Living in Mountain Lion Territory

Living in Nevada, we are offered the unique opportunity to live closely with some amazing wildlife! This includes mountain lions which can be found all over the state, especially where mule deer live. Learning how to coexist with mountain lions is an important job for Nevadans. Here are some tips to help you live with mountain lions:

Backyard Tips:

- Remove anything that might be attracting the mountain lions or their food sources.
 - This can include birdseed, pet food, trash or compost, water features, fallen fruit, excess shrubs, woodpiles, decks or other structures that can provide cover or a place to den.



- Make efforts to discourage deer from being present in your yard, deer are one of the top food sources for mountain lions so if they are in your yard, a lion could be too.
- Install devices to scare away the lions.
 - Motion activated lights and/or sprinklers are a great place to start!

Pet Tips:

Dog owners -

- Supervise your dog when it is outside, especially at dawn and dusk.
 - If you must leave your dog outside, make sure you leave it in a fully enclosed dog run with a roof.
- If walking your dog, keep it on a 6ft leash.

Cat owners -

The only way to ensure your cats safety is to keep them indoors or in an outdoor cat enclosure that is secure. This not only keeps your cat in, but other animals out.

Livestock Tips:

- For any small livestock, like chickens, rabbits or goats, make sure they are kept in fully enclosed pens or coops.
 - From dusk until dawn, make sure they are kept in enclosed areas with roofs. Make sure there are no areas where an animal can enter.
- If you let your livestock out into unsecured areas, do so when it is light out. Bring your livestock into fully enclosed areas from dusk until dawn to help prevent conflicts.
- Invest in livestock guardian animals.
 - Great Pyrenees (and many other dog breeds), llamas or donkeys make great guardians.

Human Tips:

- Always make noise when recreating outside in mountain lion country.
- NEVER run away! Or corner an animal.
 - They are predators and running from a mountain lion may trigger them to run after you.
- Back away slowly, and don't turn your back to the animal.
- In the unlikely scenario the animal becomes aggressive, **ALWAYS** fight back.

Am I in Danger?

Human and mountain lion conflicts are extremely rare, taking the above precautions will help limit conflicts that may arise. Learning how to interact with mountain lions is also an important step in making sure Nevada and our wildlife stays wild!

Jessica Wolff
Department of Wildlife
Urban Wildlife Coordinator
jwolff@ndow.org