



DID YOU KNOW?

- When it comes to black bear populations, size doesn't matter. Numerous scientific studies show there is a weak correlation between the population of bears and bear-human conflict.
- The number one cause of bear-human conflict is actually human behavior and limiting the availability and access to food attractants is the most definite means for reducing bear-human conflict.
- Black bears have an important role to play in the environment, helping to disperse seeds and fertilize forests.



Friends of Animals (FoA) is a non-profit, international animal advocacy organization, incorporated in the state of New York since 1957. Friends of Animals advocates for the rights of nonhuman animals, free-living and domestic. Our goal is to free animals from cruelty and institutionalized exploitation around the world.

The organization has evolved from its beginnings as the most comprehensive low-cost spay neuter program in the country. Friends of Animals now places critical habitat, wildlife protection and veganism at the core of animal advocacy. Sign up for our newsletter at friendsofanimals.org/news-letter-signup/



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How to bear it in

BLACK BEAR SEASON



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As humans continue to move increasingly close to wildlife habitats, it's not surprising that there are more reports of black bear sightings and encounters. But there's no need to panic. *Black bears are naturally shy and bear attacks are extremely rare.* There are many ways to live peacefully with bears.



KEEPING BEARS AWAY

Discourage bears from associating you with food. To keep bears and humans safe and minimize conflicts near your home follow these measures:

- Never intentionally feed bears.
- Don't leave unsecured food attractants around your home, including pet food, coolers and garbage. Use bear resistant garbage cans or work with your municipality to set up community refuse collection sites that are bear resistant.
- Bring in bird feeders from March through November.
- Keep pets in fenced areas and don't let them roam without supervision.
- Clean outdoor grills and barbecues, making sure they are free of grease and food remnants. Keep them covered.
- Pick up fruit that has fallen to the ground from trees.

- Do not use fertilizer made of blood or fish for gardens.
- Secure outdoor compost heaps with electric fencing and locate them far from a house. Keep compost heaps clean and free of odors by using lime and turning them often. Compost only yard waste outdoors if you have a continued bear problem or consider an indoor composter.
- Keep bee hives secure with metal strapping and on an overhang. Don't set up beehives in areas with berries or waterways and wait until later spring when more natural food items are available to bears. Install electric fencing around the hives.
- When hiking, use bear bells, carry bear spray and keep dogs on leashes to ward off encounters.



BEARS AT YOUR HOME

There are a number of bear repellents you can use to scare away bears if they are on your property. These include:

- Wildlife deterrent horns or noisemakers such as cans filled with coins or pots and pans.
- Sprinklers and scare crow machines that squirt water or pepper spray.
- Electric unwelcome mats can be used near windows and doors to keep bears away.
- Bear Be Gone cans that squirt pepper spray.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

Bears are shy and like you, want to avoid conflict. If you see a black bear, follow these steps:

- **Do not approach a black bear if you see it in the distance**, not even to get a photo. Don't sneak up on it, especially if it is eating something or has cubs the mother will want to defend. Instead, give it space and either turn around and go back or detour around it.
- If it's directly in your sight and is getting animated, snorting and swatting, make yourself tall and large, make a lot of noise and pick up a stick. **DON'T RUN** or attack the bear. Stay in the group.
- If the bear tries to attack, **spray the bear just above its head so the liquid falls into its eyes.** If you don't have spray, throw things at the bear and make a lot of noise. Fight back.

