

# Cougar Facts

- Canada's largest cat.
- Also known as mountain lion or puma.
- Tail can be 1/3 length of their body with black tip.
- Males can weigh 140-200 lbs & females 90-120 lbs.
- Primary prey is deer but will also feed on elk, rabbits, beaver, raccoons, grouse and occasionally livestock & domestic pets.
- Most active at dusk & dawn but can roam and hunt any time and in any season.
- During late spring & summer, one to two year old cougars leave protection of mother's care to seek out own home range.
- Predators, top of the food chain: carnivores.
- Able to run 55-70 km/hour for short distances.
- Can climb trees.
- Can swim.
- Can jump 15-20 feet vertically and 40 feet horizontally (length of a school bus) in a single leap.

#### For more information:

[www.squamish.ca](http://www.squamish.ca)  
or call 604.815.5066  
[mtoom@squamish.ca](mailto:mtoom@squamish.ca)

#### Resources:

Ministry of Environment website:  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos)

#### Photo Credits:

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G. Koehler, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
J. Boone  
[www.wildcatsanctuary.org](http://www.wildcatsanctuary.org)

#### Call all sighting/encounters to:

**RAPP**  
**Report All Poachers and Polluters**  
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline  
**1-877-952-RAPP (7277)**  
cell: #7277

 BRITISH COLUMBIA [rapp.bc.ca](http://rapp.bc.ca)  Conservation Officer Service

# Wildlife in Squamish

## Cougars



# Cougars

Squamish is located in prime cougar habitat. Whether you are spending time recreating within one of our many Provincial Parks, swimming or fishing in one of our many lakes or hiking & biking in our extensive trail network, you can expect to encounter cougars.

Cougars are active throughout the year and are elusive animals that prefer to avoid contact with humans.

Stay safe and keep cougars wild by following these simple guidelines:

## At Home

- Do not attract or feed wildlife. Deer, raccoons, mice and rabbits, may attract cougars.
- Do not leave pet food outside as this can attract wildlife.
- Ensure birdseed is not attracting wildlife.
- Roaming pets are easy prey: bring pets in at night.
- Install motions sensors.
- Cut back brush and grass to reduce areas of cover and increase sight lines.

## Cougar Encounters

- Stay calm and do NOT run.
- Never turn your back on wildlife.
- Back away slowly.
- Use a confident, loud voice.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Pick up children and small pets.
- Make yourself appear larger i.e. raise arms overhead, open jacket wide and stand tall.
- Put your bike between you and the cougar.
- Throw objects if the cougar approaches i.e. rocks, sticks. Ready your deterrent.
  - If attacked, fight back with anything available to you including sticks, rocks, and your fists.



## On the Trails

- Be alert and aware.
- Avoid surprise encounters by making noise i.e. use your voice.
- Keep dogs leashed.
- Hike or bike in groups.
- Leave the area immediately if you come across a cougar kill or cache.
- Riding fast and quietly puts you at risk for surprise encounters. Slow down going around blind corners and make noise.
- Be alert & look for cougar signs i.e. paw prints, fresh scat, claw marks on trees, food caches, and ravens, crows, or vultures circling.



### Cougar scratch marks

Cougars are territorial and will mark trees and logs by "claw raking". Look for signs of fresh claw marks.



### Cougar paw print

Cougars have four toes with three distinct lobes present at the base of the pad. Claws are retractable, so they usually do not leave imprints.



### Cougar food cache

Cougars cover unconsumed portions of their kill with soil and leaf litter. Avoid these food caches.



### Cougar Scat

look for signs of fresh scat. Scat is segmented and can contain hair and bone remnants.