

## MARINE TOADS

Common Name: marine toad

Other Names: giant toad, bufo toad

Scientific Name: Bufo marinus

Appearance:

size	- adults range in size from 6-9 inches
color	- brown to grayish brown with a creamy yellow belly
glands	- parotid glands (large oval protrusions) start at the shoulder and extend down the back (see marine toad fact sheet in appendix for illustration)

Range:

- found around the world in tropical areas
- introduced in Florida (non-native)
- currently found in urban areas from the latitude of Tampa south, but rapidly expanding its range northward

Habitat:

- found mainly in disturbed areas such as around buildings and in yards, and along canals and ponds

Diet:

- insects, vegetation, small birds, mammals, snakes, table scraps, and pet food

Reproduction:

- breeds from April to September
- females lay eggs on the surface of water or wrapped around vegetation in the water
- eggs hatch in about 3 days into small black tadpoles that metamorphose in 45-60 days

Behavior:

- most noticeable in the spring during the wet season
- toads begin calling for mates in late March
- a calling marine toad sounds like a tractor in the distance

Problems:

- skin secretions are highly toxic to dogs, cats and animals, and can cause skin irritations in humans
- toads do not cause warts

Solutions:

- do not leave pet food in open dishes in the yard
- species may be removed and disposed of by placing them in a plastic container in the freezer for three days and then burying the carcasses
- if hesitant about handling, contact a local nuisance trapper

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Legal Aspects:

- This species is non-native to Florida so it can be removed and disposed of. It is unlawful to release non-native species into the wild.
- This species is similar in appearance to a native species, the southern toad. The southern toad is smaller in size and has distinctive knobs on the top of its head. This native toad is not known to threaten pets and should not be wantonly destroyed.