

DISCOURAGING BOBCATS FROM YOUR YARD

- Use noise and/or motion activated deterrents to make a bobcat uncomfortable.
- Yell at the bobcat, use an air horn or motion activated sprinklers.
- Clear excess vegetation to remove hiding spots.
- Do not feed pets outdoors, or if you do, clean up any spill food and remove it.
- If you feed birds or squirrels, make sure that feeders are at an appropriate height. Remove any spilled bird seed. Bobcats can be attracted to squirrels and birds that come to your yard to feed.
- Use “coyote rollers” on your fence to keep bobcats out. They also work well to keep pets from jumping over the fence.
- DO NOT leave pets unattended outside at night when bobcats are most active. Supervise your pets when they are outside.
- Never encourage your pets to interact or “play” with wildlife.
- DO NOT allow pets to roam free outdoors. It is against West Des Moines city code (5-3-9 Running At Large Prohibited)
- If a bobcat is behaving aggressively, leave the area calmly and ensure your pets area indoors. Report it to Neighborhood Services!



Neighborhood Services (515) 222-3321



Request Service: (515) 222-3321

General Questions: (515) 222-3364

Pet Licenses: (515) 222-3600

BOBCATS



IOWA'S ELUSIVE BOBCATS

Bobcats

Bobcats are primarily nocturnal but may be seen during the day when hunting or foraging for food. Litters are typically born from April to July, though this can vary. You are more likely to see a bobcat during the day if it has dependent young, as mothers raise and teach their offspring survival skills.

Seeing a bobcat during the day does not mean it is rabid, sick, or aggressive.

Are Bobcats Aggressive?

Bobcats are more afraid of us than we are of them. Bobcats may lose their natural fear of humans when they find free sources of human associated food (pet food left on porches for stray cats) in neighborhoods and have repeated contact with people with no negative interactions.

You can teach an overly bold bobcat to be scared of people by hazing it. You can haze a bobcat or other animals by yelling at it, making yourself appear larger, throwing sticks or rocks, or spray it with water.

Lifespan

In the wild, bobcats typically live 7 to 10 years, though they can live longer in captivity.



What Do Bobcats Eat?

Bobcats eat a variety of animal species, including mice, rats, squirrels, small fawns, wild birds, and rabbits.

Many people unknowingly encourage bobcats and other wild animals to live near their homes by leaving pet food outdoors, failing to pick up fall fruit from trees, leaving pets to roam outdoors unattended, placing bird feeders low to the ground and failing to remove uneaten seed, and leaving piles of wood or dense vegetation where wildlife can take shelter.

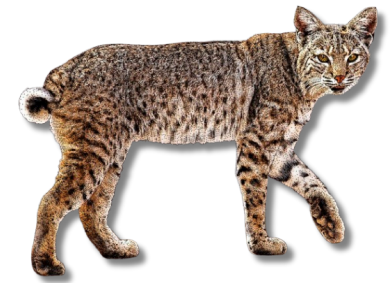


How Can I Protect My Pet?

The best way to protect your pet(s) from bobcats or other wildlife is to never leave them outside unsupervised, and to keep dogs on a leash or commanding them to stay by your side.

If you have a fence, consider adding a “coyote roller” to prevent bobcats or other wildlife from using the top of the fence as leverage, making it difficult for them to jump to the other side. You can also make a DIY coyote roller with several videos posted online.

www.coyoteroller.com



Bobcat History

Bobcats have made an impressive recovery in Iowa over the past several decades. They were found throughout Iowa but faced near extinction due to large scale habitat loss and unregulated hunting following European settlement.

Bobcats were listed as endangered in Iowa and protective measures and habitat restoration efforts facilitated their comeback. Bobcats in Iowa are now managed through regulated hunting and trapping seasons, reflecting their successful population recovery.

Fun Fact

Bobcats can leap up to 10 feet in a single jump! They have powerful hind legs that help them pounce on prey with incredible precision.

When To Report A Bobcat

Bobcat sightings are common in urban areas, and a sighting alone should not cause any alarm. If you notice a bobcat that appears sick, injured, or is aggressive. Please report it to Neighborhood Services and they will investigate and report it to the Iowa DNR.

Report it to Neighborhood Services
(515) 222-3321