



Co-Existing With Wildlife

Human-animal incidents have been reported in the Incline Village and Crystal Bay community. These events vary from bears causing property damage while gaining access to food sources inside garages to the recent loss by a resident of a beloved companion animal, attributed (but not verified) to coyote predation.



One of the unique qualities of life in the Tahoe Basin is the prevalence of small and large wildlife such as: bear, mountain lion, coyote, fox, raccoon, squirrels, deer, beaver, bobcat, reptiles and birds. Living and vacationing here comes with unique responsibilities for successfully co-existing with wildlife. The abundance of food, water and shelter offered by 'urban landscapes', coupled with unsecured garbage or compost bins, birdseed, fruit trees and unattended domestic animals can lead to conflicts.

Most wild animals are wary of humans and will avoid people whenever possible. Aggressive behavior towards people and property is unusual, and is most often a result of habituation due to feeding by humans.

Taking the following steps can help prevent bears, coyotes, raccoons or other wildlife from being attracted to your home and prevent conflicts:

- Secure all garbage in wild-life resistant containers.
- Invest in a metal bear box or BearSaver trash cart. In summer 2009, more than 25 garage doors have been damaged by bears seeking food sources in the garages such as: food in the freezer, pet food or trash.
- Place trash curbside on day of service only, after 5 am.
- Do not store any human or pet food in the garage.
- Do not feed pets or leave pet food outside.
- If you insist on having a birdfeeder– place it away from the house, hang it up high. Keep birdseed off the ground.
- Clean barbeques after use.
- Remove outside water sources.
- Clear away shrubs next to buildings to reduce hiding places for animals.
- Close off all under the house deck and crawl spaces to prevent animals from living under the building. Bears have been know to sleep under buildings. Coyotes can be aggressive to protect their den site.
- If you see a bear or coyote at your house; make loud noises with pots, pans or an airhorn. Haze the coyote or bear with a water hose.
- Never feed or attempt to 'tame' a wild animal.
- Walk dogs on leash especially during mating and birthing seasons (December to May).
- Keep cats indoors.
- Pick up small children and small dogs if a coyote is near.
- If approached by a coyote or bear– be BIG and LOUD! If the animal does not retreat– stand tall to look larger, throw rocks (aim to hit but not injure), back up slowly, but with any predator– DO NOT RUN!
- Capture and relocation of animals is usually unsuccessful and the animal is eventually euthanized.

In an emergency call 911 - For more information contact the following agencies:

IVGID Waste Not: 775-832-1284 / www.ivgid.org

Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW): 775-588-BEAR / www.ndow.org

BEAR League: 530-525-PAWS / www.savebears.org

Project Coyote: 415-945-3232 / www.projectcoyote.org

