

Let's share information



- Share accurate information about bears and how to deal with encounters with those around you. If you see a bear, report it to the police (Tel: 110) and share the information with people around you so that everyone can be informed.

*This pamphlet was created based on bear sighting warning information and educational materials issued by Akita Prefecture. Some of the photographs and illustrations are taken from the Akita Prefecture website.



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(Akita International Association)

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At the Akita Prefectural Support Center for Foreign Nationals, you can consult us about things you do not understand, problems you may have, or other concerns related to daily life. Consultation is free. The contents of the consultation will not be shared with anyone else.

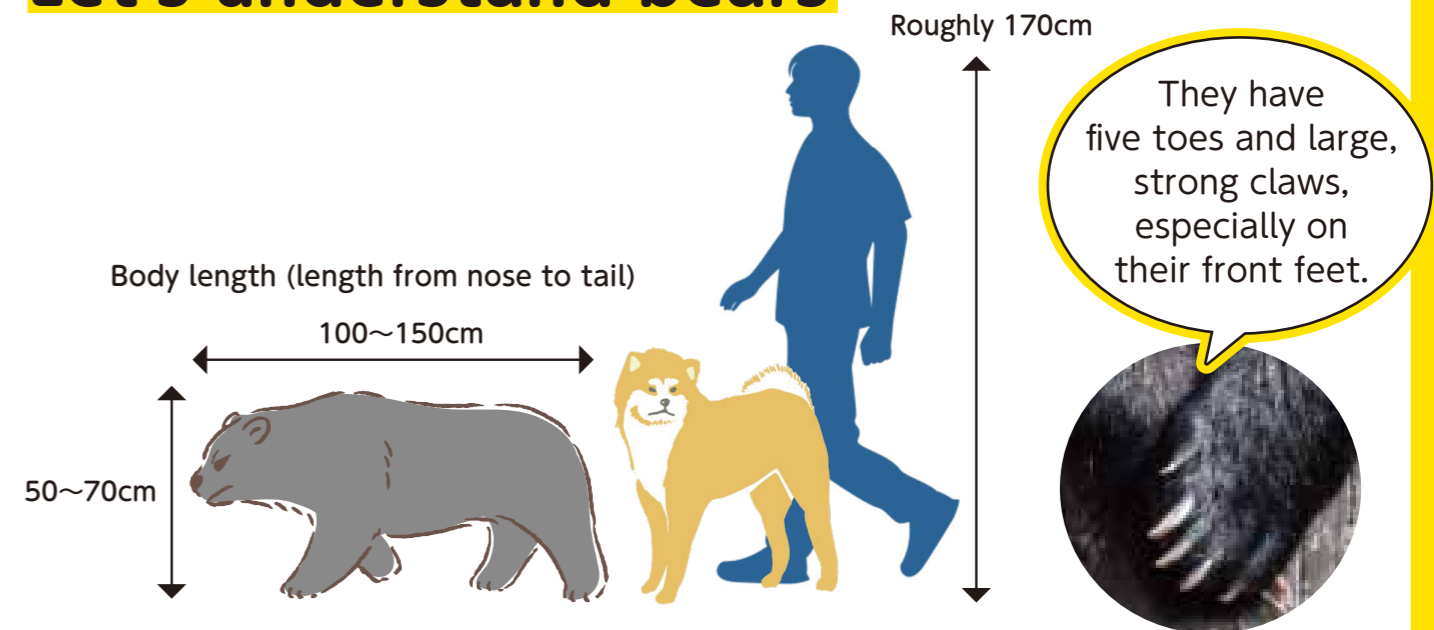


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Be aware of bears!

Bear sightings have become increasingly common in recent years. To prevent bear-related injuries, it is important to understand the bear's habits and take steps to avoid encountering them.

Let's understand bears



- Bears are very fast and can run 50 meters in 3 seconds (60 km/h).
- Bears are diurnal and are most active in the twilight hours of the morning and evening.
- Their hearing and sense of smell are well developed, and the latter is sharper than that of dogs.
- Bears have a high learning ability.

They generally live their lives avoiding encountering people, and if they notice people through sound or smell, they will take action to avoid them.

However, bears living near human settlements have learned that cars and people will not harm them, and they may not run away if people remain at some distance.

Also, once they learn that food is easily available from crops and fruit-bearing garden trees, they may begin to frequent these places on a daily basis or even settle nearby.

Basic precautions to avoid encountering bears

- Pay close attention to bear sighting information in advance and avoid areas where bears are seen.
- Akita Prefecture operates "Kumadas," a system that allows users to check information about bear sightings and personal injury accidents on a map, and anyone can check and post information. Once you register, you will receive information via email. You can also receive notifications via the prefecture's official LINE account. Be sure to check bear information regularly and take precautions. You can access "Kumadas" by scanning this QR code.
- Be careful as bears are most active at dusk and dawn.
- Make noises using bells, radios, smartphones, etc. to alert bears of your presence.
- Always keep garage and storage shed doors closed to prevent bears from entering.



- Bears move around in places that are less visible to humans like bushes and shrubbery, so it is best to keep grasses trimmed to remove potential hiding places.



- If garbage is left outside for several days, the smell will attract bears, so put out your garbage on the morning of collection day.



What to do if you encounter a bear

- Back away slowly to create distance between you and the bear and quietly leave the area. Do not run with your back to the bear!
- In residential areas, take shelter in a building or car. If you cannot evacuate in time, put a barrier between you and the bear, such as a utility pole or fence, to make it less likely that the bear will attack.
- If you are about to be attacked, bear repellent spray (strong pepper spray) is effective in repelling bears.



- In the case that there is no nearby building, car, or other form of shelter, and you do not have bear repellent spray, take a defensive position to protect your face and neck to prevent serious injuries to your head or face.



People attacked by bears tend to have big injuries to their face and head! If your face is attacked, you may suffer permanent damage such as blindness or facial paralysis. If you get caught by one of the bear's claws it will not only cause a wound, but bacteria that grow in the wound can also be fatal.