

LIVING WITH BEARS

Information provided by Florida Fisheries & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

Not sure what is attracting bears? [Take the quiz](#).

Watch the video detailing [A Day for a Bear](#)

Secure attractants (food sources):

[Feeding bears or allowing the placement of food accessible by bears is prohibited by law](#). Bears do not view humans as prey but can and will learn to associate humans with food if they are continually rewarded with free meals from garbage cans and dumpsters. **A fed bear is a dead bear**. Bears that obtain human-sourced food can lose their natural fear of people and potentially become a public safety threat that may require trapping and killing. **Relocating the bear is not a permanent solution as another bear will find unsecured attractants**. Secure [food sources that bring bears to your yard](#) in locked enclosed areas like a garage or shed. You can consider purchasing a [bear resistant container](#) that Collier County can service.

Pets:

It is possible to live in bear country [safely with your dogs and cats](#) without experiencing a negative encounter. Bears are typically not interested in pets as prey. However, most pet-bear encounters occur when pets defend their owners, pets are left unattended on the lanai or in a yard, or pets are free roaming. If pets give chase to bears, bears will defend themselves and their young. Follow the tips in this [video](#) or "[Protect your Pets from Bears and Coyotes](#)".

Bear behavior and hazing bears:

Bears generally avoid people and can be scared off by using sudden loud noises. This video focusing on [bear behavior](#) helps you assess how to safely react to a bear based on the [behavior](#) displayed. This video talks about [how to safely haze a bear](#) without putting yourself or the bear in danger. Check out the demonstration on the use and effectiveness of [bear spray](#).

Property damage:

Damage due to bears is common in communities where bears are accessing food sources. [Motion-activated alarms or motion-activated water sprinklers](#) can also be useful in deterring bears.

HOAs:

If you live in a community with a homeowner's association, [protect your HOA](#) from [liability](#) by becoming a [BearWise community](#) web link or [video](#).

[BearWise](#)® Bear Resistant Can Programs:

Your waste management provider offers bear resistant cans and/or retrofit kits. Please contact them at 239-649-2212 to find out more.

Wildlife feeders:

Winding Cypress discourages the use of bird feeders as the seed attracts bears and raccoons, among other wildlife. NEVER store birdseed or other food items for human or animal consumption outside your home or on your lanai area.