CAN I SHOOT A BLACK BEAR OR MOUNTAIN LION IF IT IS ATTACKING MY DOG OR MY LIVESTOCK? Statute 33-3-106

- Black bears and mountain lions CAN NOT be destroyed when they are causing damage to personal property, including pets.
- Black bears and mountain lions CAN be killed when it is NECESSARY to prevent them from inflicting death or injury to LIVESTOCK, HUMAN LIFE, real property, or a motor vehicle. Any wildlife killed shall remain the property of the state, and such killing shall be reported to the division within five days. “Real property” means land and generally whatever is erected or growing upon or affixed to land. (Note: “Personal Property” means everything that is subject to ownership, other than real estate. Personal property includes moveable and tangible things, such as animals, furniture and merchandise.)

FAQ's

If a lion is located a DOW officer will respond and, depending on each individual situation, may attempt to haze the lion out of town or tranquilize the lion using a tranquilizer dart gun. If a lion kills a deer or other wildlife in a yard in the city and “caches” it (see Question 3), a wildlife officer, only with permission from the homeowner, may set a trap and attempt to trap and relocate the lion. DOW will kill lions that are aggressive towards people, or lions that are determined to be dangerous. Additionally, the DOW makes every reasonable attempt to notify and educate neighbors and neighborhoods about lions in town by posting signs, knocking on doors, and providing information on neighborhood websites. The DOW and the City of Boulder are always working together to develop the most efficient avenues of notification and continue to try to improve communication about lions and lion activity. Boulder residents and visitors should be aware that a lion may be encountered at any time and should always take appropriate precautions to minimize conflicts with lions (See Questions 8 and 9)

South Dakota

Mountain lions that occur within their natural habitat or range (e.g. the Black Hills) will not be removed unless they are aggressive, dangerous or judged to be an unpreventable threat to public safety. Mountain lions will be removed if they attack a human, livestock or if they are judged to be a substantial threat to public safety. Under South Dakota codified law 46-6-29.2, killing of a mountain lion is permitted if reasonably necessary to protect the life of a person or if a lion is posing an imminent threat to a person’s livestock or pets. If a person kills a mountain lion pursuant to this law, they must contact a department representative within twenty-four hours of killing the mountain lion. The Department will encourage and emphasize problem prevention when dealing with mountain lion incidents. The Department will remove a mountain lion for attacking domestic animals (i.e. pets), but may not remove a lion for attacking or killing pets that are free-roaming or that provoke a mountain lion. Feeding of prey species in urban areas or near rural homes will be discouraged as it can lead to an increased presence of mountain lion.

"...determine if some resolution short of killing the lion is acceptable to the landowner."