

## Safety in the mountains

# Rules of conduct in case of wolf or bear sighting

For some years now, wolves and occasionally bears have been roaming our alpine regions - an unfamiliar challenge that causes uncertainty for many. Emotions are understandable when it comes to this topic, which is why it is advisable to take an objective look at the facts in order to remain safe and objective.

Both wolves and bears are considered shy animals that generally avoid contact with humans. Sightings and, above all, evidence, such as tracks, prove their return to the alpine region.

So that you can enjoy your stay in Vorarlberg's mountains with a good feeling, you will find the most important information on the subject summarized here.



### Note

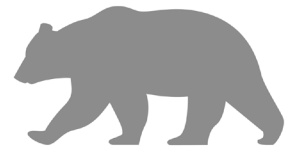
In the event of a sighting or the discovery of tracks, please contact the following office:

**Department of Agriculture and Rural Areas – Wolf Management (also for bears)**

DI Hubert Schatz, Tel. +43 (0)664/6255311, Mail: [hubert.schatz@vorarlberg.at](mailto:hubert.schatz@vorarlberg.at)

## Rules of conduct in the event of a wolf or bear sighting

# Information about the bear



Bear migrations usually start in Italy, especially in Trentino. Therefore, it occasionally can happen that they also cross our region or even stay in Vorarlberg for a short amount time.

Bears have an excellent sense of smelling and hearing. They also perceive people from a great distance and therefore can retreat early before a possible encounter. Due to the rare occurrence of bears and their typical way of life and behavior, observations of bears in our region are very rare events.

Should you nevertheless encounter a bear, you will find the most important rules of conduct here:

### What should I do if I encounter a bear?

- » **Remain calm and draw attention to yourself by speaking loudly and making slow hand movements.**
- » **Retreat slowly, but do not run.**
- » **Do not throw any objects at the bear - avoid anything that the bear could perceive as a threat.**
- » **Never try to approach the bear, for example to take a photo.**
- » **If the bear approaches, place an object (jacket or backpack) on the ground to distract it and move away slowly.**
- » **Keep the escape route clear for the animal.**

### What can I do as a precaution?

- » **Stay on the marked paths.**
- » **Do not sneak quietly through the forest, but rather draw attention to yourself by talking or making a quiet noise, such as a small bell on your backpack.**
- » **Avoid dense bushes and secluded mushroom spots.**
- » **Do not leave any leftover food lying around.**
- » **Always keep your dog on a leash - dogs tend to track down scents and follow them. If the dog comes across the bear, the dog will seek shelter with you and may lead the bear directly to you.**

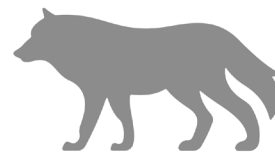
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## Rules of conduct in the event of a wolf or bear sighting

# Information about the wolf



The wolf returned to the Alps a few years ago. Since then, wolves have occasionally been seen in Vorarlberg. Problems have emerged primarily in connection with livestock farming, especially in mountain and alpine areas. Healthy, shy wolves generally pose no danger to humans.

Should you encounter a wolf while hiking, you will find the most important rules of conduct here:

### What should I do if I encounter a wolf?

- » **Keep calm and draw attention to yourself by speaking calmly and making slow hand movements.**
- » **Slowly increase your distance from the wolf.**
- » **Never try to approach the wolf, for example to take a photo.**
- » **Never try to feed a wolf.**
- » **If, contrary to expectations, the wolf should chase you: Make yourself big, shout loudly in its direction and, if necessary, throw an object (stick, stone) at the wolf.**

### What can I do as a precaution?

- » **Stay on the marked paths.**
- » **Always avoid remote, undeveloped wildlife habitats.**
- » **Keep your dog under personal control and keep it on a leash.**

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