



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.**

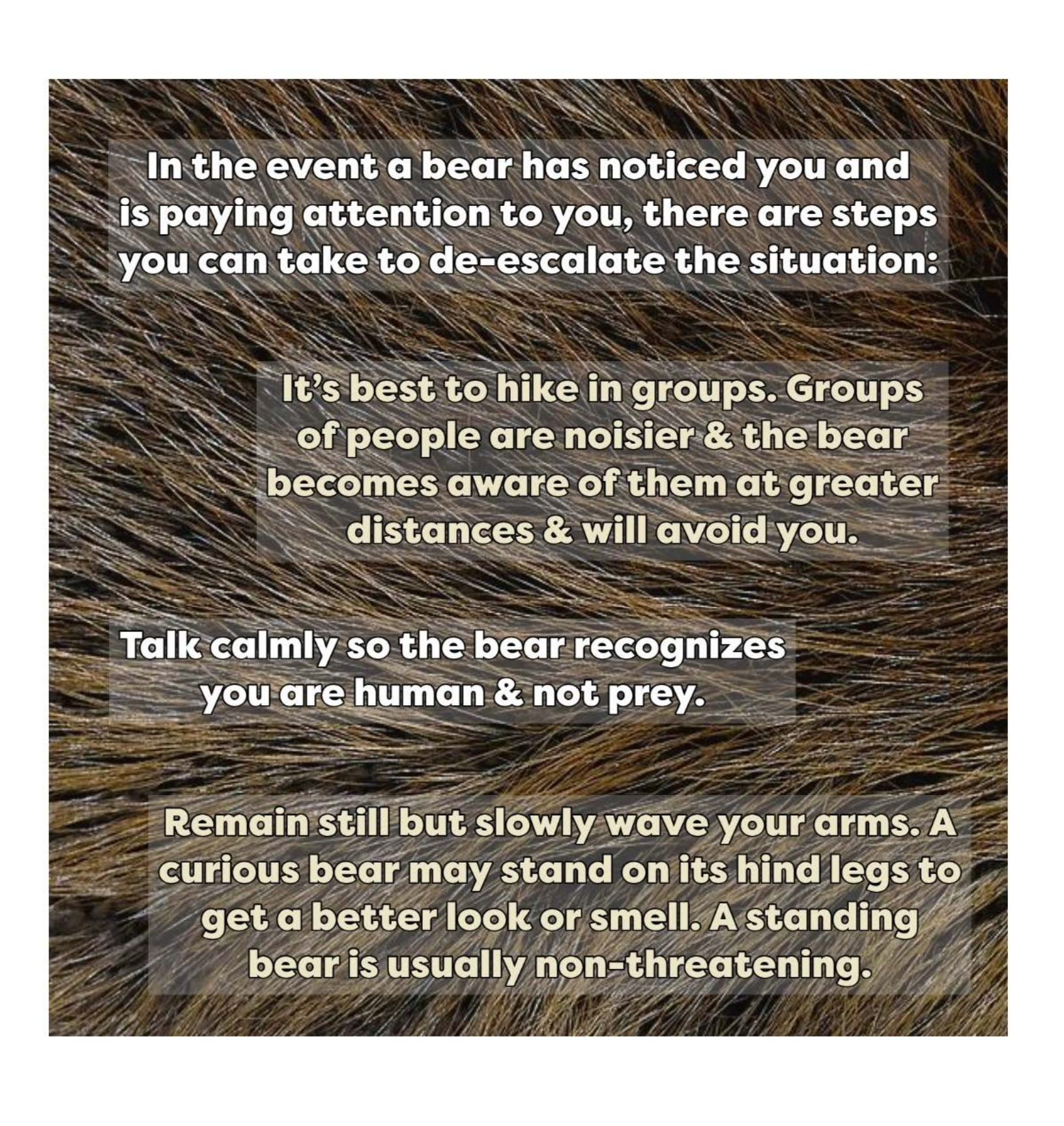
**If you encounter a bear rummaging through a trash bin, do not try to separate the bear from the food. Move away slowly. Never turn your back on a bear. Never run.**

A black bear is shown climbing a tree trunk. The bear is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its front paws gripping the bark. The background is a dense forest of green trees. The text is overlaid on the image in three separate boxes.

