



## Stash Your Food and Trash

Allowing wild animals access to human food is reckless and deadly.

Bears and other animals are attracted to anything edible or smelly.

- Store garbage in bear-proof containers, or store garbage in your garage until pick-up.
- Keep food indoors or in airtight and odor-free containers.
- Put away picnic leftovers; clean BBQ grills.
- Keep pet food inside, and bird feeders away.
- Pick up fallen fruit as soon as possible, or protect fruit trees with electric fencing.
- Remove cosmetic fragrances and other attractants, including bird feeders and compost piles.
- Install or request bear-proof trash containers.

When wild animals are allowed to feed on human food and garbage, they lose their natural ways – often resulting in death for the animal.

Please respect and protect wild animals.  
Keep them wild.

[www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org)

### For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sacramento Headquarters – (916) 322-8911

Northern Region  
Redding – (530) 225-2300

North Central Region  
Rancho Cordova – (916) 358-2900

Bay Delta Region  
Napa – (707) 944-5500

Central Region  
Fresno – (559) 243-4005 ext. 151

South Coast Region  
San Diego – (858) 467-4201

Inland Deserts Region  
Ontario – (909) 484-0167

Alternate communication methods are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife, (916)322-8911 or the California Relay Service serving deaf and hearing-impaired residents using TTY/TDD phones, and speech-impaired callers, at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



# KEEP ME WILD

## Feeding Wildlife is Dead Wrong.



California Department  
of Fish and Wildlife

# Wild Animals Ruined, Even Killed by People's Carelessness!

Wild animals are in trouble, and the problem is people: our carelessness and irresponsibility with food and garbage.

Black bears, coyotes and other wild animals are increasing in California's wild habitats, alongside our own expanding communities.

Wild animals naturally fear humans, keep their distance and will not bother you, so long as they remain fully wild. But if they lose their wildness, their behavior changes.

If black bears are mistreated by people who give them access to human food and garbage, they rapidly become addicted. They lose caution and fear. They cause property damage. They might threaten human safety. They might be killed.

Please prevent deadly conflicts with our wildlife.



## Bear Country Precautions

- Keep a close watch on children, and teach them what to do if they encounter a bear.
- While hiking, make noise to avoid a surprise encounter with a bear.
- Never keep food in your tent.
- Store food and toiletries in bear-proof containers or in an airtight container in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Keep a clean camp by cleaning up and storing food and garbage immediately after meals.
- Use bear-proof garbage cans whenever possible or store your garbage in a secure location with your food.
- Never approach a bear or pick up a bear cub.
- If you encounter a bear, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to appear as large as possible.
- If attacked, fight back.
- If a bear attacks a person, immediately call 911.

If in doubt as to what to do, ask your local wildlife officer, park ranger, or wildlife biologist. Or visit our Web site: [www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org)

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### Bear-Proof Containers

A variety of bear-proof food containers and garbage can enclosures are available. Visit [www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org) for more information.

### Bear Feeding Laws

It is illegal to feed bears in California. Penalties may include a fine and/or jail time.



### You Can Help

Please visit [www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org) for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other Keep Me Wild™ materials.