The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program gives pet owners the option of turning in exotic pets they can no longer keep—an alternative to releasing pets into the wild.

The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program also increases awareness of the challenges with nonnative wildlife through outreach and education. More than 500 nonnative species have been observed in Florida, and 130 of those are thought to be reproducing.

For more information, see MyFWC.com/PetAmnesty or call the Exotic Species Hotline: 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681)
Exotic Pet Amnesty Program

The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) innovative effort to reduce the number of exotic animals released into the wild by pet owners. Another goal of the program is to foster responsible pet ownership through outreach and education at Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events.

Exotic Pet Amnesty Days are held around the state. These give members of the public the opportunity to surrender exotic pets free of charge and without penalty. Pre-approved adopters can adopt surrendered exotic animals at these events.

Need to Surrender an Exotic Pet?

A schedule of upcoming Exotic Pet Amnesty events can be found online at MyFWC.com/PetAmnesty.

Pet owners can bring their exotic animals to these events and surrender them without penalty.

We accept all exotic reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, mammals, and invertebrates at Exotic Pet Amnesty Days. Domestic pets such as dogs and cats are not accepted.

Can’t Wait Until the Next Amnesty Day Event?

The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program also provides a statewide, year-round service to help place exotic pets into new, pre-approved homes using our toll-free hotline 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681).

Interested in Adopting an Animal?

- Fill out and submit an application at MyFWC.com/PetAmnesty.
- Complete an “adopter information form” along with the “animal information forms” for the animals you are interested in adopting.
- Applicants who are approved as adopters will receive a letter of acceptance from FWC and will be informed of upcoming Exotic Pet Amnesty Days in their area.
- All adopters must apply and be approved before adopting an animal at an Exotic Pet Amnesty Day event.

Exotic Pet Amnesty Program

My name is Tyler Bullard and I am 8 years old. My pet’s name is Max. He is a savannah monitor about 5 years old. We got him in 2011 at a Pet Amnesty Day. He likes to eat hard-boiled eggs, mice, and ground turkey. He loves to swim in the pool and lay in the sun. When we got him he was skinny and missing most of his nails. He has doubled in size and loves people. My dad got Max for me. Thank you to the FWC for helping me get a forever friend.