

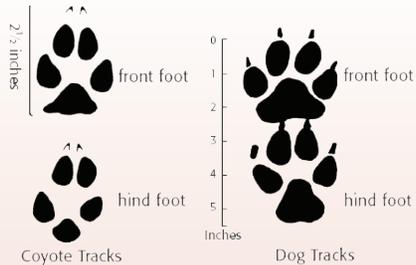
**BEAR RANGE MAP (2016)**

- Abundant
- Common
- Occasional
- Rare
- Bear Management Unit
- County
- FWC Regional Offices
- Water

**BEAR FAST FACTS**

- Bears in Florida numbered as few as 300 in the 1970's. Today there are about 4,350.
- Adult black bears typically weigh between 150 to 400 lbs.
- From the age of 3 years, female bears usually have one to three cubs every two years.
- Breeding season runs from June to August, and cubs are born in late January or early February.
- Bears have a superior sense of smell.
- 80% of the black bear diet includes fruits, nuts and berries; 15% insects; and 5% meat such as opossums, armadillos and carrion.

**COYOTE FAST FACTS**



- Coyotes live throughout Florida and in every state but Hawaii.
- They weigh 15-30 pounds. The males are slightly larger than the females.
- Coyotes eat whatever is available, including fruits, nuts, seeds, dead animals, rodents, garbage, pet food, domestic cats and small dogs.
- They breed every year with 2 to 12 pups per litter. Pups are raised in a den.
- Removing coyotes from one area can result in other coyotes moving in from surrounding areas and producing more pups per litter.

*A Service Of*



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Florida Veterinary Medical Association  
7207 Monetary Drive, Orlando, Florida 32809

If you are experiencing bear or coyote problems, please contact FWC's Wildlife Alert at 888-404-3922 or your nearest FWC regional office:

- Lakeland: 863-648-3200**
- Panama City: 850-265-3676**
- Lake City: 386-758-0525**
- Ocala: 352-732-1225**
- West Palm: 561-625-5122**



**PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM BLACK BEARS & COYOTES**





*In the event of a pet treeing a bear, call your pet inside to a safe and secure area, allowing the bear time to retreat.*

- Store pet feed inside a secure structure such as a shed or barn.
- Avoid leaving pet food or dishes outside overnight
- Tethered pets should be able to move a safe distance away from their food bowl.
- Outdoor pens should be high enough or have a roof to keep wildlife out and have a skirt that extends outward, underground to prevent digging under the fence. Pens should be as far as possible from tree/shrub lines or other cover for wildlife.
- Keep areas around outside pens and enclosures well mowed to reduce cover.
- Before letting pets outside at night, make noise and flash lights to startle other wildlife that could be in the yard.
- Install motion detector lights around your property.

## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

- Black bears and coyotes are most commonly attracted to neighborhoods by unsecure garbage, pet food, and bird seed; most interactions can be reduced if residents remove and secure trash with either a caddy or bear-resistant trash can; minimize the time pet food and bird seed are outside, and keep those foods secure.
- Coyotes in urban areas are attracted by free roaming pets. Interactions can be resolved by keeping cats and other small animals indoors.
- Bear spray can be used to deter a bear if you encounter one at close range (within 30 ft). This highly-effective product can be found online or through most outdoor product suppliers.
- Consider walking your pet on a non-retractable leash which allows better control of your pet in the event of an encounter.
- Bears and coyotes are most active at night and during dusk and dawn.



*Protect your pets with an electric fencing enclosure. Check often to ensure that the fence is functioning properly.*

For More Resources on Electric Fencing:  
<http://MyFWC.com/Media/1333878/ElectricFence.pdf>



*Sturdy wooden hutches are the most reliable form of protection for outdoor small animal enclosures such as rabbits and guinea pigs. Securely attach a side of the cage to a permanent structure to prevent the hutch from falling over. Secure doors with locks, keep top covered and secured. In bear country, add an electric fence for further protection.*

- While walking your pet, bring noise makers or bear spray. Making noise will alert wildlife to your presence and allow time for it to move away from you and your pet.
- If contact occurs between your pet and wildlife, do not try to physically separate your pet and the animal. Retreat to a safe place; if possible, spray the animal with bear spray or a water hose and make loud noises to try to break up the contact.
- Hazing is an effective way to encourage wildlife to stay away from people. Making noise with your voice, an air or car horn, pots and pans, or a can full of pennies are recommended techniques. In addition, you can deter a coyote by throwing sticks or rocks from a secure location, but try to avoid injuring the animal.