



pasadena humane society & spca

open door. dedicated care.

THE BEAR NECESSITIES

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has jurisdiction over all wildlife in California. The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA DOES NOT tranquilize, trap or capture healthy wildlife. If requested, the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA will respond to calls only to assess the situation and consult California Department of Fish and Wildlife for any further action.

When bears become “food conditioned” they will seek human food out more as opposed to finding their own natural foods. Conditions such as fires and droughts can force bears and other wildlife further in their search for food and water.

Black Bears are more timid and are rarely aggressive unless they are defending their young. Bears are intelligent. The normal human reaction to a bear encounter is to freeze and/or run away, which actually sends the bear the wrong message; you need to let the bear know that it needs to leave! Make sure the bear has a safe escape route. When you are at a safe distance, make eye contact and yell at the bear. If you have bear spray, make sure you are upwind of the bear before using it.

Tips to Discourage Bears from Your Property

- Do not put out trash cans the night before pick up.
- Store garbage cans in a garage or closed shed.
- Keep garbage cans clean. Deodorize and disinfect them with bleach or ammonia.
- Promptly collect fruit that falls from trees. Harvest fruit as soon as it's ripe.
- Remove plants that attract bears, such any berries including Dogwood.
- Eliminate bird feeders during spring and summer when there are natural foods available for birds.
- Eliminate compost piles.
- Keep barbeque grills clean and free of drippings.
- Consider purchasing bear spray and keep it next to your front and/or back door.

Facts

The Black Bear, or *Ursus americanus*, is the smallest of the three bears that reside in North America; the other two are Brown Bear (Grizzlies and Kodiak Bears are classified as Brown Bears) and Polar Bear.

Not all Black Bears are Black. Black bears have color phases: black, brown, cinnamon, blonde and even white.

Bears will not hibernate if there is warm weather during the summer and a consistent food supply.

A Bear's sense of smell is approximately 7 times greater than a bloodhound, or 2,100 times better than a human.