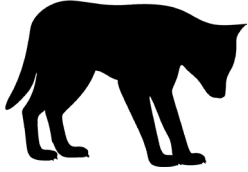


Lions & Tigers & Bears...

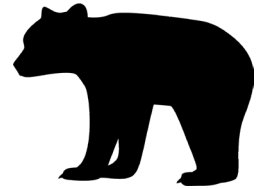
Wildlife Safety



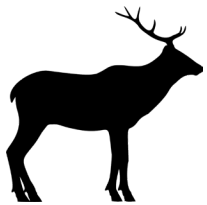
As the days start getting warmer, coyotes are in their mating season, bears are starting to awaken from hibernation, and all the predators are hungry. So how can we keep them off our property? Turns out that discouraging four-legged predators is a lot like discouraging two-legged ones.

Fencing is a very effective way to deter predators. Make sure it is made of a sturdy material like wood, vinyl, or chain link. It must be high enough to stop them from jumping over, at least 6 feet. Adding a [roller top](#) to your fence makes it harder for them to gain a foothold and climb over. For even more protection, consider an electric fence that won't kill the animal, just give a surprising jolt and convince them to move on.

Remove any **food sources**. Bird feeders attract other hungry animals, including bears. You might not mind deer enjoying your fruit trees, but that makes your yard a hunting spot for mountain lions. Be sure to clean up fallen fruit regularly. Garbage is another food source, so use sturdy, lidded cans and keep them in a secure area.



Eliminate **hiding spots**. Trimming back overgrown landscaping and keeping it well-maintained will eliminate hiding or den spots for predators. You should be able to see between the building and any shrubbery. Keep tree limbs trimmed so they hang no lower than six feet from the ground, and keep bushes less than two feet high. This provides a clear line of sight across your property and eliminates hiding spots.



Many predators are active at night, so **motion-sensing lights or alarms** will make them feel exposed and more likely to move on to another hunting ground.

If you have a frequent visitor, **learn its patterns** and use scheduled alarms to make sure it knows it's not welcome.

Simulating **human activity** can deter animals. This might be playing the radio or spreading scents like soap or hair. Just be sure to change the method regularly, as predators will get used to the sights and smells after a time and realize they are not a danger. Monitor your property and adapt your strategy as needed.

Depending on the property, you might consider a **guarding animal**. Breeds like Great Pyrenees, Anatolian Shepherds, and Akbash dogs are bred to guard livestock from predators. They are vigilant and will actively confront threats. If you have a little more room, donkeys are known to be aggressive toward predators. Their loud brays and kicks will keep coyotes away. Llamas and Alpacas have a strong herding instinct and will band together to protect themselves and other livestock from threats.

