



**Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission**

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March 26, 2019

Photos available on the FWC's Flickr site: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskXHHGB2>

Video PSA, brochure and poster: <https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/gators/>

Suggested Tweet: Warmer spring weather means #alligators are more active. @MyFWC tips on how to stay safe: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWCC/bulletins/2399859> #Florida



Photo by Andy Wraithmell/FWC.

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

The American alligator, Florida's state reptile, is an important part of Florida's wetland habitats. This large reptile is found throughout the state in fresh water lakes, ponds, swamps and slow-moving rivers.

During spring, alligators become more active and visible. When temperatures rise, their metabolism increases and they begin seeking prey. Although alligator bite incidents resulting in serious injury are rare in Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water.

Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they can be easily observed. If you see an alligator, keep your distance. Also, never feed alligators because it is dangerous and illegal. When fed, alligators can overcome their natural wariness and learn to associate people with food.

Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn. To reduce the chances of conflicts with alligators, swim only during daylight hours and in designated swimming areas.

The FWC also recommends pet owners keep their animals on a leash and away from the water because pets can resemble an alligator's natural prey.

The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and urges people who believe an alligator poses a threat to people, pets or property to call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286). When someone concerned about an alligator calls the Nuisance Alligator Hotline, the FWC will dispatch one of our contracted nuisance alligator trappers to resolve the situation. The FWC also works diligently to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice about [living with alligators](#).

The American alligator is a conservation success story. Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size. Learn more about alligators at MyFWC.com/Alligator.

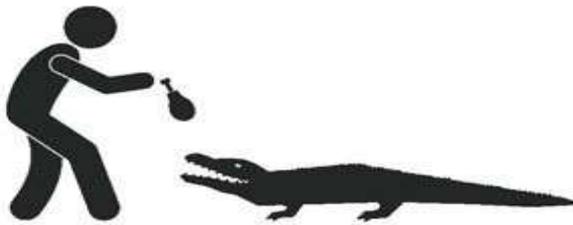
LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS



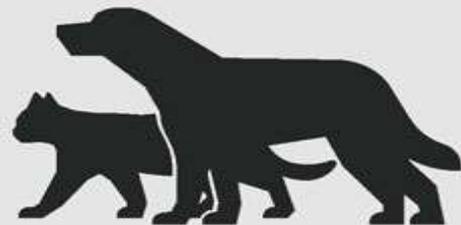
These amazing animals are important to Florida's natural areas and found throughout the state.

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.

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