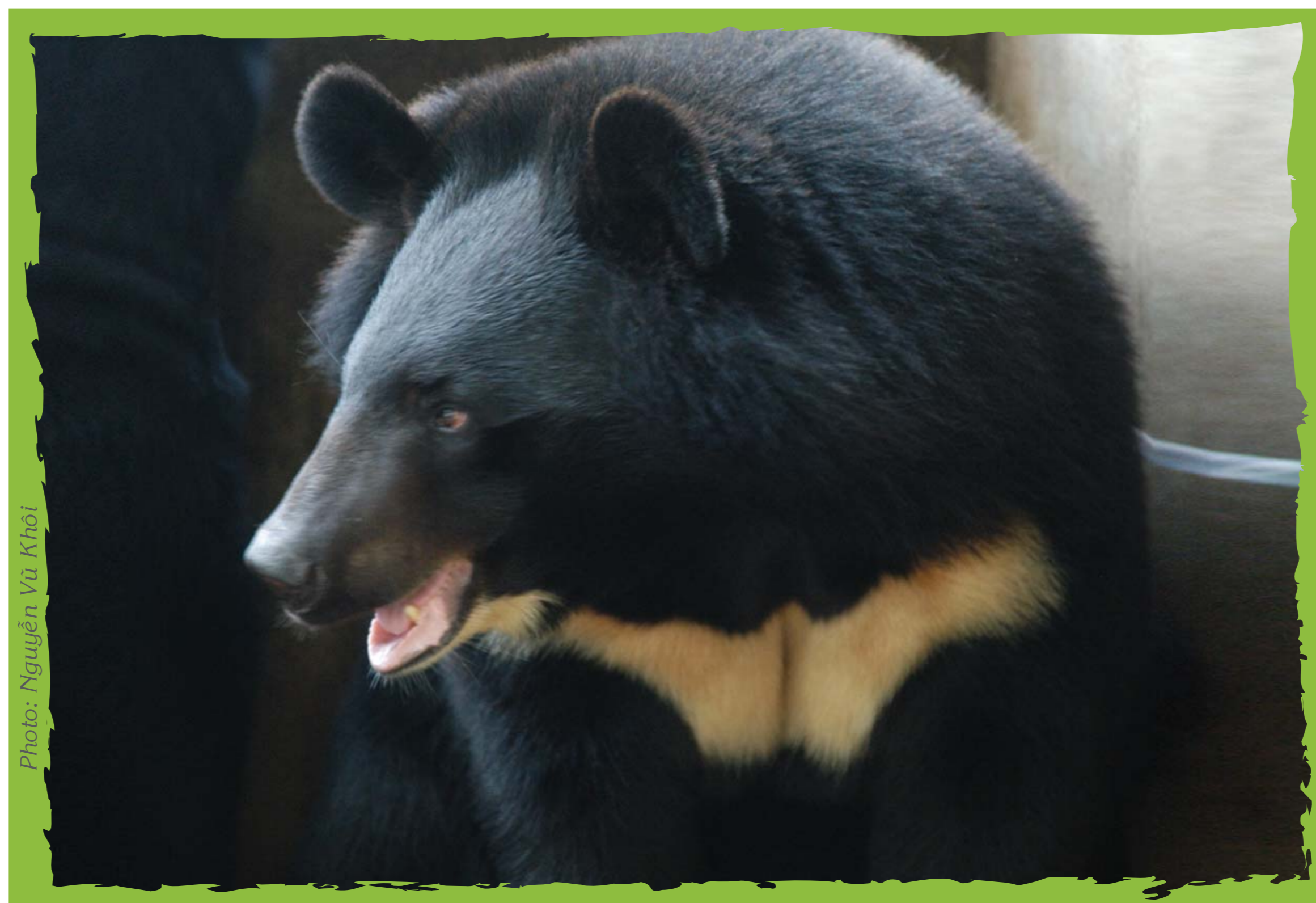


MOON BEAR



What is a moon bear?

Moon bears, or Asiatic black bears, have thick, black fur, large, tufted ears, a long snout and a short tail. They have a V-shaped yellow-white chest patch. Fully-grown males weigh up to 200 kilos.

Where do they live?

The moon bear is found in South and South-east Asia, northern China, eastern Russia and Japan. It is one of two bear species in Vietnam and prefers to live in forested hills.

How do they live?

Moon bears are mainly solitary, but sometimes come together in places where food is abundant. A mother and her cubs stay together for up to two years. Moon bears hibernate in colder climates, but remain active all year round in Vietnam. Their life expectancy is around 30 years.

What do they eat?

Moon bears are omnivores. Their strong sense of smell helps them to track down food. Their diet includes fruit, honey, nuts, leaves, small animals, fish and eggs.

Why are they in danger?

Moon bears are victims of the illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam. Thousands of them are kept in cages on bear bile farms, where their bile is collected for use in traditional Chinese medicine. Other body parts (including paws, feet, blood, bones, fat, gall bladder and spinal cord) are served up in restaurants or used in traditional medicine. The forests where they live are also being chopped down.

Saving the moon bear

Wildlife At Risk is fighting to stop the illegal wildlife trade, rescue captive bears and protect wild bears. To encourage people to stop using bear bile, WAR is promoting synthetic and plant alternatives that are safer and more effective.