



Scenic Pacifica  
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

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## CITY OF PACIFICA

### Pacifica Police Department

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS DURING WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Pacifica, CA- Although Pacifica is not a rural area, it's important to remember that many areas of Pacifica are bordered by parks and open space that are home to all kinds of wildlife. Wild animals such as coyotes and even mountain lions may see domesticated dogs and cats as prey and will act accordingly. An internet search will provide a large amount of information on co-existing with wildlife but here are a few important safety reminders to reduce the chance of conflicts. This information is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

- Do not feed coyotes or other wildlife.
- Eliminate sources of water around your home.
- If you have bird feeders, make sure they are positioned so other wildlife can't reach them.
- Do not discard edible garbage where wildlife can get to it.
- Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- Feed pets indoors whenever possible. If you do feed your pets outdoors, pick up any leftovers.
- Trim any shrubbery so you do not provide hiding cover for wildlife.
- Fencing your yard could deter but not prevent wildlife from entering your property. Fencing should comply with local ordinances but be at least 6 feet high and extend 6 inches below ground.
- Don't leave small children unattended in areas wildlife has been frequenting.
- Don't allow pets to run free. Walk your dog on a leash and accompany your pets outside, especially at night.

Should you be outside and come into contact with a large animal such as a mountain lion, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife provides the following tips:

- Mountain lions are quiet, solitary and elusive, and typically avoid people.
- Mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare. However, conflicts are increasing as California's human population expands into mountain lion habitat.

- Do not hike, bike, or jog alone.
- Avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active – dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Keep a close watch on small children.
- Do not approach a mountain lion.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- If attacked, fight back.

The links below offer more information about co-existing with our wildlife:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Lion>

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote>

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