



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

- Fishing
- Boating
- Hunting
- Licenses & Permits
- Wildlife Viewing
- Wildlife & Habitats
- Research
- Education
- Conservation

Home : Conservation : How You Can Conserve : [Wildlife Assistance](#) : Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

Value of Conservation

How You Can Conserve

[Outdoor Recreation](#)

[Living with Wildlife](#)

[Wildlife Assistance](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Whom to Call?](#)

[Wildlife Rehabbers](#)

[Permits](#)

[Relocating Wildlife](#)

[Wildlife Lighting](#)

[Nonnative Species](#)

Freshwater Programs

Saltwater Programs

Terrestrial

Federal Aid

Special Initiatives

FAQs: Nuisance Wildlife

- [Permit requirements](#)
- Are there wildlife that cannot be taken?
- Who can take nuisance wildlife?
- How can I add my name to the Trapper Directory?
- How can Wildlife be taken?
- What do I do with a nuisance animal after it is caught?
- [Where and how is a carcass disposed?](#)
- Where can I buy traps and supplies?
- Are Muscovy ducks legal to take?
- Can I trap feral or wild hogs?

Are there wildlife that cannot be taken?

Yes, there are many species that cannot be taken. For more information about which wildlife cannot be take and resolving problems with these species visit our [Wildlife Assistance](#) website.

Who can take nuisance wildlife?

Any person owning property may take nuisance wildlife that...

- causes (or is about to cause) property damage,
- presents a threat to public safety, or
- causes an annoyance within, under or upon a building

on their property or they may authorize another person to take nuisance wildlife on their behalf. Persons responsible for government owned property are considered "property owners". Nuisance wildlife trappers and property owners who have problems with animals are responsible for complying with the many laws that protect animals. Before removing an animal, please seek [assistance](#) in understanding these laws and your options for resolving the problem.

[Permits](#) may be required under certain circumstances.

You may want to have another individual take the nuisance animals for you.

FWC does not license nuisance wildlife trappers, but does allow them to advertise their services on our web site. Consult the FWC's list of [Nuisance Wildlife Trappers that Operate in Your County](#). Most trappers will charge a fee for their services. Nuisance wildlife trappers do not need to notify or obtain FWC authorization to take most destructive or nuisance wildlife from private property. All a nuisances wildlife trapper needs to take nuisance wildlife outdoors is the consent of the property owner. Likewise, property owners may take most nuisance wildlife on their own land without notifying or obtaining FWC authorization. Nuisance wildlife trappers attempting to trap in or under a structure should see "[Nuisance Wildlife Trappers - Businesses](#)".

How can nuisance wildlife be taken?

Nuisance wildlife, as defined in [Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\) 68A-9.010](#), may be taken using live traps or snares, or, where allowed, firearms during daylight hours. All traps and snares must be inspected at least once every 24 hours. The discharge of a firearm may be prohibited in some cities and residential areas, check with local law enforcement. A permit issued by the FWC regional offices is required to use [steel traps](#) to take destructive

mammals (excluding species prohibited by the FWC). A [Gun and Light at Night Permit](#) and a hunting license are required to use a firearm and a light at night to take nuisance beaver, bobcat, fox, opossum, rabbit, raccoon or skunk, causing destruction of crops and/or livestock. A Gun and Light at Night Permit is not required to take wild hog, coyote, armadillo, black or Norway rat and house mouse, with a gun and light at night.

What do I do with a nuisance animal after it is caught?

Live-captured nuisance wildlife must be released legally or euthanized humanely within 24 hours of capture or trap inspection. Any non-target wildlife should be released immediately at the capture site. Unless prohibited by rabies alert or quarantine issued by County Health Department or County Animal Control, live captured nuisance wildlife may be transported only for the purpose of euthanasia or for legal release, Euthanasia guidelines can be found on the [Report of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia](#). Only native species of wildlife may be released.

Native nuisance wildlife may be released on the property of the landowner where captured provided the release site and capture site are located on one contiguous piece of property. Native nuisance wildlife may be released off the capture site if the release site is a minimum of 40 contiguous acres, located in the same county as the capture site, and the person releasing the nuisance wildlife has in their possession written permission from the landowner of the release site allowing release on their property. Nuisance wildlife may not be released on federal, state, county, local or private lands without written permission of the landowner.

Where and how is a carcass disposed?

