

# *Wildlife Assistance Program Seminole County*

**Jayne Johnston**

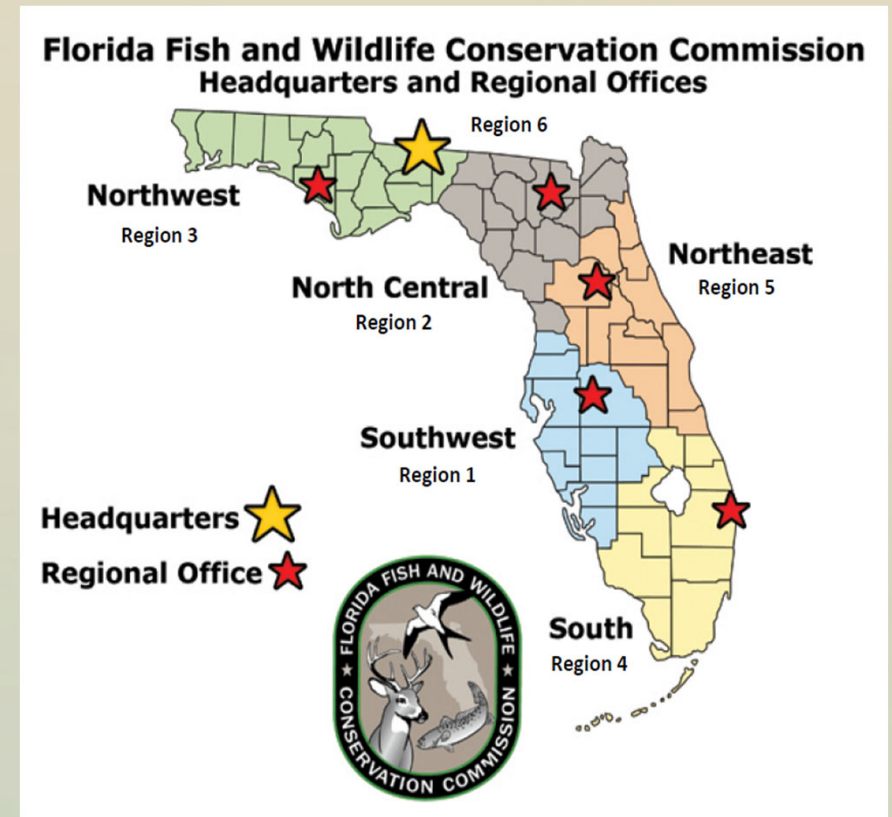
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



# Wildlife Assistance Program

*...Addressing Conflict, Fostering Coexistence*

- Seven regional staff providing technical assistance to foster coexistence
  - Primarily over the phone
  - Equipment loans available
- Partnerships and coordination with other agencies and NGOs
- Pro-active engagement of communities and neighborhoods



# Calls handled by the Wildlife Assistance Program

Nuisance wildlife is defined by FAC 68A- 1.004 as:

