

## **WDCA Alligator Management Policy**

Recognizing our commitment to promote the safety and security of our residents and guests and to support and sustain the native wildlife in our community, the WDCA Board has formalized and approved an Alligator Management Policy. Our Policy is intended to minimize the need for removal and destruction of adult alligators. It involves education, contact deterrence and a guide for the residents in the handling of “nuisance” alligators.

### **Education and Contact Deterrence**

Wild Dunes owners and residents can find information on alligator behavior and precautions on the Community Association website ([www.wilddunesowners.org](http://www.wilddunesowners.org)) The Association will reinforce warnings about contact with alligators in its spring and summer newsletters which are mailed to owners. Warning signs will continue to be posted along Association-owned lagoons where frequent alligator sightings occur. In collaboration with Wild Dunes Resort Management, the Association will place warning signs along community lagoons with shoreline frontage on the golf course. The Association will include a warning about alligator contact on its access control passes which are distributed at the security gates and to the various rental companies managing rentals in the community for distribution to their guests prior to Wild Dunes Arrival. Security personnel will be vigilant during their patrols of the community and caution/warn residents and guests who are too close to alligators or improperly interacting with them (i.e. feeding, fishing too closely, throwing objects at them, etc.)

### **Removal of “Nuisance” Alligators**

A nuisance alligator has the following characteristics:

- Repeatedly displays aggressive behavior which causes it to be a safety concern. This may include repeated hissing and/or movement toward a human, as opposed to retreating into the water.
- Typically, a nuisance alligator is six feet longer or greater; however, behavior of the animal is the primary factor in determining whether or not an alligator is a nuisance.
- Leaves its lagoon or marsh natural habitat, repeatedly settles in a yard or on community common property close to human activity and does not retreat when approached.

If a homeowner, guest, WDCA staff member or contracted Wildlife Management Personnel observes a nuisance alligator, they should contact the Chief Operating Officer of WDCA. The C.O.O. will have the contracted Wildlife Management personnel observe the alligator and, if it meets the criteria outlined above, it will be removed.