

If you need to report a nuisance alligator, call 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286).

The Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program strives to reduce the threat from alligators to people and their property in developed areas, while conserving alligators in areas where alligators naturally occur. The FWC contracts about 55 private nuisance alligator trappers to remove specific nuisance alligators. Individuals may call our toll-free number to submit complaints regarding nuisance alligators.

If the complaint meets FWC criteria, we will issue a permit to a nuisance alligator trapper to capture alligator. Please be aware that nuisance alligators are killed, not relocated. The person making the complaint must be able to allow the trapper access to the property. Many people enjoy viewing alligators, and we do not permit the removal of alligators from private property without a request from someone responsible for the area.

This program permits the removal of alligators that pose a threat to people, pets, livestock, or property. It is illegal for members of the general public to kill, capture or relocate nuisance alligators. In 2010, FWC received 14,418 nuisance alligator complaints. Nuisance alligator trappers were issued 10,784 permits and removed over 5,800 nuisance alligators.

Program News and Information

What is a nuisance alligator? Generally, an alligator may be considered a nuisance if it is at least 4 feet in length and poses a threat to people, their pets, or property.

Why don't you remove small alligators? Generally, alligators less than 4 feet in length are not large enough to be dangerous unless handled. They eat small fish, frogs, and other small animals. Typically, they are not large enough to be a threat to even small pets. The mere presence of a small alligator is not cause for concern.

Occasionally alligators less than 4 feet in length are legitimate problems and must be addressed. If an alligator less than four feet in length is in a location that is not natural (such as a swimming pool or garage), call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286).