



WHAT URBAN WILDLIFE LIVE IN COQUITLAM?



WHY DO THESE ANIMALS LIVE IN COQUITLAM?

Coquitlam is home to bears, coyotes and other urban wildlife. These animals will often enter into our neighbourhoods looking for food or shelter. It is important that we avoid inviting wildlife to our properties by removing attractants, such as garbage, and preventing access to areas that wildlife may use as a den.

Garbage is not healthy for bears and wildlife. When bears learn that garbage means food, they return to it again and again.

REMEMBER:

A fed bear is a dead bear. Feeding bears, even unintentionally, is against the law in BC (*Dangerous Wildlife Protection Act-section 33.1*).

Residents can be fined \$500 for not managing their waste correctly. It is a resident's responsibility to make sure their waste doesn't attract wildlife (*as outlined in Wildlife and Vector Control Bylaw*).

Be Bear Smart

WHAT TO DO IF:

You see a bear:

- » Stop and remain calm. Often, the bear is just passing through and if it finds no food source, will simply move on.
- » Don't scream, yell or run.
- » Talk in a low and calm voice while backing away slowly.
- » Keep away from the bear and warn others to do the same.
- » If walking a dog, keep it on leash for better control.
- » Bring your children and pets into the house.
- » When inside, you may use an air horn or loud noise to let the bear know it is not welcome in your yard.



You encounter threatening bears or other wildlife:

- » If you encounter wildlife that is aggressive, breaking into buildings or causing property damage, please call the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Visit coquitlam.ca/urbanwildlife or contact Coquitlam Engineering Customer Service at 604-927-3500.

Urban Wildlife

Live smart with urban wildlife in Coquitlam



Coquitlam is home to bears and many other urban wildlife. Learn how to live safely with these animals to prevent wildlife-human conflicts.

JUNE 2017



Coquitlam

Avoid inviting wildlife to your property by removing attractants.



Put food scraps in Green Cart.



Store Garbage & Green Carts and recycling in an area inaccessible to wildlife.



Place Carts and recycling at the curbside after 5:30 a.m. on collection day.



Store refrigerators and freezers inside.



Keep pet food inside.



Pick fruit.



Suspend and clean up fallen seed.



Practice responsible composting.



Keep barbecues clean.



BE COYOTE SMART

Coyotes are common in Coquitlam. They are naturally afraid of people, but may become aggressive and lose their fear of humans if they are being fed. Removing food sources from your backyard will help keep your neighbourhood safe from coyotes. For more information please call the Co-Existing with Coyotes Info Line at 604-681-WILD (9453).

What to do when approached by a coyote?

Raise your arms above your head and speak loudly and firmly. Do not run or turn your back on the animal. If the coyote continues to approach, be **LOUD** and act **AGGRESSIVE** to scare it off. Throw rocks, make loud noises or use pepper spray.

BE BOBCAT SMART



Bobcats are commonly sighted in Coquitlam. They present no threat to humans, but small pets should not be unattended outside, especially if close to a natural green space or stream. Bobcats prey on and control pests such as rats and mice and are beneficial in the urban environment.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE:

Animals like coyotes and bobcats prey on smaller pets. Take measures to protect your pets:

- » Cats are best kept indoors.
- » Walk small dogs on a short-leash.
- » Supervise your dog while off-leash.
- » Walk dogs in high-pedestrian areas.
- » Feed pets indoors.



BE RACCOON AND SKUNK SMART

Most urban wildlife, like skunks and raccoons, require food and shelter. Limit access to areas of your yard that may provide shelter and dens, including under or in sheds and wood piles. Raccoons and skunks control pests such as rats and mice.

BE DEER SMART

Deer are common in Coquitlam and seldomly act aggressive towards humans unless they feel threatened, especially in fawning season. They are capable of injuring humans or dogs. Always keep your distance—never approach or feed deer. Never pick up a fawn without first consulting a wildlife rescue organization.

Traffic collisions are the greatest danger to deer. Watch your speed when driving along forested roads or near power lines.

If you have problems with deer in your garden, plant species that deer won't eat or build a deer fence.

BE COUGAR SMART

Cougars are secretive animals and are rarely seen. If you encounter a cougar, keep calm, make yourself look as large as possible, yell and make noise and back away slowly. Never run or turn your back.

Pets left outdoors to roam freely are easy prey for cougars. Keep your pets leashed when walking through the woods. At home, keep your pets indoors or behind fencing and bring them inside at night.

