

## North Shore Black Bear Society: Wildlife Information Package



The North Shore is a diverse ecosystem, rich with wildlife. We co-exist with magnificent creatures, great and small. Get to know more about the wildlife you may encounter.

[www.northshorebears.com](http://www.northshorebears.com)

Facebook/Instagram: North Shore Black Bear Society

# BEARS: BLACK BEARS



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

Black bears are naturally wary of humans and expend a lot of energy attempting to avoid us. For a black bear, a tree is a safe place, making the forest their idyllic habitat. Black bear sightings are fairly common, encounters less so.

### SIGNS OF BEAR ACTIVITY

When you're in the forest, look out for:

- Scat
- Tracks
- Shredded logs
- Disturbed ground
- Tree markings/fur on tree
- Natural bear foods, i.e. berry producing plants

Your voice is a very effective tool when you're in the forest. Black bears are smart and recognize human sounds. Make noise on the trails with your voice to warn black bears that people are around. Stay on the main trail. Respect their space and leave no trace.

### IF YOU MEET A BEAR

**Take a deep breath. Stay calm**

**Speak calmly to the bear**

**Back away slowly. Let the bear know you aren't a threat**



### WHAT BLACK BEARS EAT

Black bears are omnivores, though their diet is mostly vegetation: dandelions, clover, skunk cabbage; berries: salmonberries, salal berries, blackberries; and insects: grubs, caterpillars, moths.

Black bears don't understand boundaries. They will search extensively for food, led by noses two thousand times more sensitive than ours. It is normal to see black bears in our North Shore neighbourhoods, but make sure you don't invite them to stay by giving them a food reward.

- Secure garbage/don't put at curbside until morning of collection
- Freeze odorous organics. Keep garbage cans clean, wrap organics in newspaper
- Prune fruit trees/collect fallen fruit
- Take down bird feeders, esp. Apr-Nov
- Feed your pets indoors
- Keep BBQ clean
- Add shredded newspaper or dead leaves to compost to reduce odour



Den, Nov-Apr  
producing cubs in  
Jan



Cubs of the year  
emerge May.  
Yearlings leave their  
mother, June



Search for a mate  
July. Mothers teach  
cubs how to forage



Active eating to  
prepare for  
hibernation Sept-Nov

**RELOCATION ISN'T AN OPTION  
LIKE US, BEARS HAVE A HOME  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.NORTHSHOREBEARS.COM](http://WWW.NORTHSHOREBEARS.COM)**

# BIG CATS: COUGARS



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COUGAR

Cougars (also known as a mountain lion, panther or puma) are the largest of the three wild cats in Canada. Extremely elusive, encounters between cougars and humans are incredibly rare. Most urban encounters involve young cougars who are still learning to hunt, or old or injured cougars who can no longer hunt in the wild.

Cougar attacks on people are exceptionally rare. Avoid hiking alone and ensure children are close and in sight. Keep dogs on leash.

### IF YOU MEET A COUGAR

- Stay calm and keep the cougar in sight
- Pick up small children or pets
- Speak to the cougar in a loud, firm voice
- Make yourself look big. Let the cougar know you aren't prey
- Without crouching for too long, arm yourself with rocks or sticks
- Back away slowly

### IF A COUGAR IS WATCHING YOU OR APPROACHES

Maintain eye contact. Show your teeth. Make loud noises. If the cougar makes contact, fight back and keep it in front of you. Focus your attack on their eyes and face.



## WHAT COUGARS EAT

Cougars are carnivores and the top predator in our forests. A cougar's main prey is deer, but they also eat coyotes, black bear cubs, rodents, and house pets.

Cougars are most active at dusk and dawn, but will hunt at any time of day or night, in all seasons.

Cougars will travel extensively in search of food and have large home ranges. Occasionally, they may appear in an urban environment. Make sure they don't find food that may encourage them to stay.

