

What Should I Do If I Encounter a Bear?



In their natural habitat:

- Encountering a bear in the wild is not that common. Most people are thrilled to see one.
- Allow the bear to walk away.
- Don't corner or feed the bear.
- You can also frighten the bear away by waving your arms, stomping your feet, and yelling.
- Bluff charge: A bear charges but suddenly stops before making any contact. They are scary, rare, and a sign the bear is fearful, not aggressive.

In residential areas:

- Most bears are just passing through. Do nothing.
- Do not feed the bear!
- If you must discourage him; you can use basic aversive conditioning techniques. Start intense and vary your tactics.
- You can wave your arms, open an umbrella, stomp your feet, yell, use air horns, bear bells, pepper spray, shake coins in a tin can, super soakers water guns, garden hoses, whistles, loud noises, etc. Be creative.

Visit www.bearsmartnj.org for more information.