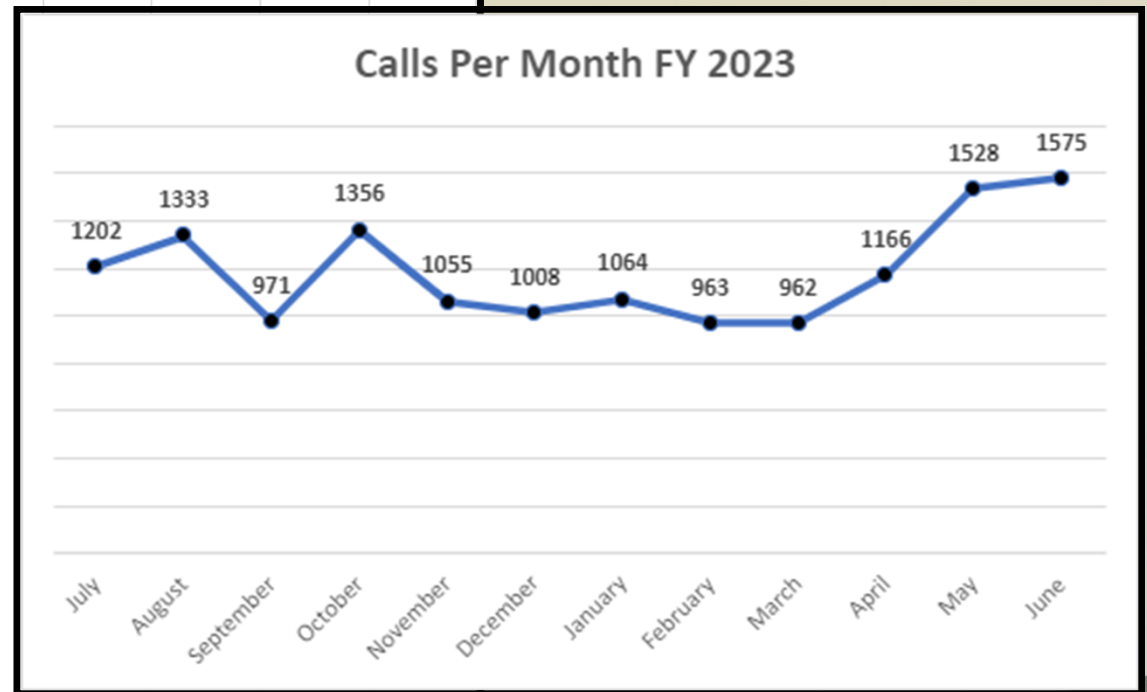
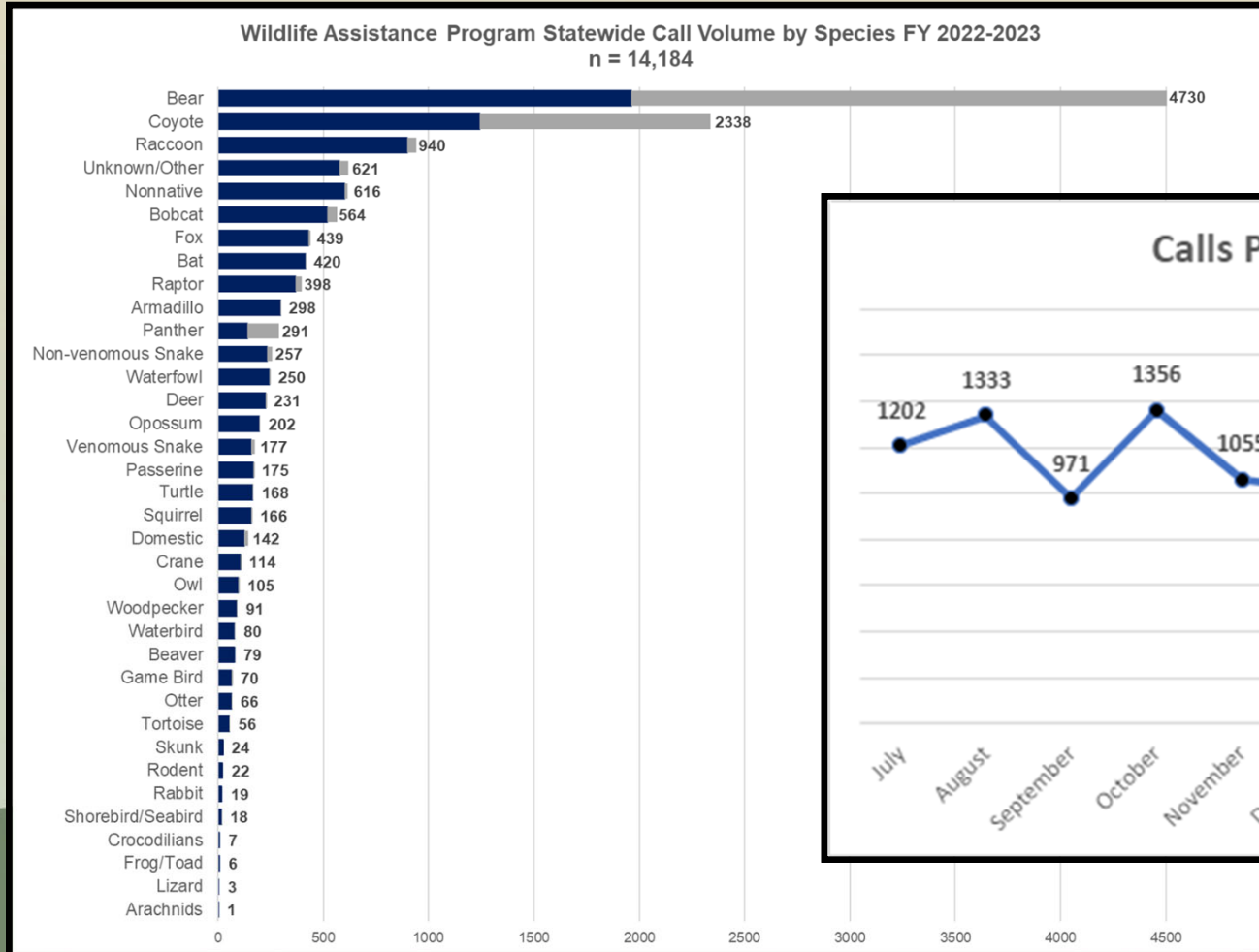
- Wildlife that causes or is about to cause property damage, or
- Wildlife that presents a threat to public safety, or
- Wildlife causing an annoyance within, under or upon a building

