



FILE 3

Not all brown bears are brown!

The diversity of fur tones in Cantabrian bears is truly striking. Colours vary between one individual and another, varying from an almost black very dark brown, through to a pale sandy colour, with all shades of brown between. The colour also appears to change markedly according to the observation conditions and if the fur is wet or dry.

Despite this variation, there is one pattern which is repeated more frequently amongst our bears: dark legs, yellowish-brown face, greyish flanks and dark brown rear quarters. Cubs tend to show patches on the neck or even a complete pale collar, which disappear with increasing age, though a few adults retain traces. The fur is moulted once annually, in summer.