**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.**

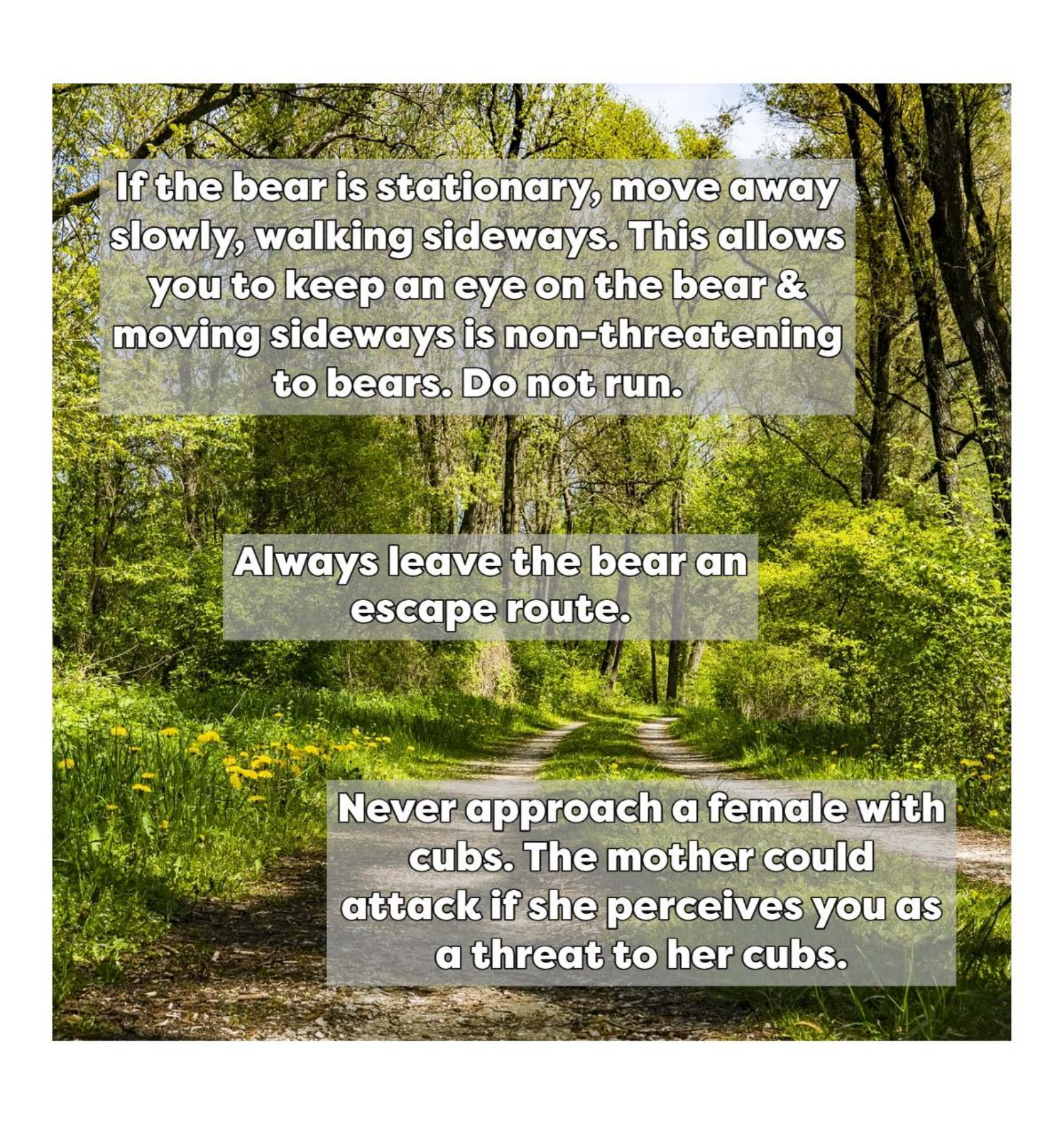
A close-up photograph of a bear's fur, showing individual strands of brown and black hair. The fur is dense and textured, filling the entire background of the image.

**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.**