

Feeding deer is a bad idea. It's also criminal.

Despite the fact that some local feed stores sell commercially produced "deer chow," it is actually illegal in California to feed big game mammals (Title 14, section 251.3). Breaking the law could result in a citation and hefty fines.

www.keepmewild.org

For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Northern Region

Redding – (530) 225-2300

North Central Region

Rancho Cordova – (916) 358-2900

Bay Delta Region

Napa – (707) 944-5500

Central Region

Fresno – (559) 243-4005 ext. 151

South Coast Region

San Diego – (858) 467-4201

Inland Deserts Region

Ontario – (909) 484-0167

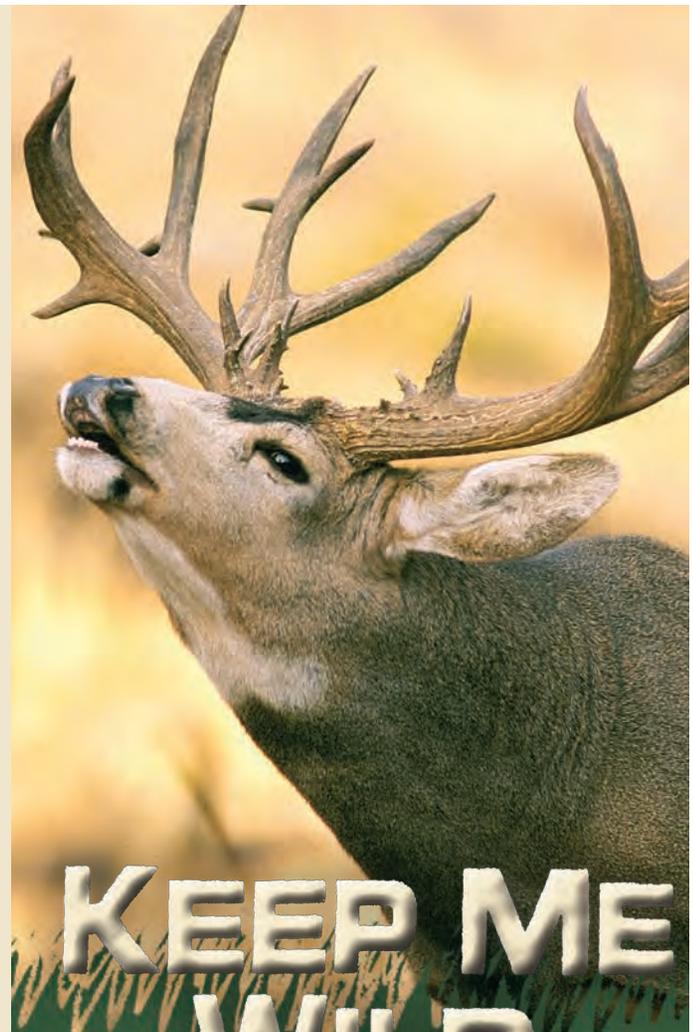
Sacramento Headquarters - (916) 322-8911

To order more pamphlets, please call (916) 322-8911 or email publications@wildlife.ca.gov.

Alternate communication methods are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, (916)322-8911 or the California Relay Service serving deaf and hearing-impaired residents using TTY/TDD phones, and speech-impaired callers, at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



KEEP ME WILD

Feeding Wildlife is Dead Wrong.



California Department
of Fish and Wildlife

Feeding deer is against the law...and does more harm than good.

Wild animals naturally fear people and keep their distance. But once they become accustomed to humans, they lose their natural ways and can become dangerous.

By intentionally feeding wildlife on your property, you are setting the stage for conflict.

Deer that have grown dependent on artificial food sources can become aggressive with humans, pets and each other. They are more likely to become entangled in fences, hammocks and swing sets, and the potential for property damage and deer/vehicle collisions skyrockets. Deer that congregate are also more susceptible to illness and disease.



This diseased fawn is an example of what can happen when deer congregate in large numbers at backyard feed sites.



A hammock became entangled in this deer's antlers.



If you care, leave them there (in the wild, that is!).

In the spring, does leave their young fawns unattended for many hours at a time as they forage for food. If you find a fawn in the wild, never assume that it has been abandoned. If a fawn appears to be injured or you are certain the mother is not coming back, do not attempt to touch it or move it. Please contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or a local wildlife rehabilitation group (a list of these can be found online at CDFW's website) for further instruction.

If in doubt about what to do, ask your local wildlife officer or biologist.

You Can Help

Please visit www.keepmewild.org for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other Keep Me Wild™ materials.

Remember: where there are deer, there are mountain lions! If you are feeding deer, you may also be attracting hungry predators to your property.



How to discourage deer from making themselves at home

There are steps you can take to discourage deer from frequenting your yard.

- Check hardware stores for deer-proof fencing material (electric, or eight-foot tall fencing) and motion-sensitive lights and sprinklers that will frighten away deer.
- Remove attractants like fallen tree fruit and bird feeders.
- Consider using commercially prepared deer repellents (available at garden supply stores).
- Refer to CDFW's "A Gardener's Guide to Preventing Deer Damage" (online at www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/deer.html) for deer-resistant landscaping ideas.



