



## *Grizzly Bear*

*Ursus arctos horribilis*

**Geographical Range:** Found in small numbers that extend from western Europe to Eastern Siberia flowing into Alaska and Western Canada possibly even to Northern Mexico.

**Habitat:** The grizzly or brown bear is able to live in a variety of habitats but in North America they seem to prefer open areas such as tundra, alpine meadows and coast lines. Grizzly bears occupied the Great Plains prior to the arrival of European settlers.

**Exhibit Location:** The bear grotto just beyond the Zoo's main entrance.

**Physical Characteristics:** Grizzly bears are the largest of carnivores. They average a height of 8 ft. when standing upright. Their fur is usually dark brown, but varies from cream to almost black. Some specimens have long hairs along the shoulder and back which are frosted with white giving the bear a grizzled look, hence the name grizzly bear. These bears have an excellent sense of smell, good hearing, but relatively bad eyesight. They are extremely strong and have very good endurance.

**Diet:** Grizzlies are mainly vegetarians but shift to different foods depending on the time of year. In spring they eat grasses, roots, moss and bulbs. In the summer and fall they eat berries, tubers, insects and fungi. They also eat mice, ground squirrels and marmots. They have been known to eat elk, mountain sheep, goats, black bears, moose, and young caribou, carrion and even salmon.

## Did you know?

- The grizzly normally attempts to avoid human contact and will not attack unless startled in close quarters with their young or if they are in the process of searching for food.

**Status:** Endangered or Threatened Internationally – CITES, SSP