

Guidelines Assessing Animal Behavior and Responding

The following guidelines are used to assess behavior of the animal and determine the associated risk level to the public and determine which combination of initiatives is best used.

Risk	Assessing Animal Behavior	General Guidelines for Response
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a sighting or sign of wildlife; • behavior that suggests the animal(s) are not used to people; • animal does not look sick or injured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication with residents focusing on safety and prevention; • may record by phone details on observation log and obtain contact information; • go to site to confirm details, if required;
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows some signs that its used to people or has been eating human food; • may closely approach a person, vehicle or building; • may remain or routinely frequent developed areas; • may hunt or make kills in a high human use area; • may escort (follow) or act with curiosity; • may attack pets or livestock but is not a threat to people; • may appear to be sick or injured; • may respond to human presence in an aggressive manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Officer responds as soon as possible; • interview reporting person and gather information to decide what action to take; • may remove things like garbage that may attract wildlife; • may scare off animal using sprays or noise if animal at scene; • may alert public to situation through the media and/or by closing the area; • may capture, mark and relocate; depending on circumstances; • may humanely destroy animal. If feasible, consult with other Department staff including Fish and Wildlife prior to destroying a species-at-risk. <p><i>Note: If an animal is killed, the Occurrence Report should say why there was no other action available and what was done prior to avoid killing the animal.</i></p>
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • used to human food, looks hungry and searching for food; • displays threatening behavior; • attacks of a person; • is known to attach pets and livestock in areas of high human activity; • an attack on pets or livestock and people feel threatened; • the animal appears to be sick or injured; • stalking, following or curiosity behavior together and is a threat to people; • a predator protecting a kill or food source in a high use area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Officer responds as soon as possible and/or calls for assistance from assisting agencies; • interview reporting person and gather information to decide what action to take; • address immediate public and officer safety issues; • may remove things like garbage if present; • may scare off animal using sprays or noise if animal at scene; • alert public as to situation through a media advisory, warning, area closure, or public evacuation; • attempt to capture, mark and relocate; • may humanely destroy animal. If feasible, consult with other Department staff including Fish and Wildlife prior to destroying a species-at-risk.