



Community Services
& Parks

What To Do If You See A...



Parks
Make
Life
Better!

If you are lucky enough to see a bear in southern California, you can be assured it is a California American Black bear (*Ursus americanus californiensis*).

Brown bears also known as Grizzly's have been extinct in California since 1924.

Despite their name, American Black bears can be brown, blue-gray, blue-black, blond, cinnamon or even (very rarely) white.



WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR?

Most bears will avoid humans, especially if they hear you coming. The exception is if they have found food. Never come between a bear & his food.

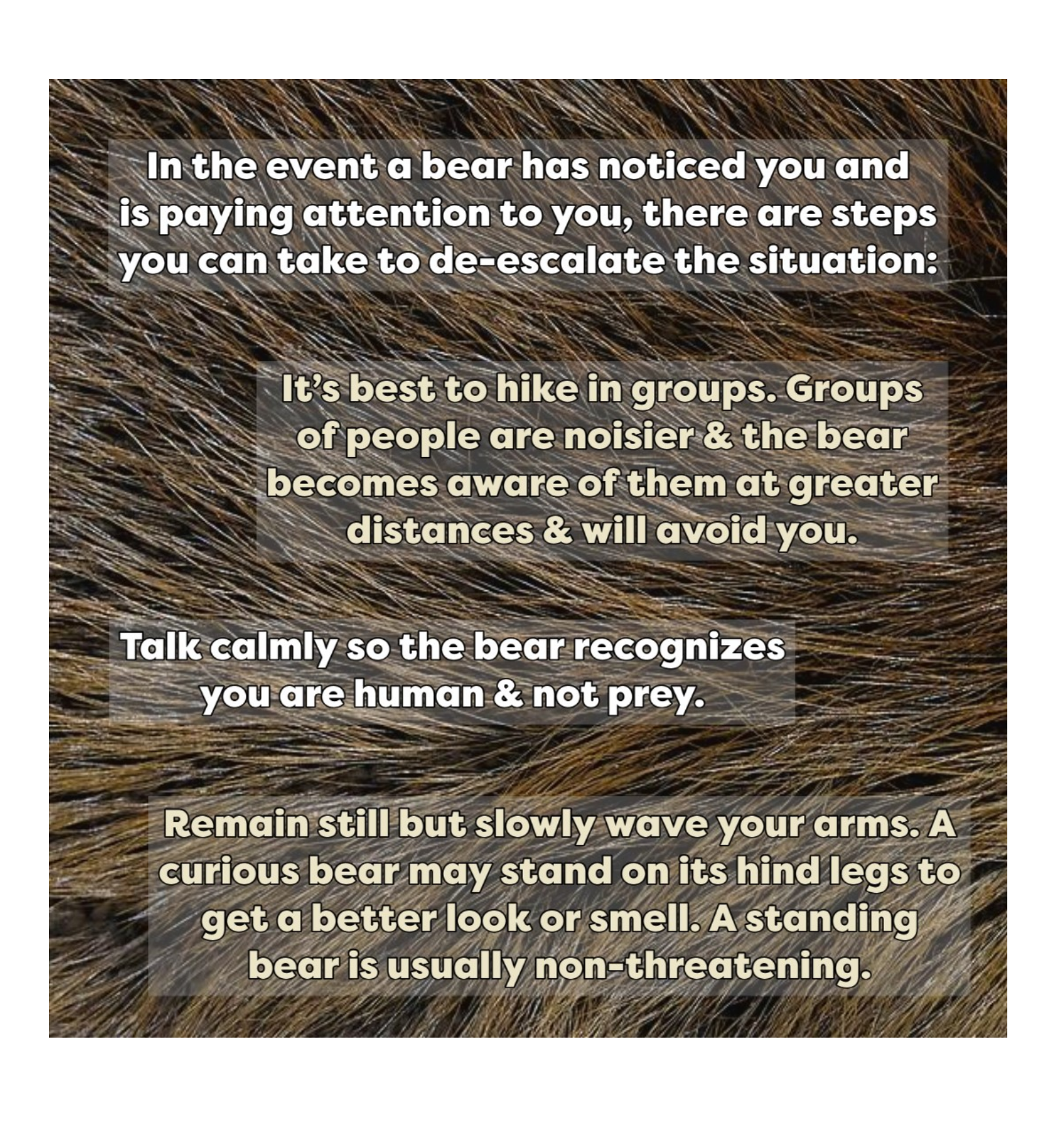
If you encounter a bear rummaging through a trash bin, do not try to separate the bear from the food. Move away slowly. Never turn your back on a bear. Never run.

A black bear is shown climbing a tree trunk. The bear's head is turned towards the left, and its front paws are visible gripping the bark. The background is a dense forest with green foliage.

Stay calm & remember that bears do not want to attack you, they want to be left alone.