Nuisance wildlife rule: 68A-9.010- details on species that cannot be taken, methods of take, relocation and transportation.



# Calls by Species Type, Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Total = 14,184



# Top Species Calls in Seminole County

Species	2021	2022	2023
Coyote	46	47	55
Bat	19	16	33
Raptor	22	16	16
Raccoon	17	9	12
Bobcat	10	9	8

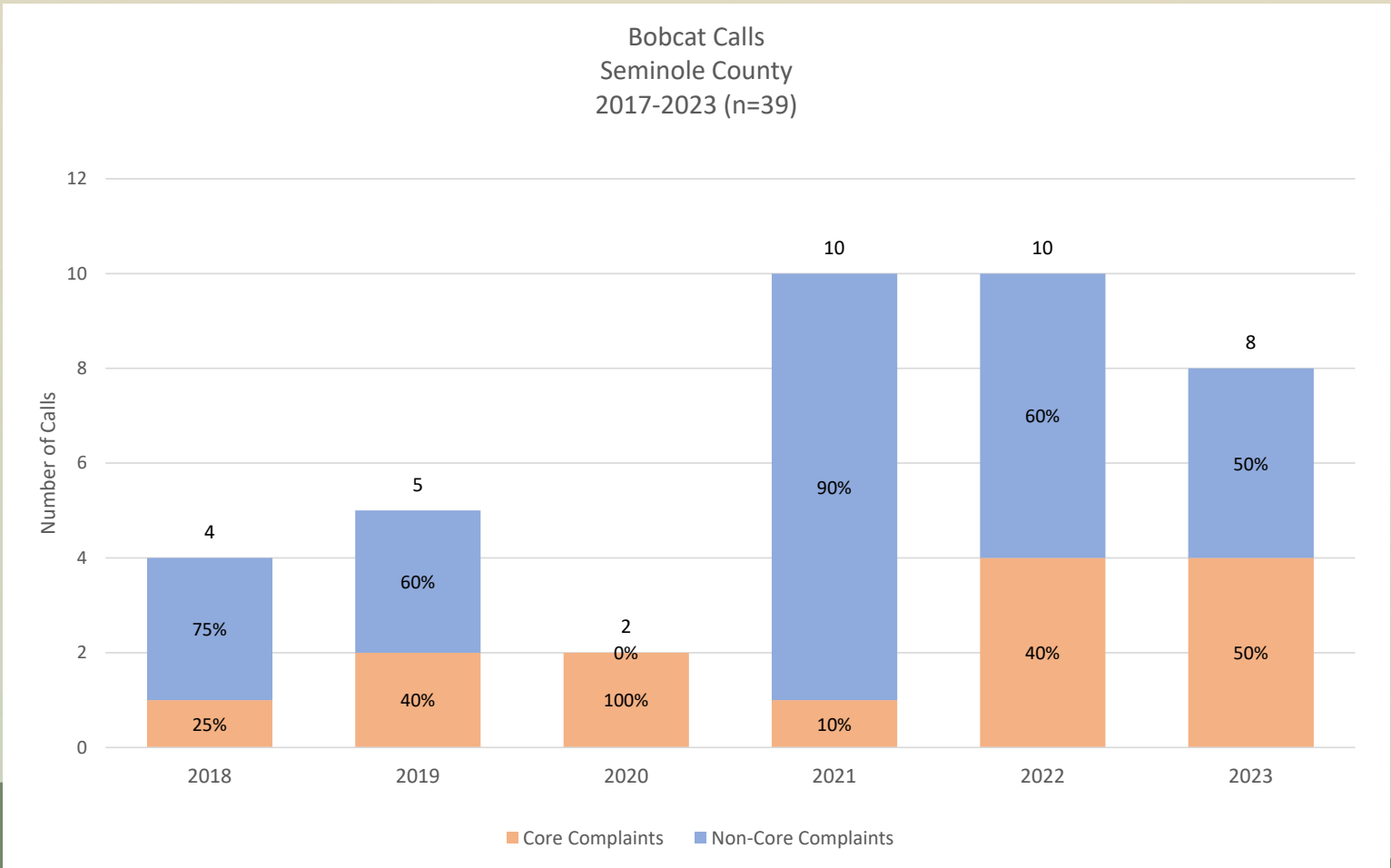


# Bobcats

- Appearance
- Diet
- Range
- Behavior
- Conflict with humans



# Bobcat Core v. Non-Core Calls - Seminole County



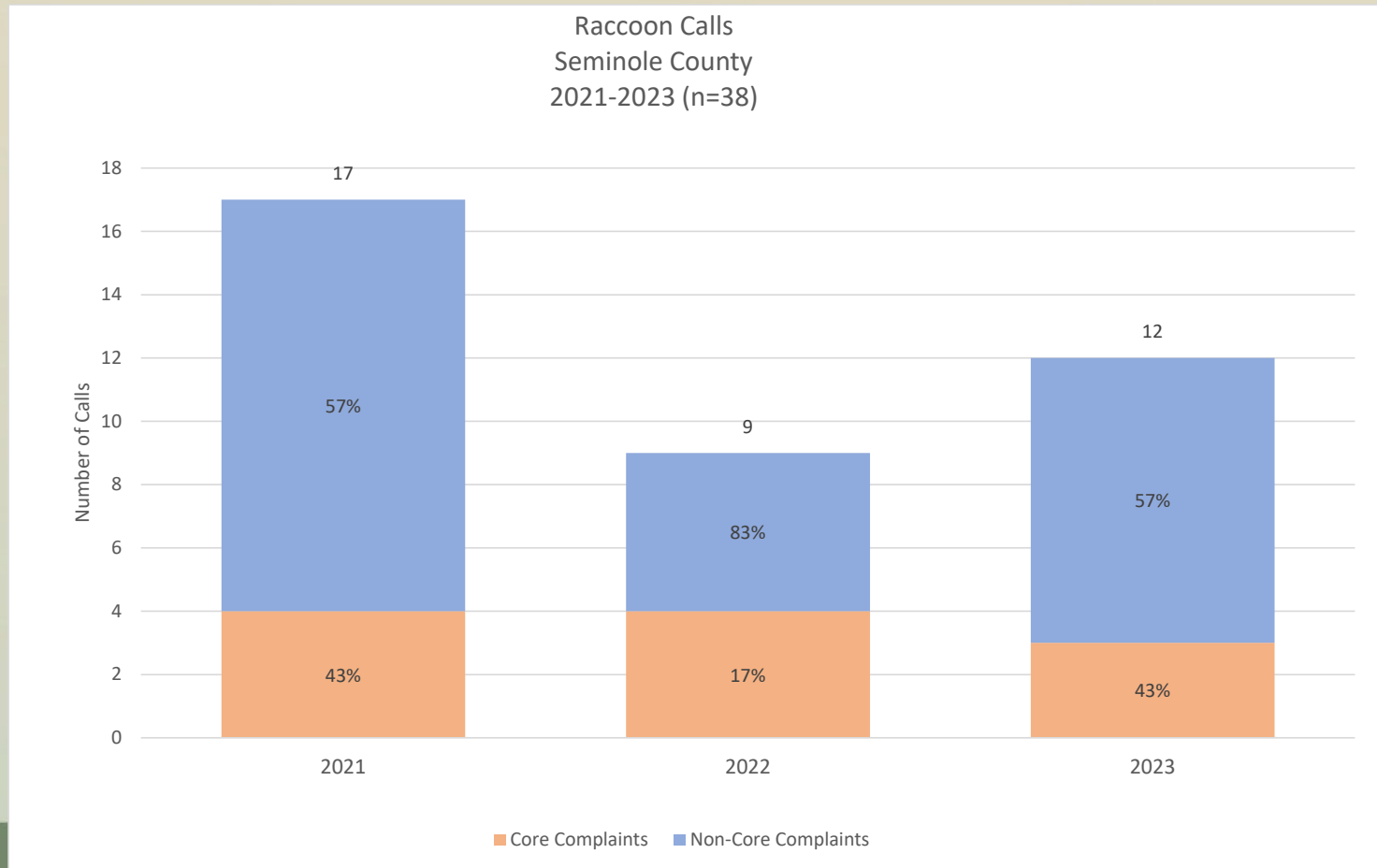
# Raccoon

- Appearance
- Diet
- Range
- Behavior
- Conflict with humans





# Raccoon Core v. Non-Core Calls - Seminole County

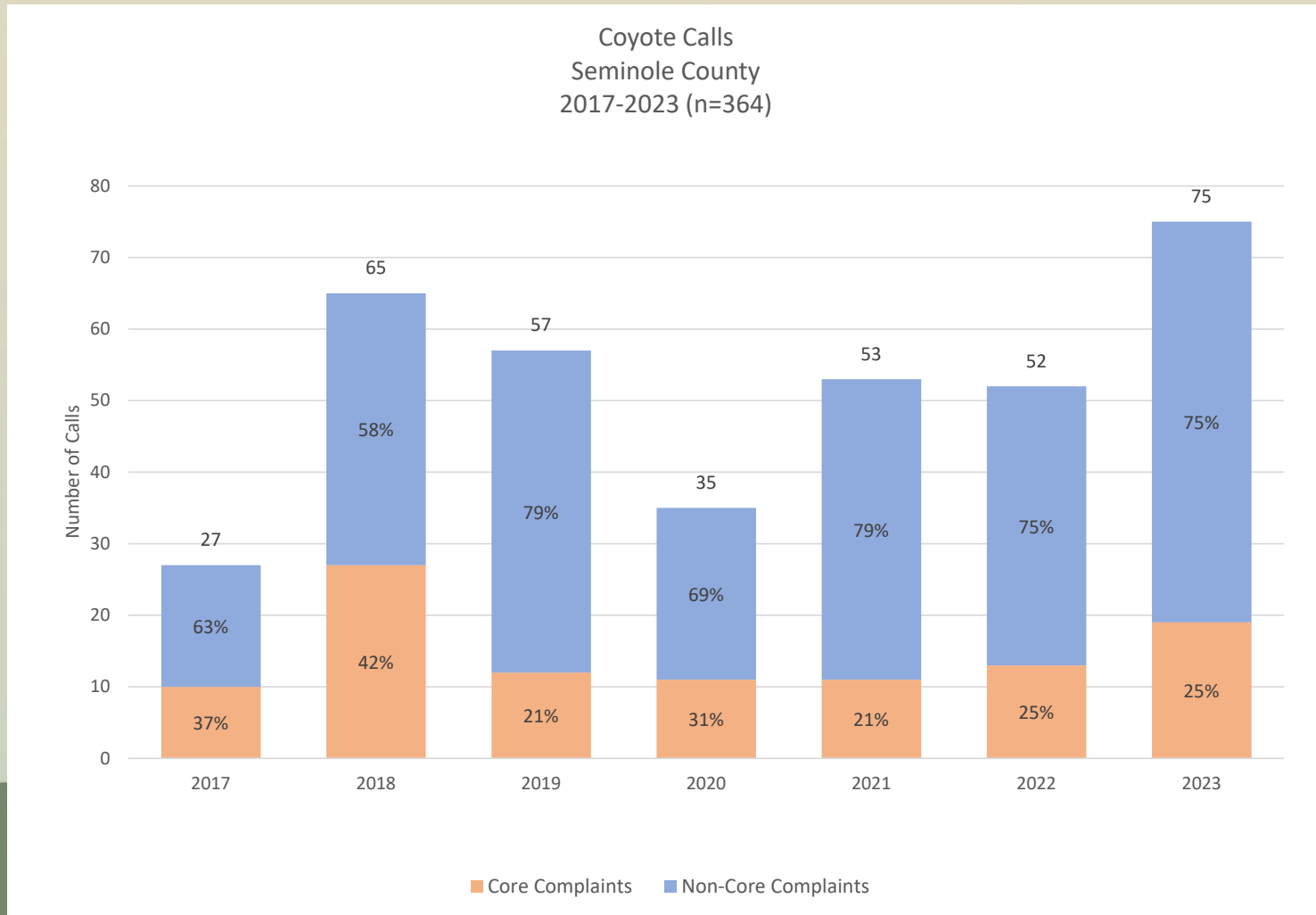


# Coyotes

- Appearance
- Diet
- Range
- Behavior
- Conflict with humans



