

Riverwood CDD

Nuisance Alligator Removal Procedure



Dear Residents,

It has come to our attention that the community has questions on when is it appropriate to remove alligators from Riverwood. The Riverwood Community Development District has put together the following nuisance alligator removal procedure to help give everyone a better understanding.

When is an alligator considered a "nuisance alligator"? Generally, alligators may be considered a nuisance when they are at least four feet in length and pose a threat to people or their pets or property. Alligators less than four feet in length are naturally fearful of people and are not generally capable of eating anything larger than a small turtle. They eat small fish, frogs, and other small animals. They are too small to be a threat to even small pets and pose no threat to people. They are typically not dangerous to people unless someone attempts to handle them. They are common in Florida, and the mere presence of a small alligator is not cause for concern, even when they turn up in places where people may not expect to see them such as retention ponds and drainage ditches. However, occasionally alligators more than four feet in length are legitimate problems and must be addressed. If an alligator more than four feet in length approaches people, does not retreat if approached, or is in a location that is not natural, **call Riverwood Security at 941-764-6822**. Riverwood Security will then contact the Nuisance Alligator Hotline and will give them permission to come onto the property to remove the alligator. What happens to nuisance alligators when they are removed by trappers? When a nuisance alligator trapper removes an alligator, that alligator becomes the property of the trapper (except in the case of an alligator bite on a human). In most cases, the alligator is killed and processed for its hide and meat. The sale of the hide and meat is the primary compensation for the nuisance alligator trapper. In a few cases, a nuisance alligator is sold live to an alligator farm, animal exhibit or zoo. The trapper is usually reimbursed with an amount equivalent to the market value of the alligator. However, the demand for live alligators by these establishments is low.

A few reminders:

It is illegal to feed alligators or entice them with food. This will cause the animal to lose its fear of humans, become dangerous, and have to be killed. Because alligators are ubiquitous in Florida, we have to assume that every lake has at least one; it is dangerous for you, your child, or your dog to wade or swim in any of the lakes in Riverwood. Alligators are hard to see if they are near the shore basking in the sun. Be sure to pay attention if you are going near water even in your own back yard.

For more information, go to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission site (<http://myfwc.com>)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the removal of alligators please feel free to contact the Riverwood Security 941-764-6822.

Thank you,
Riverwood CDD Board of Supervisors