

Warm spring weather means it's time to brush up on tips for living with alligators

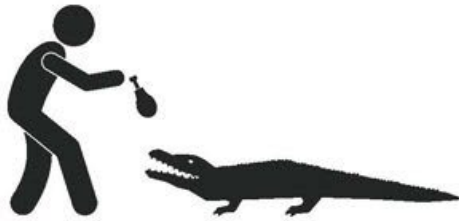
LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS



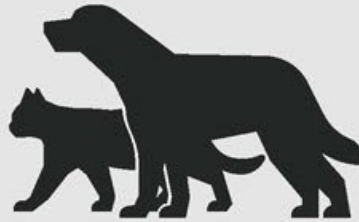
These amazing animals are important to Florida's natural areas and found throughout the state.

A few simple rules to co-exist with alligators:

NEVER feed an alligator



Keep pets away from water's edge



Swim during the day and only in designated areas



if you see an alligator

Call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at **866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286)** if you're concerned about an alligator.

Keeping Your Pets Safe Around Cane Toads



Invasive cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) are a nonnative species that can be deadly to curious pets.

A Poisonous Problem

If your pet bites or swallows a cane toad, they can become sick and die in as little as 15 minutes without proper treatment. These toads release a milky toxin that sticks in your pet's mouth. Symptoms may include frantic or disoriented behavior, brick red gums, seizures, and foaming at the mouth.

Treatment

1. Wash toxins forward out of mouth using a hose for 10 minutes being careful not to direct water down the throat.
2. Wipe gums/tongue with dish towel to remove toxins.
3. Get your pet to the vet!

Prevention: Better than Treatment

Most encounters happen in backyards. These practices can help keep your pet safer.

Mow & Trim: Keep grass short so you can spot cane toads. Bring underside of shrubs off the ground to eliminate hiding places for these toxic toads.

Clean: Mess attracts pests. Outdoor food and water bowls for pets, brush piles, and other clutter can attract toads – and their prey, which in turn attracts toads.

Watch: Since cane toads are nocturnal, watch your pets while outside at night when most encounters happen. Don't allow your pets to nose around in bushes while on walks.

www.floridainvasives.org/southwest | To Report: www.eddmaps.org/florida or 888.IVEGOT1

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