# Coyote Core v. Non-Core Calls - Seminole County



### COYOTE YARD AUDIT CHECKLIST

We encourage you to take steps to eliminate attractants on your property in order to minimize conflicts with coyotes. We also urge you to share this information with friends and neighbors because minimizing conflicts is most effective when the entire neighborhood works together.

This checklist is adapted from a similar document developed by the Humane Society of the United States. If you would like assistance completing this checklist, or have any questions, email [wildlife@coab.us](mailto:wildlife@coab.us) or call (904) 247-5859.

	OK	FIX	Ways to Mitigate
FOOD:			Never hand-feed or intentionally feed a coyote!
Pet Food			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
Bird Feeders			Remove bird feeders or clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.
Fallen Fruit			Clean up fallen fruit around trees.
Compost			Do not include meat or dairy among compost contents unless fully enclosed.
BBQ Grills			Clean up food around barbecue grills after each use.
Trash			Secure all trash containers with locking lids and place curbside the morning of trash pick-up. Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors.
WATER:			Remove water attractants.
SHELTER:			Limit hiding or denning sites.
Landscaping			Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places and potential den sites.
Structures/Outbuildings			Restrict access under decks and sheds, around woodpiles, or any other structure that can provide cover or denning sites for coyotes or their prey.
FENCING:			Enclose property with a 6 ft. fence with an additional extension or roller-top to deter coyotes. Ensure that there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground 6 inches or is fitted with a mesh apron to deter coyotes from digging underneath.
PETS:			Never leave pets unattended outside.
			Never allow pets to "play" with coyotes.
			Fully enclose outdoor pet kennels.
			Walk pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length.



