

STORM PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

State Assistance Information Line 1-800-342-3557 • FloridaDisaster.org

PETS AND WILDLIFE

Severe weather can displace pets and wildlife and any animals lost, frightened, or hurt – may be more likely to bite.

- Do not approach, feed or handle displaced pets or wildlife.
- Do not disturb an animal that is sleeping, eating, or caring for its young.
- If an unknown animal walks toward you, stay calm and slowly move away.

If you are bitten by an animal and emergency help is needed, go to the nearest available hospital, medical treatment area, or call 911.

If you're bitten and not in need of immediate assistance:

- Wash your hands with soap and clean fresh water.
- Put pressure on the wound with a clean cloth to stop bleeding.
- After the bleeding has stopped, pour bottled or clean running water over the wound and gently clean around the wound with soap and clean water.
- Pat dry and use an adhesive bandage or dry clean cloth to cover the wound.
- Once the wound has been stabilized, seek medical assistance to ensure that no additional treatment is needed.

Report all bites to your local animal control or law enforcement to ensure rabies prevention follow-up is conducted.

Injured or Orphaned Wildlife

You may encounter a small animal that seems orphaned or abandoned, but the parent may be searching for food or observing its young from a distance.

- Keep your distance, and report any wildlife you think may be injured or orphaned to a [licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#) or local [FWC regional office](#).