

# Florida Nonnative Species

## 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/>

## 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



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## 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/amnesty-program/>

## **For further info:**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website:

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

Muscovy Ducks: <http://myfwc.com/media/3792156/muscovy-duck.pdf>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw299>

European Starlings: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw300>

Eurasian-collared Dove: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw301>

House Sparrows: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw305>

## **Other Referrals:**

### South Florida Wildlife Center

954 524 4302  
3200 SW 4th Ave.  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33315  
\*no pet surrenders or domestics

### Duck Haven

954 979 5044  
2627 NW 61st Ave.  
Margate, FL 33063  
\*nonnative ducks only

### Florida Parrot Rescue

[flparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto:flparrotrescue@aol.com)  
\*lost/found parrot species

### Little Farm

305 258 3186  
\*Domestic farm animals

### House Rabbit Rescue

305 284 3977  
\*lost/found domestic rabbits

### Bird Lover's Club

954 304 9330  
\*lost/found parrot species