To dispose of carcasses, please keep these precautions in mind and follow these instructions. When handling dead birds or other wildlife, work outdoors and try to stay upwind of the carcass. When bagging the carcass, keep the open end of the bag away from your face. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling carcasses. **Do not store carcasses in a cooler, freezer, or refrigerator used for human or animal food, and wash hands thoroughly after handling.** Wash any clothing that comes into contact with the carcass with normal household detergent at normal temperatures.

Disposal of dead animals: open up two heavy plastic trash bags. Avoid touching the carcass with your bare hands. Pick up the carcass using disposable gloves or plastic bags worn on your hands. Place the carcass in the first heavy plastic trash bag. Keep the open end of the bag pointed away from your face while tying securely. Next remove gloves or plastic bags from your hands by turning them inside out. Dispose of the gloves or plastic bags in the second heavy trash bag and place the first bag (containing the carcass) in the second bag, as well. Tie the second bag securely and place it in the garbage. If there are many carcasses to be disposed of, please first speak with your local waste management facility.

Where can I buy traps and supplies?

Many feed or home improvement stores will sell or rent animal traps. Some Animal Control offices will also lease traps for domestic animals.

Are Muscovy ducks legal to take?

Muscovy ducks have been introduced into urban and suburban areas in Florida where they often occur in high densities. **If the muscovy ducks are yours or have no identifiable owner and are on your property**, Federal regulations allow control by landowners, wildlife management agencies, and tenants, agents, or employees without federal or state permits. Captured birds may be humanely euthanized, but it is illegal to capture the birds and release them elsewhere. Information about dealing with [problem ducks or geese](#) is available at [MyFWC.com/Duck](#).

Can I trap feral or wild hogs?

On private property, [wild hogs](#) may be trapped using pens with trap doors and baited with acorns or old corn. Trapped animals may not be released on public land, and can only be released on private property with landowner permission. There is no size or bag limit, and you may harvest either sex. Also, no hunting license is required.

Before transporting hogs, contact the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry for applicable regulations in Florida.

Feral hog trappers should see the [permit information](#) on our web site.

FWC Facts:

Approximately 1.7 million acres of Florida's remaining natural areas have been invaded by nonindigenous plant species, which have degraded and diminished our ecosystem.

[Learn More at AskFWC](#)



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- Fishing
- Boating
- Hunting
- Licenses & Permits
- Wildlife Viewing
- Wildlife & Habitats
- Research
- Education
- Conservation

Home : Conservation : How You Can Conserve : [Wildlife Assistance](#) :

Relocating Wildlife

- Value of Conservation**
- How You Can Conserve**
 - Outdoor Recreation
 - Living with Wildlife
 - Wildlife Assistance
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Whom to Call?](#)
 - [Wildlife Rehabbers](#)
 - [Permits](#)
 - [Relocating Wildlife](#)
 - Wildlife Lighting
 - Nonnative Species
- Freshwater Programs**
- Saltwater Programs**
- Terrestrial**
- Federal Aid**
- Special Initiatives**

It's a popular myth that the animal that is a nuisance on your property can simply be "relocated." It sounds easy enough and one would think that it might be the best for property owner and nuisance animal. However, it's rare that relocated animals have a good chance of survival, and moving them may even affect the survival of animals in their new "home."

- Relocation can be stressful to wild animals. They may experience elevated heart rates and breathing rates, high blood pressure, acute changes in blood chemistry and depressed appetites. These factors in turn may make them more vulnerable to disease or predation.
- Relocated animals have no prior experience with their new homes which immediately puts them at a disadvantage in finding food and shelter. Most animals that cause problems are common and widespread, such as fox, opossum, and raccoon. That means that almost all areas that could be places to relocate nuisance animals already have established populations of those animals.
- Animals released in a new territory lack the local knowledge to fit in with existing animal hierarchies. They risk fights with resident animals and exclusion from feeding areas and den sites.
- Releasing animals may help spread disease. Just as we humans spread disease among our populations by traveling, animals can bring diseases into new areas when they are relocated, thus impacting the resident animal populations.
- A relocation site may not have all the basic needs for the animal to site. Although the site may look suitable to us, it may lack proper food or shelter.
- The combination of the previous factors often caused animals to leave the release area. The animal may aimlessly wander for miles, and is accountable for high mortality in released animals.

In summary, relocation sounds appealing, but it is tough on the transported animals and can have negative impacts on the animal populations where they are released. Our goal is to co-exist with Florida's wild animals and we owe it to them to seek low stress and hopefully non-lethal solution to nuisance animal problems. Usually, that means modifying our own behavior.

