

## **WILDCAT RUN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC. POLICY ON NUISANCE WILDLIFE**

The Wildcat Run Community Association has promulgated the following policy pertaining to the Wildlife that is part of our community.

Wildcat Run is fortunate to have several different species of animals and birds inhabiting our community and surrounding area. Deer, wild hogs, bob cats, coyotes, and possibly a Florida panther or two inhabit our preserves. Our lakes are abundant with several species of wading birds, fish, snakes, and the most notable of all, the alligator. These animals are protected by laws governing their harvest, feeding and trapping by the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC). These laws are punishable by severe fines and possible jail time. Nuisance alligators are defined by the Florida Wildlife Commission as alligators over four (4) feet and believed to pose a threat to people, pets or property. If a resident feels that an alligator meets the nuisance criteria, a call should be made to Alliant Property Management at 239 454-1101 or to a member of the Community Association Board. The Community Association and/or Alliant will contact the FWC at the Gator Hotline to obtain permits to remove them from the property. Removal of nuisance alligators is not permitted from private or publicly managed property without first obtaining permission from the property owner or management authority. The trappers who staff the Gator Hotline have 48 hours to come out to the property to find the nuisance alligator. If they can't find the alligator, the homeowner will need to contact Alliant again so another visit from a trapper can be scheduled. Homeowners who are concerned about raccoons, armadillos and other wildlife impacting their property, should contact a licensed pest removal company to handle the wildlife issue.

### **Additional Information**

Do not attempt to trap or feed the wildlife, especially alligators. If you throw food (and alligators will eat almost anything) into the lakes near your homes, you may find alligators lurking behind your residence, waiting for more treats. When the Community Association or our representative (Alliant Property Management) is notified of an aggressive alligator, that meets the criteria of "nuisance" and is believed to pose a threat to person, property or pets, the proper authorities are contacted and the alligator, if it can be found, is killed by a licensed trapper and removed. Residents should also be aware that late spring/summer is alligator mating season, and they will be traveling in search of a mate. If you see an alligator away from a lake, give the animal a wide berth. If we avoid them, they generally will not bother us.

Residents need to be aware of their surroundings and should be sure to keep children and pets under close supervision and away from the lakes. Raccoons and other wildlife are also dangerous. They are not pets and shouldn't be treated as such. Feeding wildlife accustoms them to humans and is a certain death sentence for bears, alligators and other species. Making simple accommodations will often solve the problem of marauding raccoons and other critters. Remove the free meal attractant by feeding pets indoors, installing baffles on bird feeder poles and fastening trash cans lids with rubber straps. Bringing pets inside at night will keep them safe from hungry predators. Cover possible entryways with hardware cloth to exclude squirrels, bats and other animals scouting out your home for a safe place to raise young.