightest fur. She is also the most inquisitive of the group.

#### **Haines**

A second bear cub, "Haines," was found in July, 2006 and is nearly the same age as Sadie. This orphan received his name after he was found roaming the porches and yards around the town of Haines, Alaska. Haines is a very large bear with a calm and easy-going disposition. He has the darkest fur of the three bears.

#### **Kenai**

In September, 2006, "Kenai" was found orphaned along the coast near Seward, Alaska and joined Sadie and Haines shortly after he was found. Kenai is smaller than Haines and appears to have the "fluffiest" fur. He is the most submissive of the group, known as curious and shy, but enjoys joining his adopted brother in daily wrestling matches.