

## Encountering Wild Animals in the Park

When you take part in activities in the Park, you are in a protected natural wilderness environment that is home to numerous animal species. They include **black bears, coyotes, wolves and on rare occasions even cougars**. These species normally avoid humans. Attacks are therefore very rare, but caution is still advised. Here are some guidelines for safety in Gatineau Park:



### In the Forest

- Make a noise in order to avoid surprising animals.
- Keep children close to you at all times.
- Avoid walking alone, especially at dusk and dawn.
- Avoid attracting wild animals with food odours.
  - Especially, do not feed them and do not leave garbage or food within their reach.
- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Keep your distance: stay at least 100 metres away from large animals.



### What to do in the Presence of a Bear, Coyote, Wolf or Cougar

There is no ideal way to react in the presence of a wild animal, as each encounter is unique. However, the following guidelines may help:

- Make your presence known by making a noise or speaking in a calm voice.
- Back away slowly, and do not turn your back to the animal.
- Do not play dead, and do not run away.
- If you are with young children, take them in your arms.
- Try to appear larger than you actually are, for example, by raising your arms, or by gathering together in a group, if there are several persons.
- In case of an attack, you must be aggressive and counterattack.



## Camping

- Store coolers and all food in your vehicle, or hang food from a tree at a minimum of three metres from the ground and one metre from the tree trunk.
- Do not leave garbage or food scraps near the campsite.
  - Instead, dispose of them in the waste containers provided for this purpose.
- Do not eat inside a tent and do not keep food or cosmetic products in a tent.
- Clean your dishes promptly after eating, and properly dispose of the waste water.

## Report Sightings

- Report any sighting of bears, wolves, coyote or cougars in the Park by contacting the Visitor Centre at 819-827-2020 or 613-239-5090 (TTY).
- Contact the NCC emergency line if you observe an animal behaving in a way that could put Park users at risk. Call 613-239-5353.

## For More Information About These Species, Please Contact:

Ministère des ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec

1-866-248-6936 • [www.mrn.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mrn.gouv.qc.ca)

Canadian Wildlife Service

1-800-668-6767 • [www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca)