

Bears

Black Bears are the most common of the 3 species found in North America. They are not always black, they can be brown.

Not **true** hibernators; they can drop their heart rate to 8 beats per minute but maintain their body temperature only a few degrees. Den sites are in caves, hollowed out trees, under porches of summer homes.

Born in January or February (in the den). 1 to 4 cubs remain in the den for the first three months of life. Emerging from the den in spring, they are the size of an adult raccoon. Cubs are mobile and may appear alone – **DO NOT APPROACH**. They remain with their mother for the first two years of life.

Active in the evening, depending on environmental factors (such as human presence).

Terrestrial and arboreal (move about on the ground and can climb trees)

Large habitats are necessary to sustain their nutritional needs. They are intolerant of other bears in their habitat.

Diet is mostly plant food but also insects, live small prey & carrion. Pet foods left outside, bird feeders, garbage cans, fruit trees & berry patches can become part of their main staple unless corrective actions are taken. Bears will lose their natural fear of humans if no negative consequences are given at their proximity to humans.

Exclusion techniques:

Hikers and campers in bear territory often carry capsaicin Pepper Spray. Use this information: this is an ingredient in some types of hot sauces and cayenne peppers. Sprinkle it on the surfaces being chewed (do not later consume that item yourself)!

Electric wire around fruit trees, compost piles, bee hives.

Secure garbage cans (or take the trash out in the morning instead of at night). To purchase special bins go to:

www.bearproofinc.com, www.bearsaver.com, www.unbearablebins.com

Pick up spilled seeds and take down the bird feeders at night.

Do not store pet food outside.

At **first** sighting and from a safe distance make loud noises (reinforces the fear of humans).

Black bears are shy and the first defense is to run away from, potential threats. They can climb rapidly and run quickly. The dog like 'woof' is an indicator when they are startled.

More information may be found from:

www.bearsmart.com

www.bearaffairs.com

www.bear.org

electric fencing available from margosuppliers.com, udap.com, electrobraid.com, gallagherusa.com, kencove.com, masflex.com, premier1supplies.com, zarebasystems.com.

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