



Dogs + Bears = Trouble

Tips for Hiking / Camping with Dogs

By nature, black bears are neither confrontational nor aggressive, but dog behavior is more complex.

Dogs are involved in the majority of all physical encounters involving people and black bears.

If your dog gets into an encounter with a bear, there's about a fifty percent chance it will be injured or killed. And an even higher chance you'll be injured if you intervene.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Bears will protect their food and defend their cubs.

Bears don't like to be cornered.

If your dog runs after a bear, it may bring the bear back to you.

- ◆ Keep your dog on a non-retractable leash at all times.
- ◆ Carry bear spray and know how to use it.
- ◆ Stay alert; music and phones are distracting.
- ◆ Avoid walking at dawn, dusk or at night in areas with known bear activity.
- ◆ If you see a bear, turn around and leave.
- ◆ Don't let your dog bark at, harass, chase, or corner a bear.
- ◆ If your dog gets into a fight with a bear, don't rescue it. You will get injured. Use bear spray; it works from 30 feet away.
- ◆ An air horn will alert others that you need help, and may startle or distract both dog and bear.

Making the right choices
can keep dogs and people safe, and bears wild.

Making the wrong choices
can have serious consequences for all.



Letting your dog off leash in the campground or the woods is usually illegal and always dangerous.

It may be tempting to let your dog run free, but don't put your dog and yourself at risk. **PLEASE, LEASH UP.**