- Keep cats and small unattended dogs inside, especially at night
- Feed your pets indoors
- Bird seed can attract rats, which in turn can attract cougars and other predators that prey on the rodents
- Never feed any wildlife. Attracting prey species, such a deer, to the neighbourhood will greatly increase the chances of urban encounters with cougars
- Use electric fencing if you keep livestock such as chickens



Though extremely unlikely, if you do find cougar cubs, leave the area immediately. A female cougar will defend her young. Cubs stay with their mother for two years.

More information can be found at:  
[www.wildsafebc.com/cougar](http://www.wildsafebc.com/cougar)

# URBAN WILDLIFE: COYOTES



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE

Coyotes are naturally timid animals. To keep ourselves, our pets, and coyotes safe, we need them to remain that way.

Hazing is the method we use to communicate to the coyote that they are not welcome in the area.

### HOW TO HAZE A COYOTE

- Do not run. Running may trigger their natural instinct to chase
- Stand and face the coyote
- Make yourself larger and intimidating by raising your arms above your head
- Do not scream. In a firm, loud voice, yell at the coyote. Tell it to go away
- Clap your hands
- Use a hose to spray the coyote

Don't let coyotes or other wildlife find a food reward in your yard. Make regular checks of your property – especially in winter – for possible coyote den sites.

You can report wildlife or attractant sightings to [www.northshorebears.com/reportit](http://www.northshorebears.com/reportit)



Attractant management is key when aiming to reduce wildlife encounters in residential areas.

- Keep garbage clean/ secure
- Keep pet food/water inside
- Remove bird seed/feeders
- Pick ripe fruit/fallen fruit
- Reduce compost odour by adding newspaper or leaves

Rodents make up at least 75% of a coyote's diet. By managing rodent attractants, you reduce important food sources for coyotes and their reason for being in the area.



Mate Jan-Feb



Den, produce pups April



Teach offspring May-Aug



Juveniles search for own territory Sep-Dec

## PETS

- Keep cats and small unaccompanied dogs inside, especially at night
- Off leash dogs are the cause of many negative wildlife encounters

More info can be found at: [www.coyotewatchcanada.ca](http://www.coyotewatchcanada.ca)

# BIG CATS: BOBCATS



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BOBCAT

Bobcat habitat varies widely and the cats can thrive on many landscapes: semi-deserts, brush lands, mountainous areas, and forests. A habitat rich with vegetation and prey is ideal, making our dense temperate rainforest the perfect habitat for this shy cat.

Bobcats will make their main den in caves, hollow logs, or fallen trees. Brush piles, stumps, and rock ledges make good, less visited shelter dens. Solitary and territorial, female bobcats will never share their territory. Male territories, which are much bigger, may overlap. Bobcats aren't at the top of the food chain and need to evade predators such as cougars, coyotes, and owls.

**Conflicts between bobcats, humans, and domestic pets are extremely rare.**

### IF YOU MEET A BOBCAT

Be loud. Clap your hands

If possible throw water at the cat. Let it know it isn't welcome

Back away slowly



## WHAT BOBCATS EAT

The most common wildcat, the bobcat, is named after its short, bobbed tail. An average of 25 pounds, bobcats are roughly twice the size of domestic cats. Stealthy, patient hunters, bobcats can kill prey much bigger than themselves. However, their diet generally consists of insects, bats, mice, rats, birds, squirrels, and other small game.

Elusive and mostly nocturnal, bobcats are rarely seen. Yet, like all wild animals trying to survive, their search for food can sometimes bring them into urban areas. Make sure they don't find a food reward that will encourage them to stay.

- Feed your pets inside
- Take down birdfeeders. Bird seed can attract rats, which in turn, can attract bobcats and other predators that prey on the rodents
- Pick fallen fruit
- Use electric fencing if you keep livestock such as chickens
- Keep cats and small unattended dogs inside, especially at night, although attacks on pets are rare



Bobcats mate in late winter and produce 1-6 kittens in early spring. A female bobcat is solely responsible for raising her young. Bobcat kittens are first taught to hunt at around 5 months old. When the kittens are between 8-11 months old, they leave their mother and are forced to find their own territory.