

# **HealthPark Florida Properties Owners Association, Inc.**

9800 S. HealthPark Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908

## **ALLIGATOR POLICY (Revised 7/13)**

July 26, 2013

To all HealthPark Florida Property Owners

Please review the Alligator Policy for HealthPark Florida provided below. Owners should take appropriate actions to make sure that employees, vendors, customers and guests are advised of the dangers of human contact with alligators.

### **Re: Alligator Policy**

HealthPark Florida has developed the following policy based on information gathered from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

1. Leave alligators alone. State law prohibits people from killing, harassing, molesting or attempting to move alligators. The potential for being bitten or injured by a provoked alligator is high.
2. Closely supervise children when playing around any and all lakes within HealthPark Florida. Never allow small children to play by themselves near the lakes.
3. Do not swim in any of the lakes within HealthPark Florida.
4. Do not allow pets to swim, exercise or drink in any of the lakes within HealthPark Florida. Pets, especially dogs, suffer many more alligator attacks than humans, probably because dogs more closely resemble natural prey items of large alligators. Alligators are more likely to attack small animals than large ones.
5. Never remove any alligator from their natural habitat or accept one as a pet. It is a violation of state law to do so. Alligators do not become tame in captivity and handling even small ones may result in bites.
6. Never feed or entice alligators – it's dangerous and illegal. Alligators overcome their natural shyness and become accustomed or attracted to humans when fed.

7. Inform others that feeding alligators is a violation of state law and that by feeding alligators; people create problems for others within the HealthPark Florida campus.
8. Never discard fish scraps or any other food of any kind in any of the lakes within HealthPark Florida. Although such action may not intentionally feed alligators, the result is the same – feeding.
9. **If you witness a nuisance alligator within HealthPark Florida, you should call the toll free statewide Alligator Alert Line at 1-866-392-4286 and report the incident. This agency is authorized to deal with such incidents and remove alligators from HealthPark Florida. Reporting the incident will result in the following responsibilities of the caller:**
  - a. This agency will ask the caller questions about the incident/sighting and for the caller's address, phone number and property location within HealthPark Florida. The agency's policy is to remove the alligator if longer than four feet (4'). The removed alligator will be harvested, not relocated.
  - b. The agency will ask the caller for permission to access the property of the caller and ask the caller for permission to remove the alligator. The agency will then authorize a licensed trapper to remove the alligator and convey to the licensed trapper the caller's contact information.
  - c. The licensed trapper will contact the caller for permission as to when and how to access the caller's property. The licensed trapper will ask additional questions of the caller regarding the incident sighting and specific location within the property.
  - d. The caller will be responsible for all coordination and follow-up with the agency assigned licensed trapper to include providing access to the caller's property, if the property has access control gates. Note that the licensed trapper may need access to the property multiple times to find and remove the alligator.

Sincerely,

Todd R. Darche  
POA Representative

