

If you encounter a lynx, bobcat or cougar

- Never approach the animal, especially if it's near a kill or with young.
- Never offer it food.
- Do not run, a cat's instinct is to chase.
- If you're with others, stay together and act as a group.
- Face the animal and talk firmly while slowly backing away.
- Always leave the animal an escape route.
- Do not crouch down or try to hide, instead try to appear larger.
- Do not take your eyes off the animal or turn your back.
- If the animal does not flee, be more assertive by shouting, waving your arms and throwing anything available.

How to make a property uninviting

Eliminate sources of food

- Do not put meat, fish or other attractive foods in your composter.
- Frequently wash garbage cans, recycling containers and their lids with a strong-smelling disinfectant.
- Do not leave garbage cans outside overnight.
- Secure garbage lids, clean up spilled garbage and do not leave garbage around a campsite or cottage.
- Empty the grease trap from barbecues.
- Feed pets indoors.

How to avoid conflicts

- Consider motion-sensing lights to light all walkways around your home.
- Watch for signs of animal activity such as tracks, claw marks and droppings.
- Make noise as you travel through the woods — talk, sing, carry a radio.
- Travel in groups.
- If hiking alone, tell someone where you plan to go and what time you expect to return.
- Keep dogs leashed so they do not provoke attacks by wild animals.

Lethal action

- If preventative measures have failed, landowners may humanely kill a lynx or bobcat that is damaging or about to damage their property.
- If you use a firearm, you must follow certain regulations and local bylaws.
- Landowners can hire an agent, including a trapper, to act on their behalf.