### Tips to Avoid Conflicts With Coyotes in Florida

Secure TRASH and clean up FALLEN FRUIT and PET FOOD.



MORE INFO

**KEEP PETS IN ENCLOSED AREAS. WALK DOGS ON A SHORT LEASH.**

MORE INFO

**Coyotes live in urban, suburban and rural areas throughout Florida. Follow these tips to avoid conflicts.**

**NEVER LEAVE PETS UNATTENDED OUTSIDE.**

**NEVER ALLOW PETS TO "PLAY" WITH COYOTES.**

**FULLY ENCLOSE OUTDOOR PET KENNELS.**

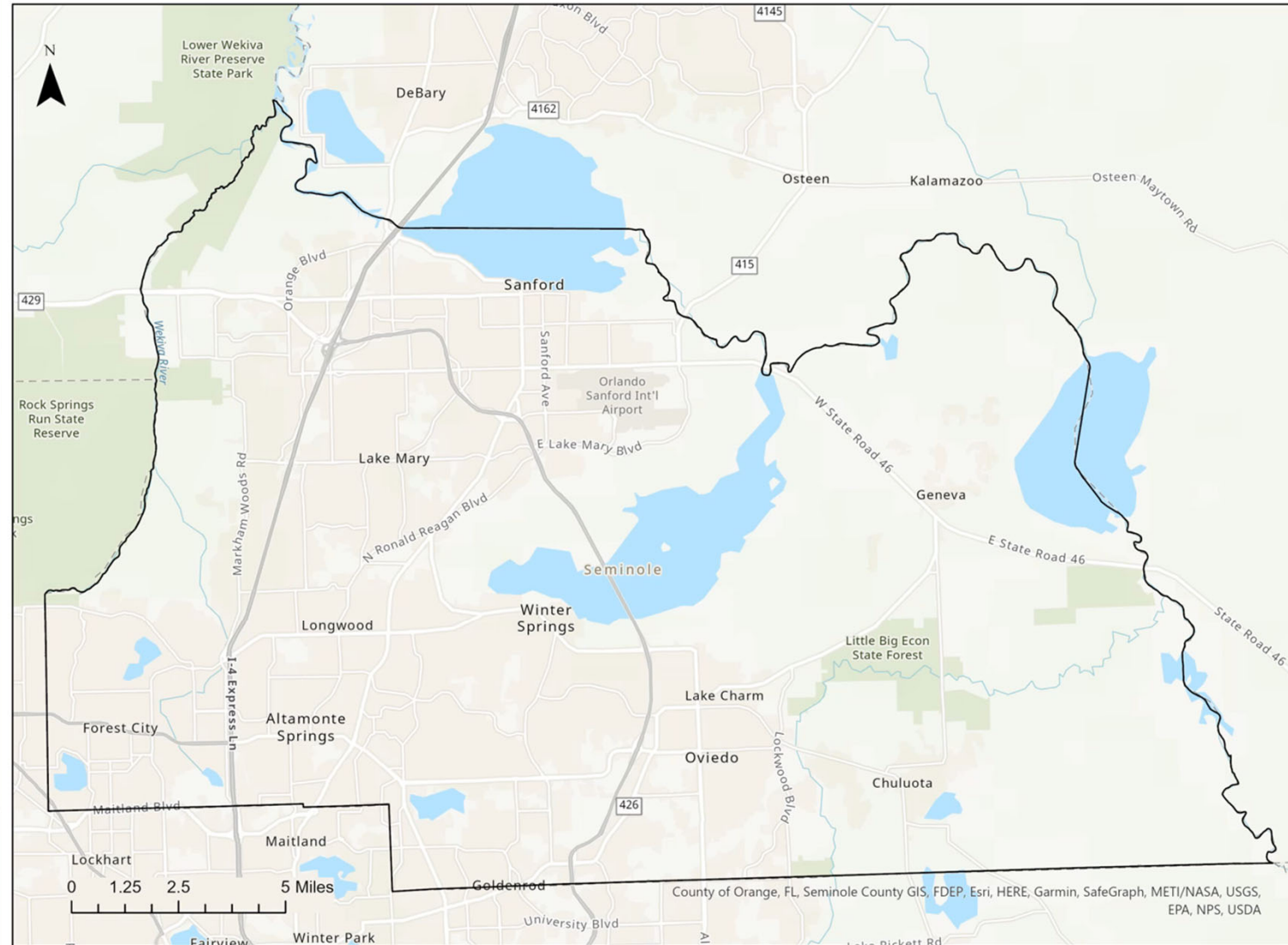
**WALK PETS ON A LEASH NO LONGER THAN 6 FEET IN LENGTH.**

