

Even in densely populated Pinellas County, a wide variety of **wildlife has made homes here.**

Alligators, foxes, raccoons and coyotes are just some of the animals that can be found in our open spaces, enjoying our natural ecosystem.



The tragedy of feral animals – domestic animals that have been abandoned – can also be found in our county. These cats and dogs should no longer be considered house pets, but wild animals.



Remember, feeding or attempting to handle these animals – no matter how cute or hungry they seem – can often result in more harm than good.

Pinellas County **codes forbid molesting,** **feeding, or releasing wild** **or non-native animals** **within Pinellas County.**

This prohibition includes cats. A person convicted of a violation of this code shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a term not exceeding 60 days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

For more information about our local wildlife, contact Pinellas County Extension at (727) 582-2100.



This information is brought to you in cooperation with Pinellas County's Department of Animal Services, Park Department, Extension Service, Environmental Management and Communications Department.

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the Communications Department at: (727) 464-4600 • TDD (727) 464-4431.

Living with Wildlife

**Safely coexisting
with wildlife in
Pinellas County**

Don't Feed!

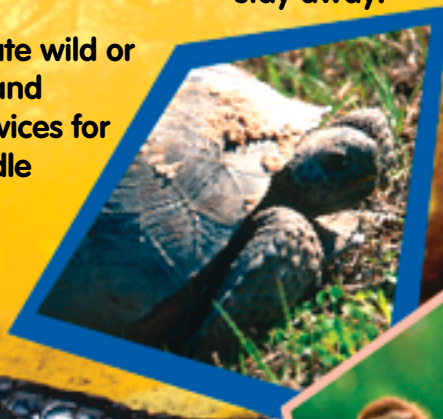


- Feeding wild animals makes them lose their fear of people. And, they can become aggressive when they don't get their anticipated serving.
- People-food isn't healthy for animals. Each animal has its own unique diet and disrupting it can lead to all types of health problems.
- If it smells like food (foil, plastic bags, etc.), animals will eat it. Dispose of trash properly.
- Don't forget about your home! Feeding your pets outdoors is an open invitation for wildlife, and unsecured garbage cans are attractive as well.

Don't Touch!



- Some animals, especially raccoons and foxes, can carry rabies, a potentially lethal disease that requires prompt, painful and expensive treatment to prevent.
- Baby animals are cute, but their mothers will protect them aggressively. If you see baby animals, stay away.
- It is illegal to abandon or relocate wild or feral animals at County parks and preserves. Contact Animal Services for information about how to handle nuisance animals or unwanted pets.



Do
Enjoy!



- Nature watching is one of the nation's fastest-growing hobbies. Bring your binoculars and get a good view of the native wildlife.
- Bring a camera and film when visiting parks or preserves to capture memories for a lifetime.
- Remember, when you visit County parks and preserves, you are a visitor in the home of many species. Treat it with the same respect you would show any host.

