

BOBCAT INFORMATION

Bobcats are a natural part of living in Nevada and they are often found in neighborhoods because we provide them with such awesome habitat. We do this by having lawns which rabbits graze on (rabbits make up about 60% of a bobcat's diet), we feed birds which attracts not only birds but also rodents, and we have trash which, again will attract rodents and other animals a bobcat might eat.

Removing a bobcat from the area will not, ultimately, solve the issues in your neighborhood because it will open up a place in the habitat for another bobcat to come and take its place. The best long-term solution to your issues is to learn to live with the bobcat and teach it "good" bobcat behavior. Below are a few tips that can help with this:

In your backyard –

- Remove anything that might be attracting the bobcats 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.
 - Install devices to scare away the bobcats.
 - Motion activated lights and/or sprinklers are a great place to start!
 - NEVER allow a bobcat to become comfortable around your home, whenever you see a bobcat scare it away!
- ** It's important to keep in mind, bobcats can become used to these tactics to varying your methods of scaring them away is important! **

With your pets –

Ultimately as pet owners we are responsible for the health and safety of our animals. With this, there are ways to easily protect them, and our wildlife, from interacting. Below are some tips for not only living near bobcats but also coyotes.

Dog Owners –

- Supervise your dog when it is outside.
 - If you must leave your dog outside, make sure you leave it in a fully enclosed dog run that has a roof.
- If walking your dog, keep it on a 6ft leash.
 - Avoid using extendable leashes because this limits the control you have over your pet.
 - If you encounter a bobcat on your walk, make sure to scare it away. You can do this by waving your arms over your head and yelling at the bobcats. Airhorns or other noise makers can also be used to scare the bobcat away.
- Do not allow your dog to interact with bobcats!
 - Never allow your dog to chase or follow bobcats for any reason.

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.
- This protects cats from bobcats and other animals, parasites, diseases, and cars. It also helps to protect our native wildlife from domestic cats.

Just like with coyotes, human and bobcat conflicts are EXTREMELY rare, they are often more fearful of us than we are of them. But we understand it can be unnerving living in such close proximity to one. One of the best things you and your neighbors can do in order to live with the bobcat is scare it or haze it away whenever you see it. Properly hazing an animal means getting as big and loud and aggressive as you possibly can. I like to tell people to act like your dog is about to eat a bad mushroom and use all that energy to get them to stop! You can also use things like water from a hose to spray at the bobcat to get it to go away, use pots and pans or airhorns. Anything that is loud and scary will ultimately help in teaching the bobcat that it does not want to be around humans.

As I stated before, human and bobcat conflicts are extremely rare. The best thing to do with animals in the area is to help to teach the ones in the area (and your neighbors) how to properly live with them. For more information on the cats of Nevada, here is a great webinar we have recently put on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDIMCn7_UVY&t=7s

Please let me know if you have any questions on these tips, or how to live in bobcat habitat.

Kind regards,
Jessica Wolff
775-688-1501