

KY. DEPARTMENT OF
FISH & WILDLIFE

the mountain counties of eastern Kentucky,” said John Hast, Bear Program coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “These young bears are just juveniles and are easily scared and confused causing them to wander into populated areas because they don’t yet know any better. They may hide during the day and leave the area at night only to be reported being seen again a county or two away within a couple of days. Residents should keep their distance, remove all food sources and let the bear move on when he feels safe to do so.”

Black bears have a natural fear of people and dogs, and adverse encounters are extremely rare. Never approach or feed a bear and keep a safe distance away. If a bear is posing an immediate danger, a person should yell and wave their arms to look more threatening to scare him off or call local law enforcement immediately.

Residents of an area where a bear has been spotted should secure their garbage in a garage or other building, not leave pet food outside, and clean and securely store barbecue grills. These are all best practices in general for people to prevent problems with wildlife. Also, people should not use bird feeders in

The national website BearWise.org was established to help people live responsibly with bears. This easily-remembered website offers information and solutions to help individuals and communities coexist with bears, whether bears are just visiting or are permanent neighbors.

In Kentucky, hunting bears is regulated and limited to defined seasons in the established bear zones in eastern Kentucky to ensure a sustainable and healthy population.

For more information about black bears, visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Black Bears webpage on its website at fw.ky.gov, or visit BearWise.org. Bear sightings may be reported to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at info.center@ky.gov, or at 1-800-858-1549, Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays.

If cornered or threatened, bears may slap the ground, “pop” their jaws or “huff” as a warning. If you see those behaviors, you are too close! Slowly back away while facing the bear at all times. Notify the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources immediately if you witness aggressive behavior by black bears.



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