

# New Wildlife Rule

## Feeding Wild Monkeys Prohibited

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) passed a new rule that prohibits the feeding of wild monkeys, effective February 11, 2018.

**Feeding wild monkeys is prohibited in Florida and is a second degree misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and 60 days in jail.**

### Why is it important NOT to feed wild monkeys?

Several species of wild monkeys have been observed in Florida, including rhesus macaques, vervet monkeys and squirrel monkeys. These nonnative species carry severe infections, including herpes B that can be transmitted to humans. Feeding these animals encourages them to approach people and pets and can cause aggressive behavior. This increases the risk of injury from bites and scratches and the spread of disease.

### What does “feeding” mean?

Feeding includes placing food or garbage, allowing the placement of food or garbage, or offering food or garbage in a manner that attracts wild monkeys.

### How you can help

- Never offer food to wild monkeys.
- Never place food or garbage so that it will attract wild monkeys.
- Dispose of uneaten food and garbage in closed trash containers.
- Never approach wild monkeys. If you are bitten or scratched by a wild monkey, immediately wash the wound and seek medical attention according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Go to [cdc.gov/herpesvirus](http://cdc.gov/herpesvirus) and click First Aid and Treatment.



*Adult male rhesus macaque*

C. Jane Anderson, University of Florida, 2015



*Adult male vervet monkey*

Adam Stern

Read the rule language for 68A-4.001(7) (F.A.C.) online at [flrules.org](http://flrules.org) by searching for rule number 68A-4.001.

