



**BONITA BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BBCA)  
BOARD POLICY  
ANIMAL & REPTILE REMOVAL POLICY**

**PURPOSE:**

The BBCA Board of Directors seeks to protect the safety of our residents, pets and property, while being good stewards of our natural environment and ecosystem. BBCA will allow authorized trappers to enter the Bonita Bay community to remove animals and reptiles which the Board has reason to believe pose a threat the safety of residents, pets, or property. The determination of whether any animal/reptile poses such a threat will be based on the facts and circumstances which-exist and are available to the Board.

All residents of the Bonita Bay Community should be aware of the potential risk posed by wild animals which may enter the community at any time-

**POLICY:**

The Bonita Bay Community Association will have its selected vendor(s) remove live native animals or reptiles - such as bobcats, alligators, panthers, bears, and coyotes, if the BBCA Board of Directors has reason to believe the animal/reptile poses a threat to residents, pets, or other property within the Bonita Bay Community. This Policy is subject to revision by the BBCA Board of Directors from time to time in the interest of safety of persons or property.

**PROCESS:**

A native animal or reptile which poses a threat as described above may only be removed at the direction of the BBCA Board of Directors and/or BBCA Director of Safety and Loss Prevention. If a resident believes that an animal or reptile poses a threat the resident should report that threat to the BBCA Call Center at 239-947-2476, and a patrol officer will be dispatched to investigate as quickly as possible. BBCA will then take the action deemed appropriate by the BBCA Board of Directors and/or BBCA Director of Safety and Loss Prevention, if any, including contracting with a trapper to remove that threat. Any resident who believes any animal/reptile poses a threat should not undertake any self-help to remove the animal, but rather should enable the BBCA Board of Directors and/or BBCA Director of Safety and Loss Prevention to make that decision, by calling the Call Center.

**RULES:**

1. Alligators should never be approached or fed. It is against Florida law to feed an alligator, and violation of this law may result in a \$500 fine or 60 days in jail, with increased penalties for each subsequent statutory violation.
2. If a Resident of the Bonita Bay Community desires to remove an animal or reptile of a non-Native species from their lot, they may contract with a trapper who must register at BBCA and indicate what type of animal or reptile is being removed. Residents are not authorized to remove animals or reptiles located in common areas and must report the need for such a removal to the BBCA Call Center.

3. Alligators are shy and avoid people and large animals. However, they also move around, especially between dusk and dawn. They can be present in any lake, wetland, or slough. BBCA Rules require that dogs and other pets (excluding service animals) must be on a leash when outside their residence. BBCA further recommends that dogs and other pets as well as children be kept away from shorelines.

**RATIONALE:**

Bonita Bay is a community that prides itself on “living with nature”. There are many animals, birds and reptiles that live in our community and are native to South Florida. These creatures play an important role in the health and stability of our ecosystem. For example, removing bobcats creates an imbalance in our ecosystem and results in the overpopulation of squirrels, rodents, and rabbits. Alligators eat mostly fish and turtles and patrol our bird nesting islands for predators that might eat the bird eggs and chicks. Birds seek out islands surrounded by water and inhabited by alligators, since they are safer in this environment. This policy is intended for the purposes set forth above, while endeavoring to minimize the community’s impact on the surrounding wildlife.

Approved by the BBCA Board of Directors	Date
<i>Charles L. Bulcan</i>	<i>4-21-2023</i>