

Dogs and Wildlife



wildawareutah.org



Do not allow dogs to play with or chase wildlife.

SHARE THE WILD

Utah's wild spaces are wonderful areas for you and your pet to exercise and enjoy nature. But these spaces are also home to wildlife and are essential to their survival. When recreating with your dog, be aware that the dog may be an attractant to animals like coyotes or cougars that may view it as a threat or as prey.

- Leash dogs while recreating. If the dog is under control it can be steered away from wild animals and prevent negative encounters
- Dogs off leash can disturb nesting ground birds, chase, injure or kill small mammals, deer, elk or moose
- Keep vaccinations up to date
- Spay and neuter to prevent wandering
- Always supervise pets when outdoors, particularly at dawn and dusk
- Avoid going near possible wildlife den sites and thick vegetation
- If you find an animal carcass, leave the area, it could be a kill that a cougar or other animal is guarding or will be returning to
- Make noise while hiking

ENCOUNTERING WILDLIFE (coyote, cougar, bear etc.): Keep the dog quite and take an alternate route if possible.

Do not crowd the animal; doing so could make it stressed and unpredictable. Always give the animal a clear escape route.

- Stay calm, do not run
- Pick up small pets
- Appear as big and as loud as possible
- Stomp your feet, and clap your hands
- Shout in a loud, authoritative voice
- Throw sticks or rocks at the animal if it continues to approach
- Do not turn your back. Face the animal and back away slowly
- If attacked, fight back
- **Rattlesnakes:** stop and listen to where the rattle sound is coming from. Don't jump or run. Slowly back away. If your pet is bitten, consult a veterinarian to have the wound treated as soon as possible.
- **Porcupines:** The quills are barbed and can embed in the skin. Consult a veterinarian to have the quills removed from your dog.

Encountering Moose or Mule deer: Moose and deer can be especially aggressive towards dogs.

- If a scuffle ensues, do not get in between the deer/moose and the dog
- Yelling and using sound makers can discourage the confrontation
- If the deer or moose charges, hide behind something solid, or curl into a ball and protect your head. If your dog sustained injuries, visit your veterinarian.

It is against Utah law to allow dogs to harass wildlife.

If you have an encounter with aggressive wildlife, please alert the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) office near you. If the encounter or sighting occurs after hours or on the weekend, please call your local police department or county sheriff's office, who can contact a conservation officer to handle the situation.

Cedar City (435) 865-6100
Ogden (801) 476-2740
Price (435) 613-3700

Salt Lake City (801) 538-4700
Springville (801) 491-5678
Vernal (435) 781-9453

