

Program Name: FWC Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program
Project Name: Exotic Pet Amnesty
Project ID: 4206
Lead Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 3-D.1
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 1

Measurable Output(s) Since the Exotic Pet Amnesty Program's inception, with its first event held on May 6, 2006, through June 30, 2016, 36 events have been held statewide. Over 3,200 animals have been surrendered through the IveGot1 Hotline and Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events combined.

Summary of the Exotic Pets Surrendered

	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	Totals
Pets Surrendered During Events	353	139	492
Surrendered Via Hotline	298	465	763
Total	651	604	1,255

Project Synopsis:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Exotic Pet Amnesty Program is an innovative effort that provides exotic pet owners with an opportunity to surrender or re-home their exotic pet. The goals of the Exotic Pet Amnesty Program is to reduce the number of exotic pets released in Florida and provide amnesty for animals that require permits, including conditional species such as the Burmese python. The program also serves to provide education and outreach to regarding responsible pet ownership and exotic species in Florida. Initiated in 2006, The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program was started as periodic one-day events where citizens could come and surrender their exotic animals. Surrendered animals are examined by volunteer veterinarians and all healthy animals are held for adoptions during the same day event. These events were linked with multiple exhibitors providing people with the opportunity to learn more about exotic species and animal care. In later years, events were combined with existing festivals and outreach events. Avoiding the responsibility of long-term housing of the animals allows the Exotic Pet Amnesty Program to be successful with a low budget. This program also relies heavily on volunteers from outside organizations. This program has received national attention as in innovative way to prevent the unlawful release of nonnative animals into the wild.

Current Status:

Plans for 6 events a year are underway. Citizens can also call the 888-Ive-Got-1 hotline year round to surrender unwanted nonnative pets. Funding provided through a grant from Everglades National Park is supporting the program through 2015. Following the end of grant funding, FWC will be searching for additional partnerships to help support this program and staff.

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 2006
Finish Date: ongoing.

Detailed Project Budget Information

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal	\$35,000	\$35,000				16,000	16,000
State (FWC)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$174,000	\$174,000
Local							
Total	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$190,000	\$190,000

Contact: To surrender an animal or find out more about this program, call 888-IVE-GOT-1.
Sarah Funck, Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator, FWC
Sarah.Funck@MyFWC.com

Hyperlink: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/amnesty-program/>

