



## DOs and DON'Ts of Living with Alligators

**Do-** call your HOA or local SCDNR office if you encounter a nuisance alligator that has lost its fear of people.

**Do-** closely supervise children and pets when playing in or around water.

**Do-** use ordinary common sense and precautions. Swim only during daylight hours in designated swimming areas.

**Do-** inform others that feeding alligators creates safety problems for those who want to use the water for recreational purposes.

**Do-** dispose of fish scraps in garbage cans at boat ramps or fish camps.

**Do-** enjoy viewing and photographing wild alligators from a safe distance.

**Do-** Remember that alligators are an important part of South Carolina's natural history, as well as an integral component of many wetland ecosystems.

**Don't** - kill, harass, touch, or attempt to move alligators. It is **illegal** to do so, and the potential for being bitten or injured by a provoked alligator is high.

**Don't**- allow small children or pets to play by themselves in or around water.

**Don't**- swim at night or during dusk or dawn when alligators most actively feed.

**Don't**- feed alligators, it is **illegal**. Alligators overcome their natural shyness and become accustomed or attracted to humans when fed.

**Don't**- throw fish scraps into the water or feed other wildlife in areas where alligators live. Although you are not intentionally feeding alligators, the end result can be the same.

**Don't**- remove any alligators 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. In addition, never go near hatchling/young alligators or pick them up. They may seem cute and harmless, but the mother alligator will be nearby, and will protect her clutch for at least two years.

