

OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE at Camp Osito Rancho



California Black Bear

Our local mountains are home to the **black bear**. Even though they are called black bears, their colors can range from black to cinnamon brown, blond to silver-blue and, occasionally, even white. Black bears are typically shy, reclusive, and easily frightened. They typically avoid human contact and are not normally aggressive towards people.

Bear Safety:

- Never approach a black bear.
- Individual bears can display varying levels of tolerance and different temperament.
- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.



California Bobcat

The **bobcat** is a relatively large cat with gray to reddish fur, spotted with brown or black. They are larger than domestic cats but much smaller than mountain lions. Bobcats survive on a diet of rabbits, ground squirrels, mice, pocket gophers and wood rats. Bobcats roam freely at night and are frequently asleep during the day except at the peak of summer.

Bobcat Safety:

- Do not approach a bobcat.
- Never feed bobcats.
- Remove all potential food sources.



California Cottontail Rabbit

There are several species of **cottontail rabbit**, and they range in color from reddish brown to gray, but all feature the distinctive “cotton ball” tail for which they are named. They seek out habitat on the fringes of open spaces, such as fields, meadows, and farms, but can adapt to other habitats—including those made by humans.

Cottontail Rabbit Safety:

- Do not feed cottontail rabbits.



California Coyote

The **California Coyote** has tawny to grayish color fur. Size variations depend upon geographic locale and subspecies. This permanent resident throughout our area frequents open brush, scrub, shrub, and herbaceous habitats, and may be associated opportunistically with agriculture lands.

Coyote Safety:

- Do not approach a coyote.
- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.



California Jack Rabbit

Jack rabbits are really hares, not rabbits. Hares are larger than rabbits, and they typically have taller hind legs and longer ears. The jack rabbit is strictly herbivorous. They graze and browse and prefer grasses and forbs but will eat almost any vegetation that grows in their habitat 12 to 20 inches above the ground.

Jack Rabbit Safety:

- Do not feed jack rabbits.



Deer

Mule **Deer** are relatively calm animals, they are active primarily in mornings and evenings. Their inactivity during the heat of the day is a behavioral adaptation to the desert environment that conserves water and helps to regulate body temperature. This species is quite large, and some individuals can stand over 42 inches tall at the shoulder. Most weigh no more than 331 lbs.

Deer Safety:

- Do not feed deer.



Mountain Lion

Frazier Park is home to **mountain lion** habitat. They generally exist wherever deer are found. They are solitary, quiet, and elusive. Their nature is to avoid humans. Mountain lions often change their patterns to avoid human-occupied areas, or areas where humans are most active.

Mountain Lion Safety:

- Never approach a mountain lion. Give them an escape route.
- DO NOT RUN. Stay calm. Do not turn your back. Face the animal, make noise, and try to look bigger by waving your arms, or opening your jacket if wearing one; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- Do not crouch down or bend over. Squatting puts you in a vulnerable position of appearing much like a four-legged prey animal.



Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are shy creatures and like to keep to themselves. Give rattlesnakes a wide berth; if cornered or surprised they may strike. Be especially careful when walking through heavy brush or near downed logs and rocks. Rattlesnakes are the only poisonous snakes in this area.

Rattlesnake Safety:

- Be alert. Rattlesnakes are sensitive to temperature and adjust their behavior accordingly. They will become more active at dawn, dusk, or night.
- Wear boots and loose-fitting long pants. Startled rattlesnakes may not rattle before striking.
- When hiking, stick to well-used trails. Avoid tall grass, weeds, and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide.