

# Living with Cougars



Here's what you need to know.

## Cougar Safety for Residents

### Hiking and Working

- If possible, don't travel alone and keep your group together at all times.
- Keep children close at hand.
- Check with the local Fish and Wildlife or Parks offices about recent sightings.
- Learn to recognize cougar signs, such as tracks, scat and markings.
- Avoid areas where animal carcasses have been left (cougars often cover their kills with leaves, moss and other debris).
- Carry a walking stick and pepper spray (make sure you know how to use your pepper spray).
- Make noise.
- It is best to leave your pet at home, but if you are travelling with a pet, keep it on a leash at all times.

### At Home

- DO NOT attract wildlife to your yard, especially prey species such as deer.
- When children are outside, encourage them to play in supervised groups, away from dense vegetation. Ensure children come in before dusk and are accompanied by an adult if walking to the school bus early in the morning.
- Feed pets indoors – never leave food outside.
- At night, keep pets inside a secure, covered kennel (roaming pets are easy prey).
- Walk pets during the day, avoiding wildlife corridors along waterways and through wooded areas.

### If a Cougar is Aggressive

- Try to appear as if you are the predator; actions such as shouting, waving a stick or throwing rocks may help prevent an attack.
- If a cougar does attack, fight back! People have survived by using their bare fists, sticks, fishing rods, rocks and other items to defend themselves.
- Never play dead with a cougar.

### If you see a Cougar

- Never approach!
- Always leave the cougar with an escape route.
- Pick up children (a child running away may trigger an attack).
- Do not turn your back on a cougar - slowly back away and do not run.
- Stay calm; talk in a strong, firm voice.
- Make yourself appear larger by holding your arms or other object over your head.
- Maintain eye contact.

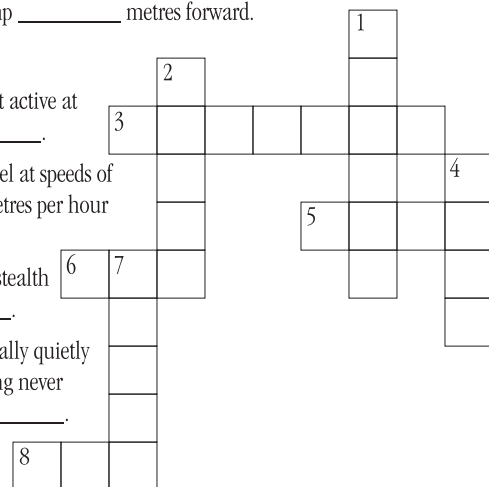
### Cougar crossword puzzle

#### Across

- 3 Most cougar \_\_\_\_\_ are born in late winter or midsummer.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ are the cougars main food.
- 6 Cougars are often elusive and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Cougars can jump \_\_\_\_\_ metres forward.

#### Down

- 1 Cougars are most active at sunrise and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Cougars can travel at speeds of \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres per hour for short distances.
- 4 Cougars rely on stealth to catch \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Cougars will usually quietly leave the area having never been seen by a \_\_\_\_\_.



For more information, visit the Sustainable Resource Development website at: [www.srd.alberta.ca](http://www.srd.alberta.ca)