



# FERAL HOGS

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGE





# **HISTORY OF FERAL HOGS IN NEIGHBORHOODS**

**Feral hogs were first introduced to Florida in the 1500s by Spanish explorers, including Hernando de Soto, who brought domestic swine as a food source. Over time, escaped domestic pigs and imported Eurasian wild boar interbred, creating the feral hog populations found across the state today. Because hogs reproduce quickly and adapt well to many habitats, they spread throughout Florida and are now found in all 67 counties.**

**Historically, conflicts involved agricultural damage, but hogs have long been known to forage in open areas such as fields, parks, and residential lawns, especially near wooded habitats where they shelter during the day and travel outward at night.**



# HOW DO HOGS LIVE?

Feral hogs typically live in family groups called sounders, which usually include several females and their young, while adult males often travel alone except during breeding periods. In Florida, female hogs commonly use home ranges averaging around 370 acres, while males may use about 740 acres, though ranges can vary from roughly 100 acres to more than 4,000 acres depending on the availability of food, water, and cover.



# HOW FAR DO THEY TRAVEL?

Within these areas, hogs may travel 2 to 5 miles in a single night while foraging. They generally rest in wooded or brushy areas during the day and move outward at night into open areas such as fields, parks, and residential lawns where soil is easier to root for food.



# FERAL HOGS FLORIDA SHORES

**Feral hog activity in Florida Shores has been documented for many years and is not a new occurrence for the community. Local news coverage has reported hogs entering residential areas and rooting lawns and landscaping while searching for food in the soil.**

**In 2016, residents in the Florida Shores area reported hogs rooting up multiple yards. City officials responded after roughly a dozen properties were affected by hogs.**

**Similar incidents were reported again in 2018 when residents described hogs damaging lawns and moving through neighborhoods overnight (FOX 35 Orlando; WESH 2 News).**



There has been a recent rash of wild hogs that are damaging lawns in the 3500 blocks of Yule Tree, Vista and Silver Palm Drives. Generally homeowners are responsible to mitigate wildlife issues on their property but since this is a widespread problem the City has hired a trapper to capture the hogs. Anyone with any damage to their property from these animals is asked to call 424-2000 or notify the animal control department at [www.cityofedgewater.org](http://www.cityofedgewater.org) using the "report concerns" tab and choose "animal control".



# PREVENTING FERAL HOG ACTIVITY ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Homeowners can help reduce the likelihood of feral hogs entering their property by limiting food sources and access points. Trash should be kept secured in closed bins or stored behind fencing so animals cannot access it. Fallen fruit, acorns, bird seed, pet food, and other organic debris should be cleaned up regularly, as these can attract hogs searching for food. Homeowners should also consider landscaping choices and maintain yards by managing plants that produce food sources. Treating lawns for grubs and insects can help reduce rooting activity, since hogs often dig in search of bugs beneath the soil.

Physical barriers can also help. While fencing front yards is typically not permitted under local codes, homeowners may install fencing around backyards or garden areas to prevent hog access. Repairing gaps in existing fences, reinforcing weak sections, and ensuring gates close securely can reduce entry points.

Additional deterrents include motion-activated lighting, removing standing water, and avoiding intentional or unintentional feeding of wildlife. Reporting hog activity to the City can also help address issues early.



# WHAT IS THE CITY'S ROLE

The primary responsibility for wildlife management in Florida generally falls under the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), which oversees regulations and guidance related to feral hogs and other wildlife. Municipal governments typically play a limited role, focusing on public safety and coordination when wildlife issues affect residential areas.

When there is a significant or repeated presence of feral hogs in a neighborhood, the City may coordinate response efforts, which can include working with private, licensed wildlife control operators to trap and remove animals when appropriate. It is important for residents to report sightings or damage to the City so officials are aware of ongoing issues and can determine whether action is warranted. In most cases, the City addresses the presence of the animal itself rather than damage caused to private property by wildlife.



# HUNTING FERAL HOGS – FLORIDA SHORES

In Florida, wild hogs may be hunted year-round on private property with the permission of the landowner and there is no bag limit. However, when hunting occurs within city limits such as Edgewater, other state and local laws related to firearm use and public safety still apply. Florida Statute 790.15, which addresses the discharge of firearms in public or residential areas, states that it is unlawful to knowingly discharge a firearm in a public place, on or across the right-of-way of a paved roadway, or over occupied property, or to discharge a firearm in a reckless or negligent manner in residential areas.

