



# Florida Nonnative

## The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program (FWC)

An effort to reduce the number of nonnative species being released into the wild by pet owners who can no longer care for their pets or no longer wish to keep them. Another goal of the program is to foster responsible pet ownership through outreach and education at Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events.

**If you have an exotic pet that needs rehoming, please contact: Exotic Species Hotline, 1-888-IVEGOT1 (483-4681);**

[PetAmnesty@myfwc.com](mailto:PetAmnesty@myfwc.com)

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/amnestyprogram/>

## Non-Native Referrals

South Florida Wildlife Center – 3200 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33315  
954-524-4302

Duck Haven: Duck Sanctuary in Broward  
954-979-5044

Bird Lovers Club: Parrot Rescue Organization  
954-684-2994

Little Farm: Farm Animal Surrenders  
305-258-3186

Jungle Birds R Us: Volunteer Rescue Organization  
754-213-2930

H.A.R.E.: Rabbit Rescue  
305-666-6266

Humane Society: Cats & Dogs  
305-696-0800

## Non-Native Veterinarian Referrals

West Kendall Animal Hospital: 14732 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, 33196  
305-859-3382

Ives Dairy Animal Clinic: 1562 NE Ives Dairy Road, N. Miami Beach, 33179  
305-653-3939

Eco Deco Pet Hospital: 1539 Alton Rd, Miami Beach, 33139  
305-763-8009

Avian & Exotic AMC: 6380 S Dixie Hwy, South Miami, 33143  
305-234-2473



# Florida Nonnative

## We do not accept the following species:

Muscovy Duck

European Starling

House Sparrow

Rock Dove (Pigeon)

Eurasian Collared Dove

Peafowl

Egyptian Geese

Domestic animals (ex.

Chickens)

Exotic Pets (ex. Turtles, rabbits, parrots, or any other nonnative exotic species)

## Laws & Regulation

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2011/379.231>

### **379.231 Regulation of Nonnative Animals –**

- (1) It is unlawful to import for sale or use, or to release within this state, any species of the animal kingdom not native to Florida unless authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- (2) A person in violation of this section commits a Level Three violation under S. 379.4015

**Nonnative species** are animals living outside captivity that did not historically occur in Florida. Most nonnatives are introduced species, meaning they have been brought to Florida by humans.

An **invasive species** is a plant, fungus, or animal species that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species), and which has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.

\*\*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website:

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/>

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## Threats and Impacts

- Muscovy Ducks have the potential to transmit disease to and interbreed with Florida's native waterfowl. Also have been documented drowning native waterfowl.
- European Starlings & House Sparrows compete with native species for tree cavities, nest boxes and other nest spaces, often aggressively evicting other species from cavities & may harass native bird species.

## Disease & Property Damage

- Muscovy Ducks produce a large quantity of droppings, which can seriously degrade water quality. In addition, domestic ducks are often responsible for the spread of several serious diseases to native ducks.
- Rock dove & Eurasian Collared Dove droppings can carry diseases such as psittacosis, cryptococcal meningitis, histoplasmosis, toxoplasmosis, encephalitis, and the disease-causing parasite *Trichomonas gallinae*, which they may spread to native doves at feeders or birdbaths, or to the native hawks that feed on them.
- House sparrows can carry many different types of diseases that could be spread to native species at backyard feeders. They can carry a variety of zoonoses, diseases that can be spread to humans (often through feces), and act as amplifying hosts, allowing the infectious agent to multiply rapidly.

