

Coyotes & Bears Activity

Coyotes are found throughout Florida.

Coyotes can and do prey on domestic cats and small dogs. Most coyote attacks on pets occur either at night or in the early evening or morning hours (dusk and dawn). To protect your pets do not allow them to roam freely. Free-roaming cats are at a high risk of being preyed on by coyotes and other animals. Walk small dogs on a short leash that is less than six feet, especially at night, dusk or dawn. Be extra careful if you are going to walk your pet in wooded areas or areas that have heavy foliage, where coyotes may rest. Report unusual coyote activity to your nearest FWC Regional Office. For additional information about coyote biology visit [FWC Coyote Species Profile](#)

Black bears generally are not aggressive, but they have injured people in Florida. Never intentionally approach any bear. When walking dogs in bear country, keep them close to you—preferably on a non-retractable leash—and be aware of your surroundings. Dogs can trigger defensive behaviors from bears, especially females with cubs.

- If bears can't find food in your neighborhood, they'll move on.

To keep bears away from your home and neighborhood, follow these simple tips:

Secure garbage in a sturdy shed, garage or a [bear-resistant container](#).

- Put household garbage out on morning of pickup rather than the night before.
- Feed pets indoors or bring in dishes after feeding.

Keep garage doors closed so bears cannot access freezers or refrigerators, garbage, or pet food stored in the garage.

Remove wildlife/bird feeders

Encourage your homeowners' association or local government to institute bylaws or ordinances to require trash be kept secure from bears.

Having conflicts with bears?

Call the FWC's regional office in Ocala at [352-732-1225](tel:352-732-1225). If you feel threatened by a bear or want to report someone who is either harming bears or intentionally feeding them, call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at [888-404-FWCC](tel:888-404-FWCC) (3922).