# FWC's Approach to Coyote Conflicts

- Local Engagement
  - Workshops
  - Printed materials
  - Disposable signs
- Training - Residents
  - Hazing
  - Attractant Identification
  - Yard Audits
- Equipment Loans
  - Trail Cameras
  - Hazing Devices
- Assist municipalities developing their own Coyote Management Plans



## Seminole County Calls 2021-2023



2021

Bobcat 10  
Raccoon 17  
Coyote 53  
Bear 419

2022

Bobcat 10  
Raccoon 9  
Coyote 52  
Bear 419

2023 (approximate)

Bobcat 8  
Raccoon 12  
Coyote 75  
Bear 375



County of Orange, FL, Seminole County GIS, FDEP, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

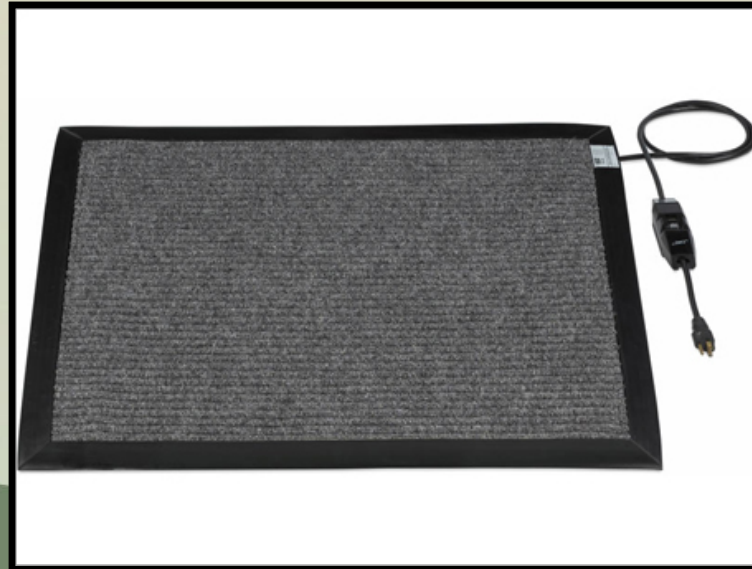
# Unique differences

- Coyotes
  - Established territories in residential areas
  - Live in family groups, visible, and vocal
  - Free roaming cats and cat colonies
- Bobcats
  - Thrive in urban habitats
  - Adept at taking free roaming chickens or inadequately penned goats and rabbits
  - Take advantage of water bodies for food and dense vegetation for carcass caching
- Raccoons
  - Pools
  - Climbing ability
  - Use of pet doors



# Common Solutions

- Secure attractants
- Secure pets
- Secure structures and pools
- Haze (scare) wildlife
- Regulatory enforcement



# Questions?

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
Commission (FWC)  
Northeast Regional Office  
Ocala, FL  
352-732-1225

MyFWC.com and AskFWC

