

Nuisance Alligator Information

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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 usually not considered a nuisance because they are:

- Naturally fearful of people
- Not generally capable of eating anything larger than a small turtle -- they eat small fish, frogs, and other small animals
- Too small to be a threat to even small pets and pose no threat to people
- Typically not dangerous to people unless someone attempts to handle them
- 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 less than four feet in length are legitimate problems and must be addressed. Call the Nuisance **Alligator** Hotline at 1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286). If an **alligator** less than four feet in length:

- Approaches people
- Does not retreat if approached
- Is in a location that is not natural.

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. If you have a nuisance **alligator** call the Nuisance **Alligator** Hotline at 1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286).