

## Mountain lion attacks are very rare.

In recent decades in the United States there have been:

- 89 fatalities per year due to lightning strikes.
- 12 fatalities per year due to domestic dog attacks.
- 100 people killed per year in automobile accidents involving deer.
- One person killed every two and one half years by mountain lions.

## If you live in mountain lion country these are some ways to reduce the chance of encountering a mountain lion:

- **Don't feed the wildlife** – you may inadvertently attract mountain lions, which prey upon them.
- **Deer-proof your landscape** – avoid using plants that deer prefer to eat.
- **Landscape for safety** – remove dense and/or low-lying vegetation that would provide good cover for mountain lions.
- **Install motion activated outdoor lighting** – to keep any approaching mountain lions visible.
- **Keep pets secure** – roaming pets are easy prey for hungry mountain lions. Either bring pets inside or keep them in a kennel with a secure top. Don't feed pets outside.
- **Keep livestock secure** - where practical, place livestock in enclosed sheds and barns at night.
- **Keep children safe** – talk with children about mountain lions and teach them what to do if they encounter one.
- **Don't hike alone** – go in groups, with adults supervising children.

## If you encounter a mountain lion:

- **Keep Children close to you** – keep children within your sight at all times.
- **Do not approach a mountain lion** – most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

- **Do not run from a mountain lion** – running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact.
- **Do not crouch or bend over** – a person squatting or bending over looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal.
- **Be as BIG as possible** – raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Pick up small children. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice.
- **If attacked, FIGHT BACK** – People have fought back successfully with sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools and their bare hands. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the attacking animal.

## Immediately report all encounters or attacks.

If you are involved in a face-to-face encounter with, or an attack by, a mountain lion, call 911. The threat to public safety will be assessed and any appropriate action will be taken. Report any sightings of dead or injured mountain lions to your local California Department of Fish and Game office.

Each of us plays a role in the survival of our native wildlife and the ecosystem we all depend on.

## Partners

The Embury Institute for  
Wildlife Conservation  
[www.joanembury.com](http://www.joanembury.com)

Wildlife Health Center  
University of California, Davis  
[www.wildlifehealthcenter.org](http://www.wildlifehealthcenter.org)



Zoological Society of  
San Diego  
[www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org)

The Anza-Borrego  
Institute  
[www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org)



California State  
Parks  
[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

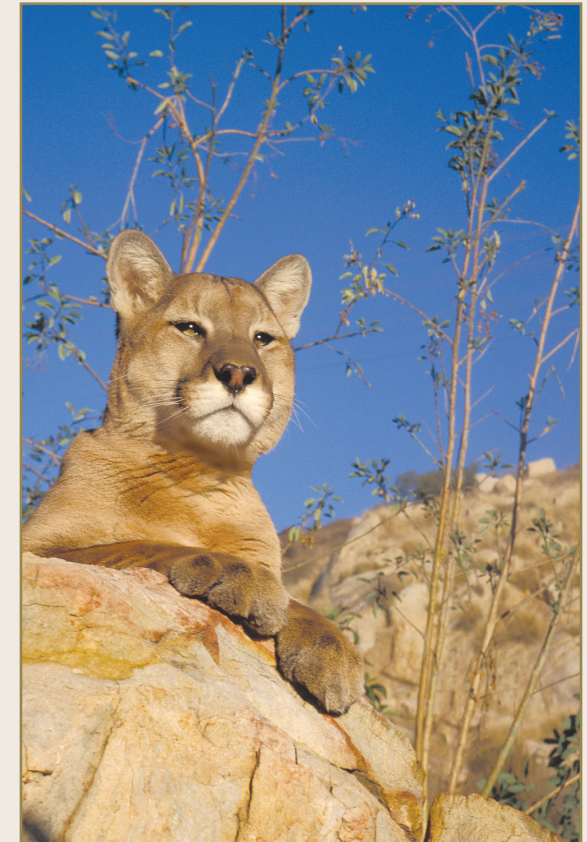
California Department of  
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# Mountain Lions and You



## What you should know

Wildlife Health Center  
University of California, Davis

The Embury Institute for  
Wildlife Conservation





Stephen Francis Photography



**It is important that people understand their role in reducing conflicts with wildlife.**

California is steadily losing wild lands to development.

To balance the demands for natural resources, we will need to learn more about the little known lifestyle and habits of the mountain lion, its prey and other life forms that share its habitat.



**Conservation of mountain lion habitat is good for mountain lions as well as a multitude of other species.**

**Size:**

Male – 8 ft. long – 130-150 lbs.  
 Female – 7 ft. long – 65-90 lbs.

**Solitary:** mountain lions live and hunt alone.

**Activity Period:** mountain lions are most active around dusk and dawn and during night time periods.

**Dispersal:** move up to 100 miles from natal (birth) range to establish adult range.

**Population:** approximately 4,000 to 6,000 adults in California – additional research is needed to make more accurate estimates.

**Home Range:**

Female – approximately 40-80 sq. miles  
 Male – approximately 80-300 sq. miles

**Diet:** It requires approximately 50 deer per year (1 per week) to sustain one solitary adult.



**Sexual Maturity:**

Female – approximately 21 months  
 Male – approximately 24 months

**Gestation:** approximately 90 days

**Litter size:** 1 to 6, usually 2 to 4, of which one-half survive to adulthood.

**About one-half (80,000 sq. miles) of California is considered mountain lion habitat.**



**The future of mountain lions in fragmented habitats depends on protecting critical habitat and connecting corridors.**

**Mountain lion predation on domestic animals and livestock = dead mountain lions.**

An average of 114 mountain lions have been killed every year for the last 10 years under these permits. A proper enclosure (with a secure top) for your domestic animals will help to protect you, your family, your animals and mountain lions.



Enclosure plans available at: [www.mountainlion.org/publications.asp](http://www.mountainlion.org/publications.asp)