Pick up small children immediately.

Make yourself look as large as possible, for example move to higher ground or by raising your arms.

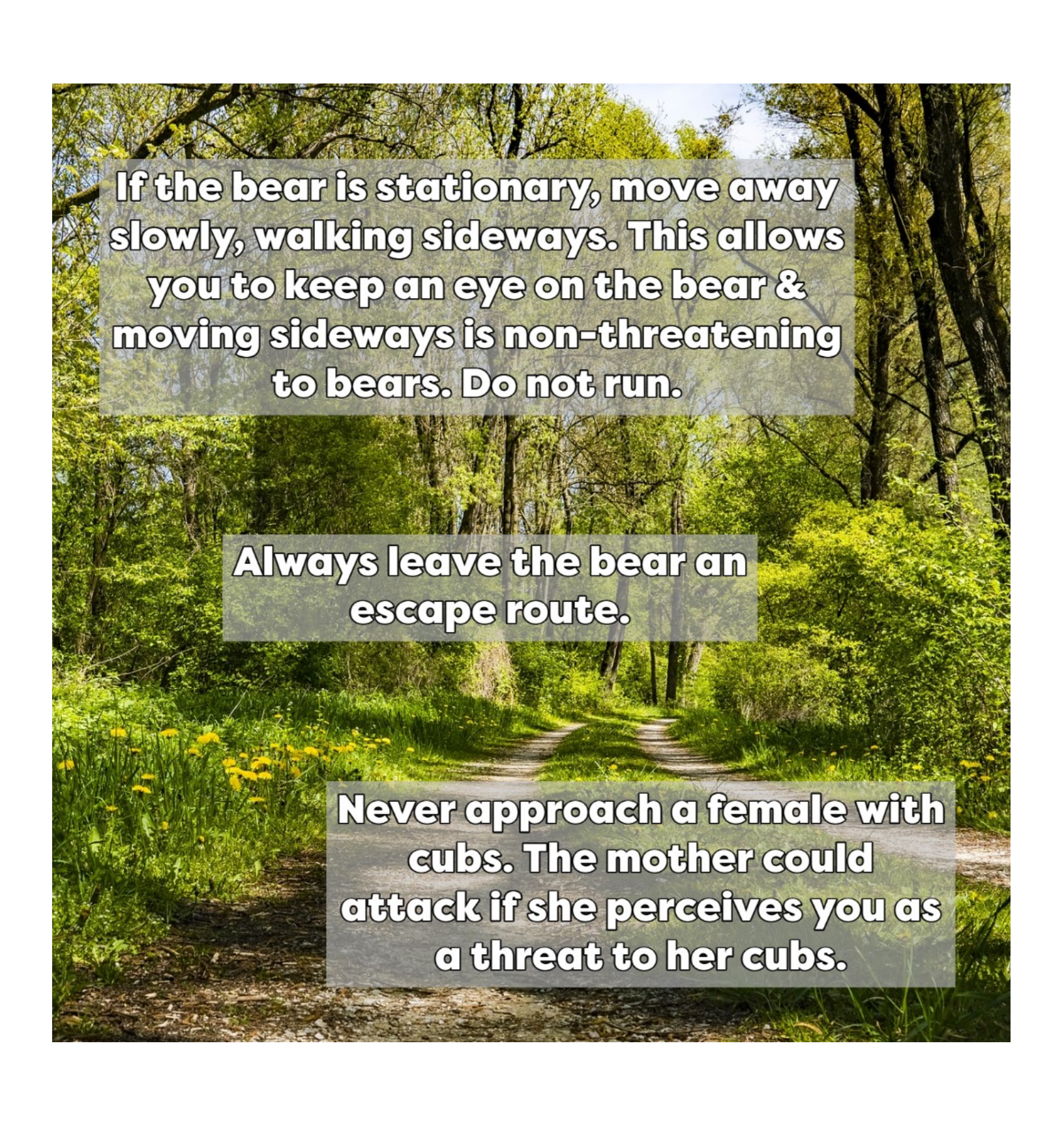
A close-up photograph of a brown bear's fur, showing individual strands of hair in shades of brown and tan. The fur is dense and textured, filling the entire background of the image.

In the event a bear has noticed you and is paying attention to you, there are steps you can take to de-escalate the situation:

It's best to hike in groups. Groups of people are noisier & the bear becomes aware of them at greater distances & will avoid you.

Talk calmly so the bear recognizes you are human & not prey.

Remain still but slowly wave your arms. A curious bear may stand on its hind legs to get a better look or smell. A standing bear is usually non-threatening.



If the bear is stationary, move away slowly, walking sideways. This allows you to keep an eye on the bear & moving sideways is non-threatening to bears. Do not run.

Always leave the bear an escape route.

Never approach a female with cubs. The mother could attack if she perceives you as a threat to her cubs.