

## Bear Facts

The immediate reaction from police and other authorities when informed of sasquatch sightings is that the witness probably saw a bear. When informed that the creature ran or walked swiftly away on two legs instead of four, the response is that the bear stood up and walked on its hind legs.

The first photo seen here shows very clearly how ungainly a bear's back legs are when it stands up on them. It can certainly walk on these legs, but it is a slow, cumbersome movement; swift walking, running or jumping are out of the question. It is evident those legs are not made for walking when a bear is in an upright position. Why does a bear stand up? There are several reasons: reach high spots for food, look around, make itself look larger (scare tactic), and to fight. It really can't do much more with those squat legs..

Nevertheless, a recent television documentary showed a bear that had injured its front paws (second photo). It had learned to walk on its back legs very efficiently and quite quickly. Its injuries were very severe and efforts were being made to rescue it.

I suppose a brief sighting of a bear on its hind legs at a distance could be mistaken for a sasquatch, and likely has been. A problem arises, however, when the witnesses are rural people, hunters, or seasoned outdoors people who are used to seeing bears. From the numerous credible reports I have read over the last 20 plus years, I really don't think what was seen was a bear.

