



**HWCC** Humboldt Wildlife Care Center

## Living with Bears

Black bears are common in Humboldt County and can easily be habituated to human food and garbage. If you have a bear problem it is most likely because there is a food source on your property. Bear problems tend to be temporary. If the bear doesn't find food, he moves on. If you keep your property free of accessible food sources you should not have a problem with a bear. California Department of Fish and Game does not have a bear relocation program. If a bear continues to be a problem and becomes more habituated to human food and garbage it could lead to the death of the bear. Below are some helpful tips to keep your property "bear free" and helps ensure the wellbeing of bears and their habitat.

- Secure garbage cans using bungee cords or straps. Put garbage out on the morning of pick-up, not the night before (and certainly not all week long!). If you cannot be there to put it out, ask a neighbor to help or take it with you for disposal elsewhere.
- Eliminate or mask garbage and food odors by using unscented ammonia on the food, inside each garbage bag, before placing the bag into secured garbage can. Clean and then deodorize garbage cans regularly with ammonia.
- Keep all pet food in proper storage areas. Do not leave cat or dog food outside at night for your pets.
- Bring bird feeders in at night.
- Compost piles can be a serious attractant. Consider not having one.
- Fruit trees are also a serious attractant. Decide whether or not trees need to be removed.
- Inform your neighbors. To successfully have the bear move on neighbors around you must also follow these tips.
- For more information contact BEAR League in Lake Tahoe, CA. 1-530-525-PAWS(7297) or [www.savebears.org](http://www.savebears.org) They can provide additional help by phone if needed.