



Instructions regarding visits and work at Hyltemossa Scientific Research Station:

Encounters with wild animals

There are elk, deer and wild boar in the woods around Hyltemossa. As far as we know there have not been any sightings of wolves, lynx or bears in the area. Below are some tips and advice about how to act if you encounter one of these animals. In general, it is advisable not to impose your presence on animals.

Elk

It is very unusual for elk to behave aggressively and, as long as they are not doing so, they are no danger at all, but you should not try to approach them to pet them. Make the elk aware of your location, sing or speak in a conversational tone, and it will wander away. If you notice the elk starting to approach you, do not stress it unnecessarily but give it a possible escape route, and try to calmly leave the area. An aggressive elk preparing to attack will lower its head, flatten its ears and raise its hackles. If this happens, you should try to get out of the way. If the elk attacks, try to take shelter behind something, such as a tree.

Wild boar

Wild boars prefer to avoid human contact and run in the opposite direction if they notice your approach, so don't creep silently through the woods. If you suddenly appear without warning, the wild boar could behave differently. As wild boars have poor eyesight and navigate using their sense of smell, they want to get closer to find out what you are and whether you are a danger. Unfortunately, they rush forwards and then stand sniffing and grunting to try and catch wind of you. We humans usually perceive this situation as threatening. If you then run away, the wild boar will follow, because it is still trying to understand what you are and whether or not you represent a danger. Therefore, if you come across

a wild boar, you should shout and shoo it away. Then it will leave. If you are unfortunate enough to find yourself between a sow and her piglets, the sow may feign attack but this is usually only a manoeuvre to scare you off.

Bear

If you want to avoid meeting any bears, make regular noises when walking alone in the woods. Sing from time to time, or talk to yourself. Or turn on the radio on your mobile phone. If there are any bears nearby, they will retreat and possibly observe you with curiosity from a safe distance. These animals have an excellent sense of smell and hearing and most encounters with bears are ones that we are not aware of.

If you do come across a bear, don't run away. The bear is significantly faster than you are. Don't try climbing a tree or suchlike either, as bears are better climbers than humans. Try to be as obvious as possible, turning away from the encounter and retreating slowly the way you came. If the bear rises up on its hind legs, it is a good sign. It is standing up to see and get wind of what is going on and to understand what you are. It is not preparing to attack. If

the bear follows you, you can drop some of your belongings on the ground. This usually results in the bear stopping at length to sniff the items. If the bear attacks, you should play dead. Lie down on the ground in the foetal position and protect your head and neck with your hands and arms. A bear attack usually ends with the bear going away once it has shown you who the boss is.

Wolf

It is very unusual to catch sight of a wolf – even in wolf territory. But if you do meet a wolf and it becomes aware of you, it will usually saunter off in a leisurely manner. If it does not leave and you experience the situation as unpleasant, bear the following in mind: Walk slowly and loudly away. Sing, talk or shout loudly (no shrill screaming). Do not run, as this can trigger the animal's hunting instincts, as well as increasing the risk of you stumbling which could result in an attack. If the wolf follows you – stop and appear big and dangerous by holding your arms and backpack or suchlike aloft. It is better to take a couple of steps towards the wolf than away from it. If the wolf attacks anyway, do not play dead but hit and kick as hard as you can. The presence of a dog can encourage wolves to overcome some of their shyness around humans. In certain cases, they may approach to within a few metres of a human. If you meet a wolf when you are out with your dog, the same rules apply as for other wolf encounters.

Lynx

The lynx is not a dangerous animal for humans, and there is no credible documented case of a wild lynx attacking and injuring a human. If a lynx should follow you, act as recommended for encounters with wolves.

Viper bites

From the healthcare guide 17 March 2016

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Rea

ctions to viper bites vary a lot

Viper bites usually hurt and appear as two small holes or dots on the skin about

6–

9 millimetr

es apart

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It is common for the area around the bite to swell up, and the swelling may spread along the part of the body that has been bitten

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Being bitten by a viper can lead to very different reactions.

Just under half of those who are bitten get no symptoms at all, which is because no venom has been injected

. Some get only insignificant swelling, whereas others can get very ill

. How strong the reaction is depends on the amount of venom that has entered the body and the location of the bite

. Children, the elderly and pregnant women are particularly sensitive.

Call the poisons information centre

As it is difficult to know how severely you will react to a viper bite, you are always to call the

Poisons information centre by dialling 112 or calling 010-456 67 00

for advice when you have been bitten by a viper

. Go to hospital

All viper bite victims are to go to the nearest hospital with an emergency room for observation.

If your general state of health is affected by nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhoea, dizziness, cold sweats, palpitations, swollen lips or breathing difficulties, you are to ring 112 for help with emergency transport to hospital

. If you are unaffected, you are still not to drive to the hospital yourself; ask for help in getting there

. Before you get to the hospital Keep still and rest, as the venom spreads faster when you exert yourself

. Keep the bitten limb still, and raised if possible

. Take off all tight-fitting items such as shoes, rings and watch as the area around the bite often swells

up.

Leave the site of the bite alone. Do not try to suck out the venom, cool or warm the area or tie

anything like a belt or suchlike around the bitten body part

. This could make the outcome worse.

Treatment with viper antivenom

There is a viper antivenom that can effectively halt the course of illness if you have reacted strongly to