

COEXISTING WITH BLACK BEARS

Black bears are vital members of our ecological team.
Here's what you should know:

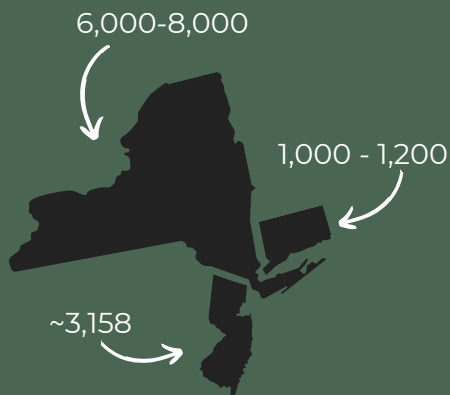
BACKGROUND:

Appearance: usually dark brown/black with a lighter muzzle, though they can range from chocolate to cinnamon shades

Size: Males typically weigh between 130-660lbs. Females are between 90-175lbs

Diet: Omnivorous (roots, berries, grasses, insects, small mammals, fawns, carrion)

ESTIMATED TRI-STATE POPULATION:



Scientific name:

Ursus americanus

KEYS TO COEXISTENCE:



1. RESPECT BEARS

Due to their size and strength, bears are often misunderstood. They deserve for us to respect and preserve their wildness.



2. REMOVE ATTRACTANTS

Secure garbage, clean your backyard grills, and remove bird feeders when bears are most active.



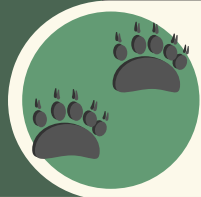
3. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Keep a significant amount of space between you and a bear, particularly a mom with cubs. However, avoid running from bears.



4. HAZE BEARS

Use loud noises and exaggerated movements to reinforce a bear's natural wariness of humans.



5. SPEAK WITH NEIGHBORS

Communicate when you have sightings and encourage neighbors to implement these commonsense coexistence techniques.

Help us keep bears wild.

www.nywolf.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



about black bear coexistence



DO I NEED TO REMOVE MY BIRD FEEDERS?

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation highly recommends that those who live in bear country cease all bird-feeding activity between April 1 and November 30, when black bears are most active. Birds do not require supplemental feeding during the summer months. Removal of attractants is the only long-term solution, and helps keep bears wild and humans/pets safe from conflict. Bears that forage in suburban areas are also far more likely to be hit by vehicles or illegally killed by people.

I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO "PLAY DEAD" DURING BEAR ENCOUNTERS. IS THAT FALSE?

It depends on the species! During a grizzly bear encounter, the key is to play dead until the encounter is over. Grizzly bears, however, currently only live in the west: Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, as well as in western Canada. Black bears are much more common throughout the U.S., and the rule for their encounters is to fight back against an attack. You should never run, regardless of species.

CAN'T WE RELOCATE SUBURBAN BEARS TO THE "COUNTRY"?

Unfortunately, relocation of wildlife is not as humane as it might sound. Relocating bears subjects them to significant stress associated with having to find food in an unfamiliar place, locating den sites, and being subjected to increased competition and conflict with resident bears. Additionally, current research shows that most relocated bears return to their former home ranges within a short period of time, facing many risks along the way if they even survive the harrowing journey. If a bear is exhibiting problematic behaviors, relocation just transfers those problems to another area. Relocation should only be considered in very few specific circumstances. Instead, public education and community efforts to keep bears wild should be utilized to *prevent* conflict.