Staying Safe in Mountain Lion Country

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.
- If a mountain lion attacks a person, immediately call 911.

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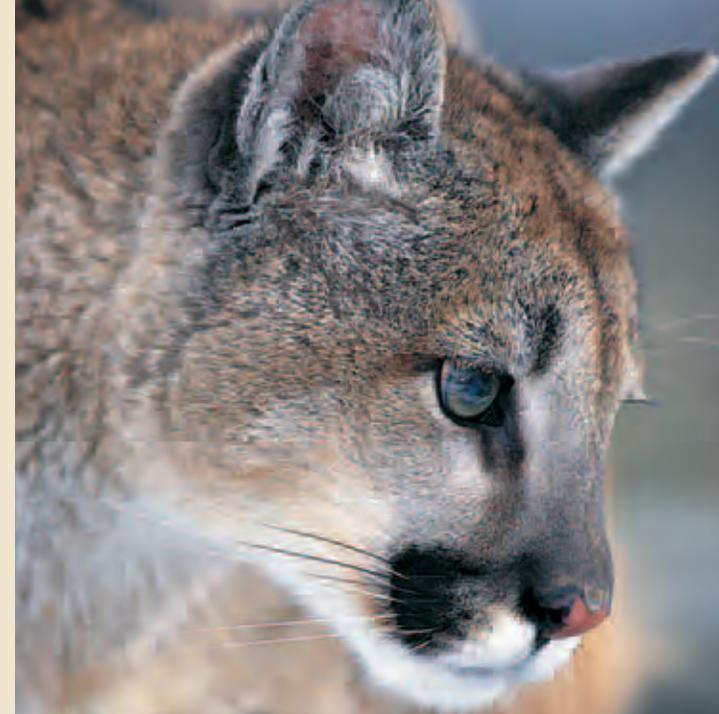
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You may be attracting mountain lions to your property without knowing it!

More than half of California is mountain lion habitat. Mountain lions generally exist wherever deer are found. They are solitary and elusive, and their nature is to avoid humans.

Mountain lions prefer deer but, if allowed, they will also eat pets and livestock. In extremely rare cases, even people have fallen prey to mountain lions.

Mountain lions that threaten people are immediately killed. Those that prey on pets or livestock can be killed by a property owner after the required depredation permit is secured.

Moving problem mountain lions may be done in extreme circumstances. However, relocation may lead to deadly conflicts with other mountain lions already there. Also, relocated animals often return to their former home area. These outcomes must be considered when deciding whether or not to move any carnivore.

Living in Mountain Lion Country

- Don't feed deer; it is illegal in California and will only attract mountain lions.
- Deer-proof your landscape by avoiding plants that deer like to eat. For tips, request *A Gardener's Guide to Preventing Deer Damage* from CDFW offices.
- Trim brush to reduce hiding places for mountain lions.
- Don't leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house and out-buildings.
- Provide sturdy, covered shelters for sheep, goats, and other vulnerable animals.
- Don't allow pets outside when mountain lions are most active – dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Bring pet food inside to avoid attracting raccoons, opossums and other potential mountain lion prey.

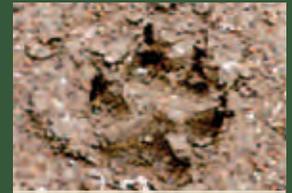
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Identifying Mountain Lion Tracks



Lion track



Dog track

The mountain lion track on the left can be distinguished from the dog track on the right by the absence of toenail prints and by the "M" shaped pad.

Mountain lion range map



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Stash Your Food and Trash

Allowing coyotes access to human food and garbage is reckless and deadly.

Coyotes primarily hunt rodents and rabbits for food, but will take advantage of whatever is available, including garbage, pet food, and domestic animals.

- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- Bring pets in at night, and do not leave pet food outside.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, etc.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these tips.

Please respect and protect wild animals. Keep them wild.

www.keeptomewild.org

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Wild Animals Ruined, Even Killed by People's Carelessness!

Wild animals are in trouble, and the problem is people who are careless with food and garbage.

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are by nature fearful of humans.

If coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear. They may cause property damage. They might threaten human safety. They might be killed.

Relocating a problem coyote is not an option because it only moves the problem to someone else's neighborhood.

Help prevent deadly conflicts for these beautiful wild animals.



A campaign for all wild animals.

“Coyote country” precautions

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes. The result may be deadly conflicts with pets or livestock, or serious injuries to small children.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Be aware that coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young.
- If followed by a coyote, make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.
- If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Wildlife or law enforcement office. After normal business hours, call 911.

Stash Your Food and Trash

Coyote-Proof Containers

Use garbage cans that have a locking mechanism on the lid. Use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object so that it cannot be tipped over.



New Laws

Feeding coyotes is illegal in some communities. Many local ordinances require installation of wildlife-proof garbage containers and make wildlife feeding punishable by fines.



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