

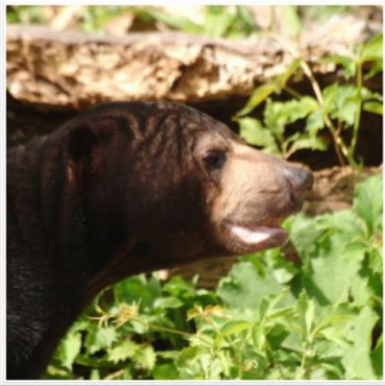
# Malayan Sun Bear

**Scientific Name:** *Helarctos malayanus euryspilus*

**Class:** Mammalia

**Order:** Carnivora

**Family:** Ursidae



Local people refer to it as the 'dog bear.' Weight can range from 60 to 145 pounds, with males being slightly larger. The short haired, deep black or brown-black fur has a horseshoe shaped marking on the chest of pale orange yellow. It is the smallest of the bears, and one of the two species found south of the equator (the other is the spectacled bear of South America).

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## Range

China, Burma, Malaysia, Sumatra, Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Borneo

## Habitat

Lowland tropical forest

## Gestation

96 days

## Litter

1 or 2

## Behavior

The sun bear is active at night, usually sleeping and sunbathing by day in a tree, 2 to 7 meters above the ground. Branches are broken and bent to form a nest and lookout post. Skillful climbers, they depend on their ability to get at their food. They are cautious, wary, and intelligent. Sometimes they cause a lot of damage to coconut palm and cocoa plantations. They have a curious gait, in that all the legs are turned inward while walking. Usually shy and retiring, they do not hibernate.

## Reproduction

Females can bear young at any time of the year. The newborn weight about 11.5 oz. Malayan sun bears reproduce in zoos regularly.

## Wild Diet

Wild bees, insect larvae, termites, small rodents, parts of coconut palm.