Some individuals may consider using archery equipment because it is quieter and may be safer in residential settings. However, if a hog is struck and runs onto neighboring property where permission has not been granted, the hunter may not legally pursue it. For neighborhood-wide problems, trapping is often more effective than individual hunting because it can remove multiple animals at once.





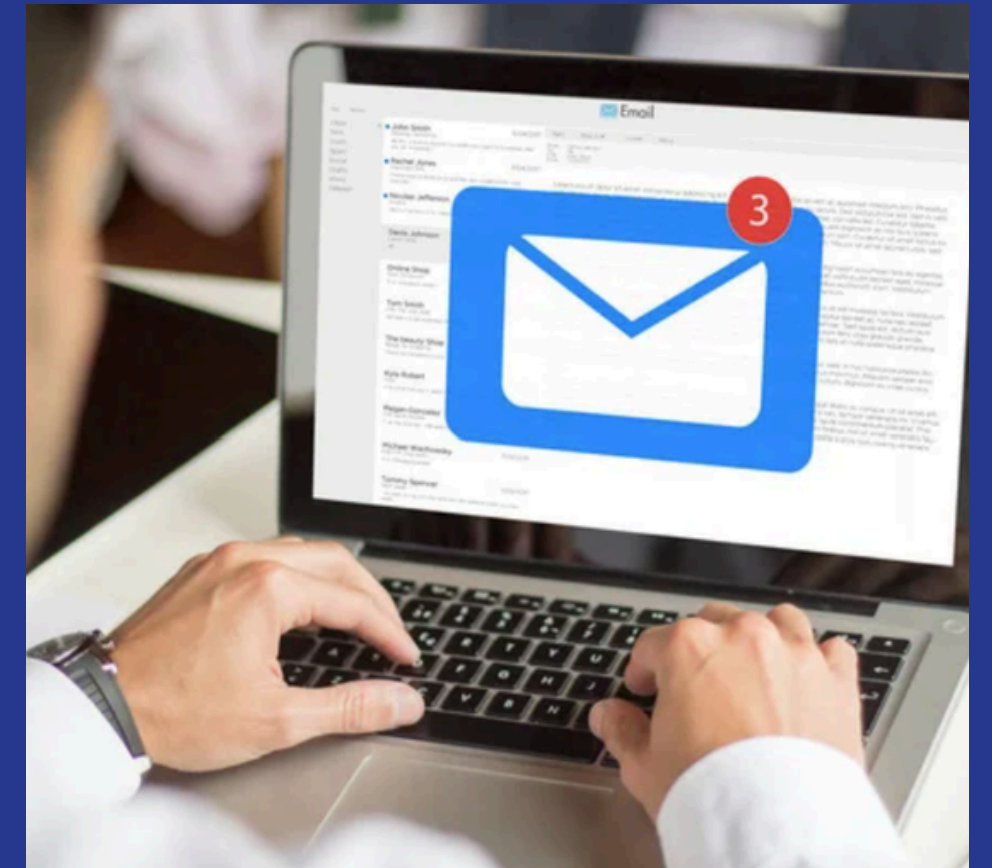
# KEY TAKEAWAYS



**Feral hogs have been in the Florida Shores Community since its construction.**



**Residents can take several measures to discourage hogs from coming on the property.**



**If you see signs of feral hogs in a community, report it to the City to address..**

# HOW TO REPORT

Residents who experience issues related to feral hogs or other wildlife within the City of Edgewater are encouraged to report the activity so the City can be aware of the situation and determine if action is needed. Timely reporting helps officials track patterns, identify problem areas, and coordinate appropriate responses when necessary.

Residents may contact Chief of Police Charles Geiger at [cgeiger@cityofedgewater.org](mailto:cgeiger@cityofedgewater.org) or by phone at 386-424-2402. Wildlife concerns may also be reported to Edgewater Animal Control Officer Denis Odell at [dodell@cityofedgewater.org](mailto:dodell@cityofedgewater.org) or [aco@cityofedgewater.org](mailto:aco@cityofedgewater.org). Residents may also call non-emergency dispatch at 386-424-2000, extension #3 to report animal-related concerns.

Individuals who prefer to speak with someone in person may visit the Edgewater Police Department to provide information. Reports and inquiries may also be submitted through the City's website at [cityofedgewater.org/contact](http://cityofedgewater.org/contact).