

# Important

## We Live in Cougar Country

Typically, cougars avoid people and the risk of a cougar attack is rare. However if you live, work, or recreate in cougar habitat, the following steps can help you avoid cougar encounters and make your home and property less attractive to them. Cougars are a vital part of our state's wildlife heritage and play an important role in the ecosystem. Here's how you can do your part...

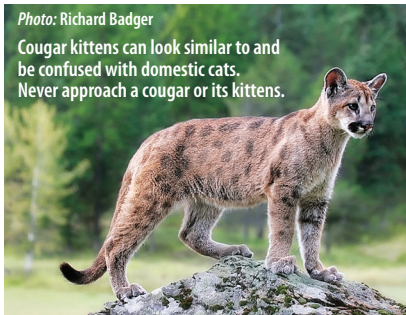
### Cougar Safety Tips:

- ☐ **Don't feed deer or other wildlife.** Do not leave pet food outside. Doing so may attract cougars by attracting their natural prey.
- ☐ **Keep pets secure.** Roaming pets are easy prey for cougars.
- ☐ **Confine and secure livestock** at night (especially goats and sheep) in pens, sheds, and barns.
- ☐ **Avoid a surprise encounter** and make noise when on trails or in areas with significant cover.
- ☐ **Never run, jog, or bike alone**, especially at dawn, dusk or at night.
- ☐ **Landscape wisely.** Prune shrubs to reduce cover for cougar. Remove or fence-in plants that attract deer.
- ☐ **Install outdoor lighting**, such as motion-activated lights, in places where you walk.

Photo: © Daniel J. Cox/NaturalExposures.com

Photo: Richard Badger

Cougar kittens can look similar to and be confused with domestic cats. Never approach a cougar or its kittens.



**Do your part to keep our families and neighbors safe – and cougars in the wild.**

**See the other side for cougar encounter TIPS.**

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## Cougar Smart Tips

Keeping people *and* wildlife safe.

**Cougar FACTS:** Cougars prefer to hunt deer and are most active during dawn, dusk, and at night, but can be seen during the daytime. They are quiet and solitary, typically avoiding humans. Cougars tend to travel long distances in search of food and mates. Still, cougars may prey on pets or livestock when precautions are not taken by people to minimize risk, and in rare cases they have been known to attack people.

Avoid a surprise encounter by making your presence known. The chance of encountering a cougar is extremely low, but take appropriate precautions.

### If you encounter a cougar:

- ☐ **Stop. Do not run.** Keep children close to you. Running and rapid movements may trigger an attack.
- ☐ **Face the cougar.** Talk to it firmly while slowly backing away. Always leave the animal an escape route.
- ☐ **Keep your eyes on the cougar.** Do not turn your back, crouch down, or try to hide.
- ☐ **Never approach the cougar,** especially if it is near a kill or with its kittens. If you see kittens, the mother is usually nearby.
- ☐ **Make yourself appear larger,** more aggressive. Pick up children. Open your jacket, raise your arms, throw stones, branches, etc.
- ☐ If the cougar does not flee, **be more assertive.** If it shows signs of aggression (crouches with ears back, teeth bared, hissing, tail twitching, and hind feet pumping in preparation to jump), shout, wave your arms and throw anything you have available.
- ☐ If the cougar attacks, **be aggressive and fight back.** Protect your head and neck and try to stay on your feet.



Kitten spots begin to fade to dapples at about 9 months and completely disappear by 18 months.

**Please do your part to be responsible stewards of our natural heritage. With your help we can protect both people *and* wildlife.**

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- For more information on cougar safety: [www.bearinfo.org](http://www.bearinfo.org) or [www.wdfw.wa.gov/living/cougars.html](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/living/cougars.html)
  - If a particular cougar poses an immediate threat: **Call 911**
  - To file a non-emergency dangerous wildlife report, **Call 911 or:**  
**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – 1-877-933-9847**



**Keep this for future use or share with your neighbors**