Human-Wildlife Interactions

What is a wildlife emergency?

Wildlife emergencies are incidents involving wild animals in which an immediate danger to public health and safety is present. Contact the SCDNR Emergency number and/or the Myrtle Beach Police Department. Contact SCDHEC for rabies control inquiries.

Myrtle Beach Police Department may only respond to wild animal complaints, in which the animal is sick, injured and/or the animal is an immediate and present danger to public health and safety.

Nuisance wildlife problems?

Wildlife nuisances must be handled by the individual home or property owner. Resources and guides are available at: www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/nuisance.html or questions may be directed to a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator. A list of NWCOs is available at: www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/docs/nwco.pdf.

General Nuisance Wildlife Guidelines:

- Property owners may take a nuisance wild animal (examples: foxes, coyotes, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, etc.) within 100 yards of his/her property; however, Myrtle Beach City Ordinance prohibits discharging firearms or air rifles (Sec. 14-101). Contacting a NWCO is suggested for animal nuisance issues.
- Relocation and transfer of wildlife is prohibited (SC 50-11-2570) to prevent the spread of diseases, such as: rabies, distemper and parasites.
- Property owners may obtain a permit to remove dangerous nuisance alligators from SCDNR; feeding alligators is illegal.
- Myrtle Beach City Ordinance (Sec. 4-5) prohibits creating a neighborhood nuisance by feeding wildlife.

Additional Helpful Wildlife Websites:

Wildlife Rehabilitators: www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/rehab.html
Bear sightings: www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/bear/sightingsform.html
Alligators: www.dnr.sc.gov/gatorc.html
Sea Turtles: www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/
SC DHEC: www.scdhec.gov

Contacts

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.sc.gov
Regions 4 Offices – including Horry County
Street: 217 Ft. Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412
Mailing: P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422

Emergencies
1 – 800 – 922 – 5231
Nuisance Wildlife
(843) 953 – 5291
Law Enforcement
(843) 953 – 9307
Nuisance Alligator
(843) 546 – 8119
Injured Raptors
(843) 971 – 7474
Whale-Dolphin Stranding
(843) 820 – 0612
Sea Turtles
(843) 953 – 9015

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 915 – 8801

Myrtle Beach Police Dept.
1101 N. Oak Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Complaints: (843) 918 – 1382
Inquiries: (843) 918 – 1331