

A Guide to Living with Alligators



Living with Alligators

Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size.

Alligators have inhabited Florida's marshes, swamps, rivers, and lakes long before people lived here and are found in all 67 counties.

In recent years, Florida has experienced tremendous human population growth. Many residents seek waterfront homes and increasingly participate in water-related activities. This can result in more frequent human-alligator interactions and a greater potential for conflict.

Serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida. From 2012 to 2022, Florida has averaged eight unprovoked bites per year that are serious enough to require professional medical treatment.



Safety Tips

- Keep a safe distance if you see an alligator.
- Keep pets on a leash and away from the water's edge. Pets often resemble alligators' natural prey.



- Swim only in designated swimming areas during daylight hours and without your pet. Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn.
- Never feed an alligator. It's illegal and dangerous. When fed, alligators can lose their natural wariness and instead learn to associate people with the availability of food. This can lead to an alligator becoming a nuisance and needing to be removed from the wild.



If you're concerned about an alligator, call the FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286). We will dispatch a contracted nuisance alligator trapper to resolve the situation.



DON'T FEED ALLIGATORS!

Feeding alligators is dangerous and illegal.

To report fish and wildlife violations, call 888-404-3922



Access more sign templates at [MyFWC.com/Alligator](https://myfwc.com/alligator).

Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program

Because of successful alligator management, people and alligators can safely coexist.

One way the FWC manages alligators is through the Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program (SNAP). The goal of SNAP is to proactively address alligator threats in developed areas while conserving alligators in areas where they naturally occur.

SNAP uses contracted nuisance alligator trappers throughout the state to remove nuisance alligators.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a nuisance alligator?

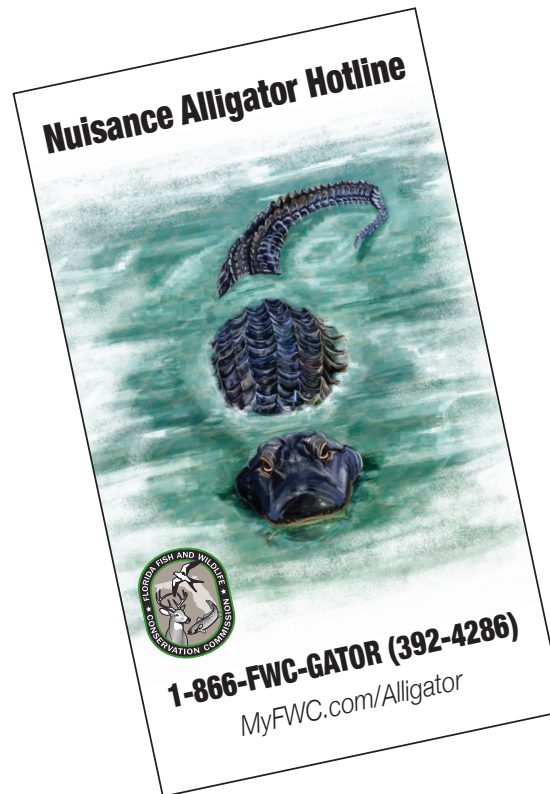
Generally, an alligator may be considered a nuisance if it's at least 4 feet in length and believed to pose a threat to people, pets, or property.

What should I do if I see someone feeding an alligator?

Call our Wildlife Alert Hotline at **888-404-FWCC** (888-404-3922). Callers can remain anonymous.

What happens after a trapper removes an alligator?

When a contracted nuisance alligator trapper removes an alligator, it becomes the property of the trapper. In most cases, the alligator is processed for its hide and meat. Occasionally, a nuisance alligator is sold alive to an alligator farm, animal exhibit or zoo.



To report nuisance alligators, call **866-FWC-GATOR** (866-392-4286).



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