

Wild Neighbors

If you are lucky enough to live near land that still supports wildlife, there is a chance that you may see or meet one of your neighbors, the mountain lion.

Good Neighbors

When neighbors make an honest effort to know and respect each other, it can make a difference in the lives of all inhabitants of a neighborhood, both wild and human. Being an aware and considerate neighbor is one of the best ways to keep a naturally diverse community safe for all its residents. Educate yourself and others about local wildlife and its behavior. Your neighbors are counting on you not to attract wildlife to your neighborhood.

Although they now persist in only 12 states, mountain lions called all of North America home for more than 100,000 years. Also known as cougars and pumas, they are solitary and elusive animals which is why most people live and recreate in lion country without ever seeing one. Although they play a keystone role in healthy ecosystems, population numbers are unknown. It is important that we educate ourselves about mountain lions and all wildlife. Learning to be a good neighbor, to live and let live, can help ensure that future generations, wild and human, all survive and thrive, side by side, as neighbors.

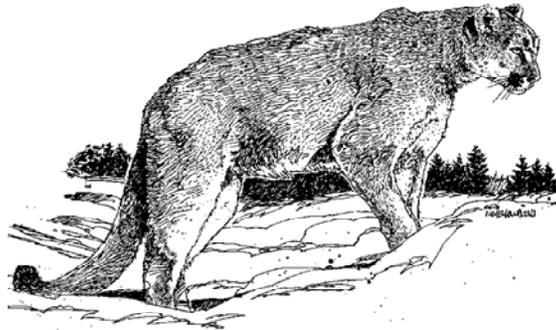


Mountain Lion Foundation

Saving America's Lion

800-319-7621 or 916-442-2666

mlf@mountainlion.org www.MountainLion.org



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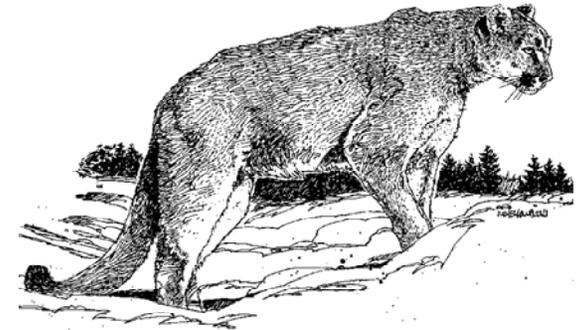


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There are many ways to be a good neighbor, respecting and protecting both human and wild residents of your community.



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Living in Lion Country

Don't feed wildlife. And don't leave pet food outside. Both can attract cougars by attracting prey animals. Wildlife agencies rarely relocate cougars who come into contact with humans, opting instead to shoot them.

Landscape for safety. Remove plants that attract wildlife (deer, raccoons, etc). Wildlife attracts its natural predator—the cougar. Remove dense and low-lying vegetation that offers cover for cougars; make it difficult for cougars to approach your home and yard unseen.

Keep pets safe. Don't allow pets to roam unattended. Bring them inside or secure them in a kennel. Loose pets are easy prey.

Confine and secure livestock. When possible, secure livestock in enclosed barns and sheds at night.

Supervise children. Keep your children safe. Teach them about cougars and other wildlife they might encounter. Watch over them when they are outdoors, especially between dusk and dawn.

Encountering Mountain Lions

Pay attention. Always be aware of your surroundings adjusting your behavior and attending to children accordingly.

Never approach a cougar. Mountain lions usually prefer to avoid humans. If you observe or encounter a cougar, give it the time and space to avoid you and a confrontation.

Stay calm. Face the animal, make eye contact, and stand your ground. Try to convince the cougar you are not prey and may be dangerous. Open your jacket and raise your arms to appear larger and aggressive. Throw whatever you can reach without turning your back or crouching—rocks, branches, implements. Slowly wave your arms and speak in a firm, loud voice.

Maintain eye contact. Even if you must pick up children, do not turn away, bend over or squat down. Doing so causes humans to resemble four-legged prey animals. Remain standing, do not turn away.

Never run past or from a cougar. This may trigger its instinct to chase prey. Stand your ground.

Bring a friend. When in cougar habitat always hike, backpack, and camp with a companion. Keep children close at hand, and within your sight at all times.

Fight back. Try to remain standing, protect your head and neck, and fight back with whatever is at hand. People have successfully fended off cougars using rocks, garden implements, tree branches, and clothing.



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