

# BEAR RE- EDUCATION PROGRAM

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, WE ARE TRYING TO RE-TRAIN THE BEARS TO FIND FOOD IN THE WOODS, INSTEAD OF IN OUR DUMPSTER. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME AND YOUR COOPERATION TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

1. BEARS HAVE A KEEN SENSE OF SMELL, AND CAN DETECT FOOD ODORS OUTSIDE AND INSIDE THE COTTAGES. THEY ARE USUALLY NOCTURNAL AND ANY FOOD LEFT ON PORCHES ATTRACTS BEARS AND IS RECOGNIZED AS FAIR GAME. PLEASE STORE ALL FOOD IN THE COTTAGES, PREFERABLY IN CONTAINERS THAT WILL SEAL IN ODORS. THE REFRIGERATOR IS A GOOD PLACE TO STORE FOOD.
2. BEARS LOVE DOG FOOD AND HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED TO HEAD FOR COTTAGES WITH DOGS. PLEASE KEEP ALL DOG FOOD IN THE COTTAGE AND AWAY FROM WINDOWS, AS BEARS HAVE RIPPED SCREENS IN OPEN WINDOWS. WE CAN PROVIDE PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS IF YOU WANT TO WRAP DRY DOG FOOD IN IT.
3. BEARS HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED TO RECOGNIZE THAT FOOD IS KEPT IN PLASTIC COOLERS. COOLERS LEFT IN CARS OR COTTAGES SHOULD BE COVERED WITH A TOWEL OR SOMETHING THAT THE BEARS CAN NOT SEE THROUGH.
4. NORMALLY BEARS CAN BE FRIGHTENED AWAY WITH NOISE. IF IT IS NOT, IT IS A BEAR THAT HAS BEEN CONDITIONED TO BEING AROUND HUMANS. ALWAYS CONCEDE TO THE BEAR. THERE HAVE BEEN BEARS IN CAMP WITH CUBS. THE MOST DANGEROUS SITUATION WITH BLACK BEARS IS TO PLACE YOURSELF BETWEEN THE BEAR AND ITS CUBS. THE MOTHER MAY SEE YOU AS A THREAT TO ITS CUBS AND ATTACK.
5. IN SOME INSTANCES WE HAVE USED RUBBER BUCKSHOT TO RE-EDUCATE BEARS. IT DOES NOT HARM THE BEAR BUT ENCOURAGES THEM TO SEEK THEIR MEALS IN THE WILD. IT ALSO DISCOURAGES THE BEARS FROM SEEKING THEIR MEAL ON YOUR PORCH.
6. TO REPORT A BEAR PROBLEM CONTACT ANY STAFF MEMBER OR CALL JASON AT 357-6110 OR ANDREW AT 357-3448.