



## HUMAN-COUGAR CONFLICTS

- Cougars account for approximately 2,500 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year.
- Many reported cougar sightings turn out to be animals other than cougars.
- Cougars in conflict are usually young cougars that have not yet learned how to hunt efficiently or, are older cougars that can no longer hunt in the wilds.
- Cougars are most active during the period from dusk until dawn and this period requires extra vigilance by hikers while in cougar country.
- A properly installed and maintained electric fence can help prevent your chickens or small livestock from becoming a meal for a cougar.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969. To learn more about our organization please visit us at

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

WildSafeBC is funded through partnerships throughout BC.

Core funding is made possible through the

BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service:

**1.877.952.7277**

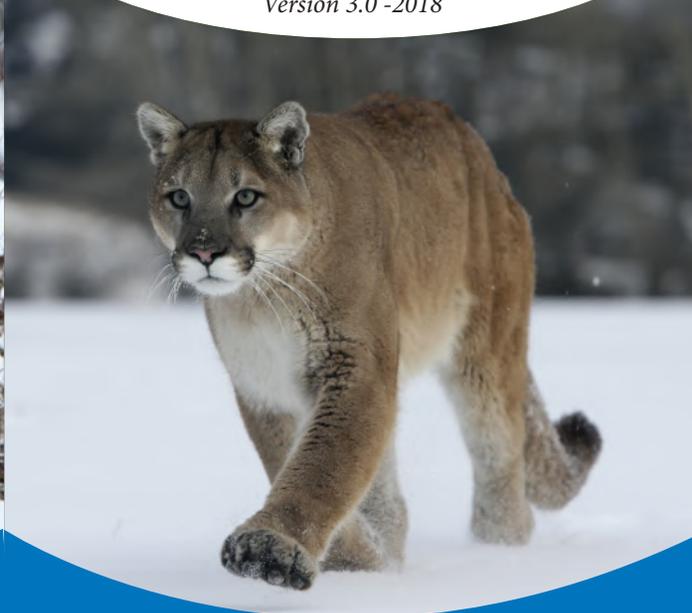


BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

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

Version 3.0 -2018



## COUGAR



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





## MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

Cougars are wide ranging animals and may show up in urban settings from time to time. If they are passing through it is important they do not find food that may encourage them to stay.

1. **Feed pets indoors**, or if fed outdoors, bring in any uneaten food as pet food may attract cougars.
2. **Keep your pets indoors, especially at night.** Cats and small dogs that are left to free-range, hunt small birds and rodents and, in turn, become prey themselves.
3. **Bird feeders can attract cougars.** If the ground below the feeder is not kept clear, seeds can accumulate, attracting rodents and, in turn, attracting cougars and other predators that feed on the rodents.
4. **If you keep chickens or small livestock** use a properly installed and maintained electric fence. Store all your feed in a secure location and ensure feeding areas are clean and free of attractants (again, if the feed attracts rodents then the rodents, in turn, can attract cougars).
5. **Never feed deer or other possible prey species** for cougars. While deer may be pleasant to watch, they can attract large predators such as cougars into residential neighbourhoods. As well, urban deer present their own set of problems to you and your neighbours.

## ! COUGAR SAFETY TIPS

Attacks by cougar are rare but can be fatal, especially if young children are involved. In all cases you must fight back as cougar attacks are always predatory and the cougar sees you as a meal. Use rocks, sticks or whatever you have at hand to protect yourself.

If you see a cougar that is watching you, maintain eye contact with the cougar and speak to it in a loud firm voice. Reinforce the fact that you are a human and not an easy target. Back out of the area and seek assistance or shelter.

Call the Conservation Officer Service reporting line (1-877-952-7277) to report the incident.



Deer are one of the cougar's primary food sources. If deer are abundant in an area, especially a wintering area, then there is a good possibility to find cougars using the same area.

The cougar is the largest of the three wild cats in Canada and is a **formidable hunter**. A large male cougar can weigh over 100 kg but more likely to be in the 60-80 kg range. Typically females are about 25% smaller than males. Cougars are strictly carnivorous and usually hunt deer, but **will take young moose, elk or bighorn sheep**. Cougars will also prey on rabbits, squirrels, beavers or other small animals when the opportunity presents itself.

The cat is light brown in colour and is quickly identified by its compact head and large heavy tail tipped at the end in black. Cougar tracks are large padded prints with no claws showing. Like domestic cats, cougars keep their claws retracted until needed for attacking their prey or for climbing trees.

Contrary to popular belief, cougars do not pounce on their prey from overhanging rocks or trees but employ a stalk of an animal and then an explosive series of bounds to leap on their prey. Using both their razor sharp claws and powerful jaws they can quickly kill most any prey they choose to attack.

Large prey takes a number of days to eat and the cougar will pull debris over the carcass to keep off scavengers. The cougar will stay near to a kill site until the prey is totally consumed.



## WHERE'S THE COUGAR?

Visit our website at [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com) to find a map that shows where wildlife has been sighted in your community along with information about what has attracted it into the area. By knowing where wildlife is and what is bringing it in, we can all do our part to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

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



## COUGAR FACTS:

- Cougars are "spot and stalk" hunters and have extremely good vision.
- Cougars have large home ranges and males have been recorded as having travelled over 50 kilometers in one day.
- Young cougars stay with their mother for up to two years at which time she forces them off to fend for themselves.
- Many urban incidents occur with young cougars that have not yet learned how to hunt effectively or older animals that can no longer hunt in the wilds.
- Cougars are secretive animals and are seldom seen by hikers.
- Cougars also go by the name mountain lion, puma, and panther.
- Cougars have one of the widest distributions of mammals in the Americas and can be found all the way from Patagonia to the Yukon border.



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