



Bobcat

Tips on how to avoid conflicts

SHARE THE WILD

Bobcats have adapted to living in close proximity of humans and can be found near urban areas. They are very elusive and are seldom seen. Conflicts with humans are not common, but they will sometimes prey on poultry and small pets.

Here are some steps you can take to avoid human-bobcat conflicts:

- Do not approach or feed bobcats.
- Do not leave pet food and water dishes outside.
- Supervise your pets when outside.
- Keep dogs leashed while hiking.
- Bring your cats and dogs in at night.
- Do not let your pets “play” with bobcats.
- Keep your pet’s vaccinations up to date.
- Provide secure, enclosed shelters for poultry, rabbits and other hobby animals, especially at night.
- Trim back shrubbery that could be a hiding area for bobcats.
- Clean up seeds under bird feeders to prevent rodents; bobcat’s prey.

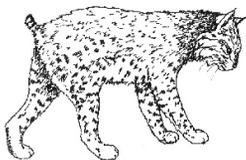
Ask your neighbors to follow these steps too.



Bobcats *Lynx rufus* can be found in many different habitats throughout Utah, from deserts and forests to swamps and grasslands. Bobcats are members of the *felid* (cat) family. Their coloration can vary from light grey to buff brown or reddish brown. They have short tufts on the tips of their ears and “bob” tails, giving them their name. Adults may weigh 12 to 30 lbs. Bobcats are solitary and are mainly active at dawn and dusk but can sometimes be seen during the day. Males and females only associate during the breeding season which typically runs December through April. The female cat will birth her cubs in a thicket or cave in the spring. The main prey for bobcats are rabbits, but they will feed on whatever prey is most abundant, such as birds, rodents, reptiles, small mammals and carrion.

Like most cats, the bobcat’s claws are retractable. They release the claws from protective sheaths when attacking prey. If you see a bobcat print, note the lack of nail prints in the dirt.

Legal status: in Utah bobcats are protected as furbearing animals and are managed through a licensed trapping season.



If you have an encounter with aggressive wildlife, please alert the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) office near you. If the encounter occurs after hours or on the weekend, please call your local police department or county sheriff’s office, who can contact a conservation officer to handle the situation.

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