

Wildlife Awareness

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW?

MCAS Beaufort, including Laurel Bay, and the Air Station's Barracks are surrounded by wooded areas, coastal wetlands, and water that serve as habitats to many different forms of wildlife species. Personnel and residents may occasionally encounter the following wildlife species:

- Alligators
- Snakes (venomous & nonvenomous)
- Raccoons
- Opossums
- Deer
- Squirrels
- Rabbits
- Birds
- Coyotes

While the spring and summer months are most common for sighting wildlife, there is a year round potential to come in contact with some species or other. Generally they are moving in search of food, water, or shelter. For this reason, it is important to follow the guidelines included in this brochure to minimize the potential for any unwanted encounter.

As a safety precaution, teach your children not to handle any wild creatures. Review this brochure with them so they will understand that the wildlife on the Air Station do not make suitable pets. Even very young animals can be dangerous. Although some may appear cute and friendly, they do not make good pets and under no circumstances should they be picked up and brought into a home.

This brochure contains guidance on MCAS Beaufort's common wildlife handling procedures and general awareness information.



DO'S AND DON'TS

The following information provides some basic, but important, safety information, the Do's & Don'ts for handling and managing these and other wildlife species when encountered.

DON'T

- Intentionally feed local wildlife at any time.
- Leave pet food in open areas as it can attract local wildlife.
- Leave garbage cans open and exposed to the outdoors. Leaving the doors and lids open on dumpsters is a violation of state law.
- Leave potential food sources, such as pet food or garbage, exposed overnight.
- Attempt to remove or handle wildlife such as raccoons and opossums. Wildlife can be potentially dangerous, no matter how big or small. They are capable of biting and scratching and can potentially transfer diseases to humans.
- Allow piles of refuse, debris, scrap, etc. to accumulate in homeowner yards as they quickly become habitat for rodents. Rodents are a prime food source for many snakes.
- Feed, molest, trap or kill any wildlife including all birds.
- Attempt to capture, tease, or handle any snake. Venomous snakes can be mistaken for nonvenomous snakes.
- Trap, feed, kill, or molest alligators as prohibited by law.
 - Alligators lose their natural fear of humans when fed, and become accustomed or attracted to people.

DO

- Secure garbage can lids and keep them closed.
- Obey wildlife signs posted throughout the Air Station that provide warnings against feeding and harassing wildlife.
- Contact NREAO or the Game Warden (843-228-7017) if sick or injured wildlife is sighted in urban areas.
- Be watchful and cautious around ponds and pond banks!
- Wear appropriate protective clothing, such as snake proof boots, in wooded areas.
- Maintain a clean cooking area and eating area during recreational cook-outs.
- Clean area used after an event has taken place and properly dispose of wastes generated.
- Minimize open food sources that could lead to spoiling food or attraction of common wildlife.
- Vaccinate pets accordingly against rabies as required by law.
- Keep pets inside housing or fenced areas to minimize chances of any contact with wildlife.
- Call the Provost Marshall's Office (843-228-6710) if you find a stray dog or cat on the Air Station.
- Educate yourself. Information on and pictures of the animals, reptiles, and snakes found on MCAS and Laurel Bay can be located on the internet or in books at the local library.

OTHER INFORMATION

INSECTS

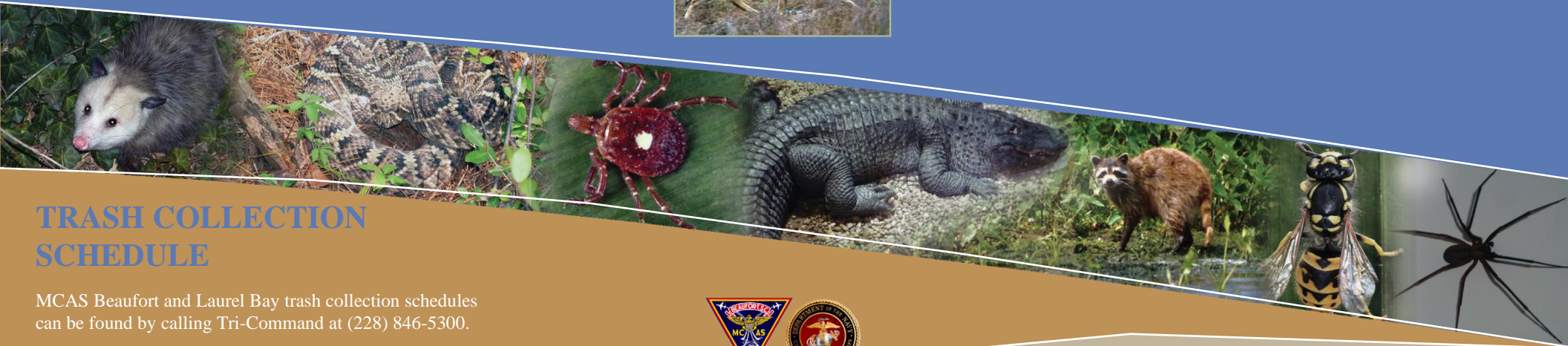
- Personnel and residents may occasionally encounter the following insects at MCAS Beaufort or Laurel Bay:
- Mosquitoes • Ticks • Spiders • Bees and Wasps
 - Residents of Laurel Bay Housing should call Tri Command Maintenance at (843) 846-5330 in the event of an insect or nuisance wildlife issue.
 - Individuals residing in the barracks that experience problems with insects should call Central Billeting at 228-7519.

The information in this brochure is not intended to be all inclusive and may change without notice. Additional wildlife information can be obtained by contacting NREAO.

Game Warden
Bldg 658
Phone (843) 228-7017
Mobile (843) 321-6453

Natural Resources Manager
Bldg 658
Phone (843) 228-7464

Dial 911 in the case of an emergency involving wildlife, such as a bite or scratch.



TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

MCAS Beaufort and Laurel Bay trash collection schedules can be found by calling Tri-Command at (228) 846-5300.

