

Where is the most common place that people have seen mountain lions?

In the past several years we have recorded mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) sightings throughout Palo Alto open space. There have also been sightings in towns and adjoining areas to the east, west, north and south of us.

Mountain lions are fairly secretive animals and usually don't want to be seen by people. We have had only a few dozen sightings since we have been keeping careful track. Lions have been spotted on trails, off trails, in woods, in grass, out of town, down town, from Baylands all the way up to Skyline Boulevard.

Despite all those sightings in all those areas, we do not have enough data to be able to predict when or where a mountain lion will show up. If we could, you can be sure that I will be nearby with my eyes wide open waiting to see one.

BE AWARE – be alert & attentive when hiking or camping (look above and behind you).

DO NOT HIKE ALONE - tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

ALWAYS KEEP CHILDREN CLOSE TO YOU - pick up small children without bending over.

KEEP DOGS ON A LEASH and within your vision at all times.

DO NOT APPROACH OR RUN FROM A LION.

APPEAR LARGER – remain standing, face the lion and do not look away.

DO FIGHT BACK IF ATTACKED – many potential victims have fought back successfully.

Don't Wait! Report all sightings, unusual behavior or attacks to a park ranger or the local authorities as soon as possible.