

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.

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# Living with Wildlife

Safely coexisting with wildlife in Pinellas County

# Don't Feed!

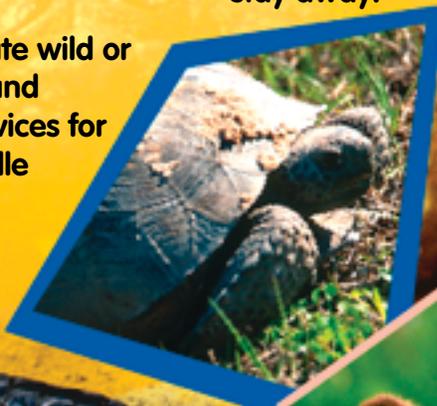


- Feeding wild animals makes them lose their fear of people. And, they can become aggressive when they don't get their anticipated serving.
- People-food isn't healthy for animals. Each animal has its own unique diet and disrupting it can lead to all types of health problems.
- If it smells like food (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.