All live-captured bobcats must be released. Other live-captured nuisance wildlife must be released or euthanized within 24 hours of capture or trap inspection. In addition, nuisance wildlife may be transported and released at an off-site location if the animal is a native species; the releaser has written permission from the owner of the release site; the release site is privately owned and is 40 or more contiguous acres, and the transportation of the wildlife does not violate any rabies alert or area quarantine issued by a county health department or county animal service.

More information nuisance wildlife is available on our [Wildlife Assistance](#) webpage.

FWC Facts:

Healthy lakes with vibrant fisheries enhance property values & development potential and justify the need for sustainable development practices to protect them into the future.

[Learn More at AskFWC](#)



Get FWC News Feeds



Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity.

68A-9.010 Taking Nuisance Wildlife.

Any person owning property may take nuisance wildlife or they may authorize another person to take nuisance wildlife on their behalf except those species listed in subsection (1) below on their property by any method except those methods listed in subsection (2) below. Persons responsible for government owned property are considered "landowners" for the purpose of this rule. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the executive director or a designee may issue permits authorizing the take of additional species of wildlife, additional methods of take or alternative forms of disposition and transportation for justifiable purposes pursuant to Rule 68A-9.002, F.A.C., provided authorizations shall be denied or revoked upon reasonable conclusion that the requested or permitted activity would be detrimental to fish and wildlife resources or public health and safety.

(1) Wildlife that may not be taken as nuisance wildlife:

(a) Species listed in Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C.

(b) The following mammals:

1. Black bear.

2. Deer.

3. Bats – Except that bats may be taken either when:

a. The take is incidental to the use of an exclusion device, a device which allows escape from and blocks re-entry into a roost site located within a structure, or incidental to the use of a registered chemical repellent, at any time from August 15 to April 15 or

b. The take is incidental to permanent repairs which prohibit the egress of bats from a roost site located within a structure provided an exclusion device as described in sub-subparagraph a. above is used for a minimum of four consecutive days/nights for which the low temperature is forecasted by the U.S. National Weather Service to remain above 50° F prior to repairs and during the time-period specified.

4. Bobcat – Except that a bobcat may be taken, as provided by subsections (2), (3) and (4) below, when it causes or is about to cause property damage, or presents a threat to public safety. Euthanasia of any live captured bobcat is prohibited and any live captured bobcat shall be released as provided by subsection (3).

(c) The following birds:

1. All birds listed in 50 C.F.R. §10.13 as protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act unless the take is authorized by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service by a permit or depredation order.

2. Bobwhite quail.

3. Wild turkey.

(2) Methods that may not be used to take nuisance wildlife:

(a) Gun and light.

(b) Steel traps.

(c) Live traps and snares unless they are visited at intervals not exceeding 24 hours.

(d) Poison, other than those pesticides that are registered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services without additional authorizations and are only used in a manner consistent with the product labeling.

(e) Bat exclusion devices or any other intentional use of a device or material at a roost site which may prevent or inhibit the free ingress and/or egress of bats from April 16 through August 14.

(f) Any method prohibited pursuant to Section 828.12, F.S.

(3) Disposition of live-captured nuisance wildlife.

(a) Wildlife live captured by any method shall be released or euthanized within 24 hours following capture or inspection of a trapping device containing wildlife, provided any species described in subsection (1) above or any non-target wildlife shall be released immediately at the site of capture.

(b) Nuisance wildlife may only be released if:

1. The nuisance wildlife is released on the property of the landowner provided the release site and capture site are located on one contiguous piece of property; or

2. The nuisance wildlife is a native species; and

3. The property where the nuisance animal is to be released is located within the county of capture and is a minimum of 40 contiguous acres; and

4. The person releasing the nuisance wildlife is in possession, at time of release, of written permission from the property owner allowing such action.

(c) Euthanasia of nuisance wildlife shall be humane as defined by the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians or the American Veterinary Medical Association.

(d) The provisions of this subsection shall not prohibit the personal possession of wildlife as authorized by subsection 68A-6.0022(2), F.A.C.

(4) Transportation of nuisance wildlife.

(a) Live-captured nuisance wildlife may be transported under authority of this section only for:

1. The purpose of euthanasia as provided in subsection (3) above; or
2. The purpose of release as provided in subsection (3) above.

(b) Transportation of wildlife authorized by this section shall not supersede the provisions of any rabies alert or area quarantine issued by County Health Departments or County Animal Services.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 7-1-08, Amended 7-1-10, 7-27-10.