

Polar Bear

by

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Polar bears are the biggest land carnivore. Polar bears have a thick fur coat that looks white but is really translucent. Their fur keeps them warm in the freezing Arctic weather. Their fur traps layers of water in the under-fur it helps to insulate them from the cold winds. They also have fat layers that are about 4 inches thick and that also helps keep them warm.

Male polar bears weigh between 350-650kg (772-1,433 lbs), females weigh around 150-250kg (331-551lbs). Polar bears need to eat 2kg (4.41bs) of fat to maintain their weight everyday. They eat a diet of mostly ringed bearded seals and also other seal species. Polar bears live up till 15-18 years; some have lived over 30years.

Polar bears are strong swimmers. They swim doggie paddle with their partly webbed paws while holding their hind feet and legs flat like rudders. Polar bears can swim 62miles without stopping. They can run on land at speed of 25 miles per hour in short bursts.

There is about 21,500-25,000 Polar Bears left in the world. But with the ozone breaking and the temperatures in the world warming, the ice in the arctic is melting faster and the Polar Bear's natural habitat is being destroyed by us humans. Soon they will find it hard to survive because of all the changes.

