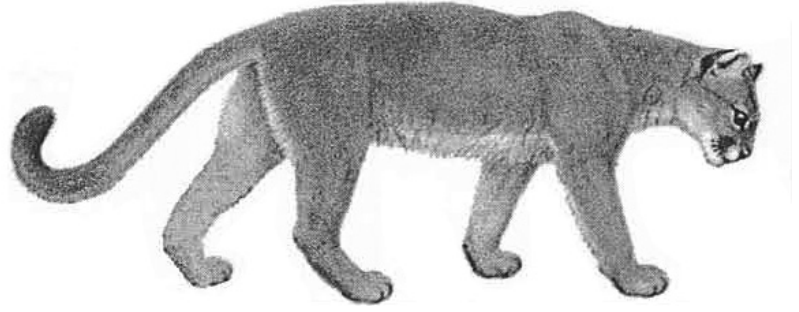




## Mountain Lions

### Interesting Mountain Lion Facts:

- Also called cougars, pumas or panthers
- Solitary, shy and elusive animals
- Largest of North American wild cats
- Unable to roar, but is capable of an unimaginable, penetrating scream
- Mostly active at dawn and dusk, and at night when they hunt for food



Lions are a normal and important part of the natural surroundings we enjoy while in Yosemite National Park. However, the presence of lions, especially near developed areas, requires that we take precautions.

- **Keep children close to you.** Do not allow them to run ahead or lag behind on the trail.
- Never feed wildlife such as deer, raccoons, squirrels or coyotes – this helps discourage them from frequenting developed areas. These animals are prey for mountain lions.
- Hiking or running alone is not recommended. A walking stick can be a useful defense.
- If you encounter a lion, take the following actions:
  - Shout in a low voice and wave your arms or hold your coat open. Your goal is to make yourself look as large and threatening as possible.
  - Maintain eye contact with the lion, and do not crouch down.
  - Throw sticks or rocks at the lion.
  - NEVER RUN.
  - Pick up or restrain small children to keep them from panicking and running.
  - If a lion attacks, FIGHT BACK!
- Report all mountain lion sightings to the park's Dispatch Office at 209/379-1992.

Attack from a mountain lion is still an extremely unlikely event, but use of the above recommendations can further reduce the chances of injury, and allow us to more safely share the park with these spectacular animals.