

# BOBCAT AWARENESS



## What Attracts Bobcats?

Bobcats visit an area to find food, water, shelter, or the space they need to live.

- Food may include birds, rodents, rabbits, small unattended pets, poultry or other domestic birds, and other small livestock.
- Water in pools, birdbaths, fountains, and pets' water dishes can attract bobcats. They will sometimes defecate in shallow water (such as pools and fountains).
- Shelter for bobcats can include rooftops, attics, and the space underneath decks. Other small spaces can make attractive dens also, and bobcats will sometimes rest during the day or bask in the sun. This makes them attracted to thick brush, shade, and unoccupied yards.

## What Should I Do If I Encounter a Bobcat?

You may choose to watch and enjoy a bobcat or bobcat family sharing your yard. However, if you have small children or pets, you may want to discourage the bobcat from coming onto your property. Remember, your neighbor may think differently, but it is always a good idea to keep wildlife wild.

To encourage a bobcat to leave immediately:

- Make loud noises (yell, bang pots, air horn, etc.).
- Spray with a garden hose.

In an emergency:

- **Protect children and small pets by scooping them up, looking big, and making lots of noise.**
- **Back away slowly and deliberately from the bobcat**
- **Never corner an animal or get between it and its young.**

- **Avoid running away as it may trigger a pursuit response.**
- **Call 9-1-1 if there is an immediate threat to human life.**
- **Avoid the area and stay indoors.**

**Any actions taken by 412 CEG/CEV to address bobcat presence in the housing areas will be ineffective if attractants aren't removed as other animals will be drawn to the area.**

### **Removing attractants is the best solution**

To prevent problems

- **Keep dogs and cats indoors, especially from dusk to dawn.** Left outside at night, small dogs and cats may become prey for bobcats.
- **Feed dogs and cats indoors and clean up after them.** If you must feed outside, do so in the morning or midday, and pick up food and water bowls, as well as leftovers and spilled food as soon as pets have finished eating. Water, pet food and droppings attract small mammals that, in turn, attract bobcats.
- **Close or patch openings in fences.**
- **Keep shrubs and grass trimmed to deny bobcats hiding cover.**
- **Don't feed wildlife.** This includes feral cats (domestic cats gone wild), birds, squirrels, and other small mammals. Remember predators follow prey.
- **Prevent the buildup of feeder foods under bird feeders.** Or better yet, remove all birdfeeders. Bobcats are attracted to the many birds and rodents that come to feeders.
- **Remove all water sources.** This includes bird baths, pet water bowls, kid's play pool, or a leaky hose. Water is scarce in the desert and all manner of wildlife will be attracted.
- **Consider installing motion detecting lights.** Many animals that hunt at night, including bobcats, hunt by stealth and will avoid brightly lit areas.