

Black bears are wild animals and can be dangerous. You can prevent a negative encounter with a black bear by following some basic guidelines:

NEVER FEED BEARS!

Never leave food, pet food, bottles, pop cans or food containers outside.

Store food, garbage, coolers, camp stoves, pots and pans in your shed, cabin or vehicle.

Harvest fruit from fruit trees when ripe. Consider planting non-fruit trees.

Keep dairy products and meat out of compost piles.

Clean barbecue grills after use to minimize odour.

Bird feeders attract bears. Remove bird feeders from your yard in April and replace them in November.

Store garbage inside a shed or garage until just before pick-up.

Dispose of waste water in a pit privy if possible.

If you have concerns about black bears, contact the Department of Natural Resources or Environment & Conservation

If you encounter a black bear:

- Stay calm
- Give the bear space
- Back away slowly: never run
- Speak calmly and firmly
- Avoid eye contact
- Be extremely cautious around females with cubs

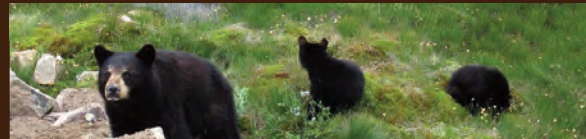


Photo: Charmaine Barney

For more information, please contact the Department of Environment & Conservation Wildlife Division
(709) 637-2025
www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife



Newfoundland
Labrador

Black Bears in Newfoundland & Labrador



Photo: Chuck Porter



Black bears are always looking for an easy meal. Once they find a source of human food or garbage, they continue to seek it out from backpacks, picnic tables, coolers or garbage cans. When black bears become accustomed (or habituated) to humans, their natural fear of people fades and they take more chances to access food. Habituated bears are unpredictable and may become aggressive.

Little can be done to manage habituated bears. These animals often pay with their lives for human mistakes. Avoid creating problem bears by making sure food, trash and other attractants are stored properly.

About Black Bears

Black bears are found throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, but are rarely observed on the Avalon Peninsula. Male adult black bears weigh about 200-300 lb (91 kg-136 kg), and females weigh about 110-180 lb (50 kg -82 kg).

Wild black bears eat plants and berries, animals including caribou and moose calves, and carrion. Bears that eat garbage and human food can reach 600 lb (227 kg). Bears are most active at dawn and dusk, and though naturally shy creatures, they will overcome their fear of humans if food is available.



Problem bears are created by people

We share this province with black bears and other wildlife. From time to time, wild animals will venture into communities and cabin areas. Your actions will affect your own safety and the behaviour of wildlife.

