

Safety Tips

- Do not feed bobcats or other wild-life.
- Bobcats rarely attack people. If you encounter a bobcat that does not run away immediately, scare it by making loud noise and waving your arms.
- Keeps domestic animals in secured enclosures with sturdy roofs.
- Place bird feeders well above bobcat reach.
- Sturdy fencing may discourage bobcats. However, they are able to climb trees and jump or climb over some fencing.
- Keep pets confined to securely fenced areas. Walk dogs on leash and keep cats indoors.
- If you observe a bobcat in the wild, stop and allow it to escape. Avoid contact with all wildlife. By maintaining a healthy barrier we are able to support their natural fear of humans.
- Practice Hazing

If You Have a Bobcat Problem:

Report sightings and problems with bobcats to:

Animal Services 972-466-3420



Description: Bobcats are highly variable in appearance ranging from reddish brown to gray with either faint or dark spots. Look for the short, black-tipped tail and tufted ears. Bobcats typically range in size from 11-20 pounds, but some large individuals, usually males, can weigh up to 35 pounds.

Habitat: Bobcats are found throughout Texas. They are highly adaptable and can be found in virtually any habitat from desert to wetlands. In urban and suburban areas, they favor wooded, brushy areas and use forested corridors for travel through their range. Bobcats usually spend the day under cover and hunt at night. They den in crevices in canyon walls, in boulder piles, in thickets or under decks. Bobcats are expert at climbing trees and will seek refuge in them when available.

Diet: Bobcats prey upon a wide variety of small animals including rabbits, squirrels, rats and mice. Other small animals, such as birds or reptiles, and carrion may also be eaten. Small dogs, cats and domestic poultry may be at risk, especially when wild animals are scarce during periods of drought or extreme weather.

Bobcats in the city: The city manages this issue in a manner that supports public health and safety, without impacting out local ecosystem. Without bobcats, we would have an influx of rabbits, field mice, cotton rats and snakes. Through education we hope to eliminate the fear associated with bobcat . Bobcats have a natural fear of humans, which works to our advantage. By respecting all wildlife we prevent crossing the line usually responsible for conditioning wildlife to humans. It is this conditioning that creates the greatest threat to public health and safety.

Bobcat Hazing Guidelines

Helping bobcats be good neighbors

Generally, bobcats are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Bobcats who've adapted to urban and suburban environments, however, may realize there are few real threats and approach people or feel safe visiting yards even when people are present. These bobcats have become habituated (lost their fear of humans), likely due to the readily available food in our neighborhoods. Sometimes, this food is deliberately provided by people who like to watch wild animals or misguidedly feel they are helping them by feeding. These bold bobcats should not be tolerated or enticed, but definitely given the message that they should not be so brazen.

Hazing is a method that makes use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a bobcats fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and play spaces.

Methods of Hazing Include:

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical; bobcats can be habituated to individual items, sounds, and actions.

- Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the bobcat
- Noisemakers: voice, whistles, air horns, bells, soda cans filled with pennies, pots and pans banged together
- Water hose, water gun, pepper spray

The simplest way of hazing involves being **loud** and **large**. Stand tall, wave your arms and yell at the bobcat, approaching if necessary, until it runs away.

If a bobcat has not been hazed before, it may not immediately run away when you yell at it. If this happens, you may need to walk towards the bobcat and increase the intensity of your hazing.

The bobcat may run away, but then stop after a distance and look at you. It is important to continue to haze the bobcat until it completely leaves the area. You may need different tactics, such as noisemakers, stomping your feet, or spraying the bobcat with a hose, to get it to leave.

How to protect dogs, cats and other small animals:

It is natural for bobcats to hunt small mammals-usually "easy" prey such as rabbits, birds and rats. Keeping your cats indoors is the best way to protect them from harm- not only from bobcats and coyotes but also cars, diseases, dogs and even mean spirited people. Wild

If you see a bobcat in your neighborhood please report it immediately. By sharing your experience Animal Services can more accurately track the movement of the bobcat. If it is determined through these reports and our survey that a risk to public health and safety exists, additional action may be taken. All reports may be filed online at <http://www.cityofcarrollton.com/departments/departments-a-f/animal-services/wild-life-activity>

Please report the following:

- Number of bobcats
- Time of day
- Direction bobcat was moving
- Specific location of sighting.