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Originally published June 3, 2007

Black bear captured on Thomasville Road; later euthanized

By [Jacquelyn Hatter](#)
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A Florida black bear was euthanized Sunday after it was captured in the 1100 block of Thomasville Road by local law enforcement officers.

"He was going through people's back yards," Sgt. James Fairfield of the Tallahassee Police Department said. "We got reports of him crossing Seventh Avenue, near Ninth and Grape, near Miracle 5 (Theater), Los Robles and Sixth Avenue."

The bear had a history of wandering too close to humans, state wildlife officials said. He had ear tags dated from 2005, suggesting that he had been captured and relocated before.



According to Mike Crisfield, a regional biologist for nuisance wildlife with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the bear had been captured twice in May.

On May 4, it was captured in South Florida and relocated to Babcock Webb Wildlife Management in Punta Gorda. He resurfaced May 20 in Fort Myers and was then relocated to Mudd Swamp in the

Apalachicola National Forest near the Liberty/Franklin county border.

He was first spotted in Tallahassee around 6:30 a.m. Sunday.

The male bear, weighing more than 200 pounds, was finally trapped in a tree near the Whataburger restaurant on Thomasville Road by local law enforcement officers and firefighters. Staff from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission arrived and shot the bear out of a tree with a tranquilizer before removing him. That ended the four-hour encounter.

"Standard protocol in most rural areas is to leave the bear alone and let it wander back into its own area, but based on this bear's history we made the decision to dart it," said Adam Warwick, a biologist with the FWC.

Black bears are not new to the area and sightings are uncommon, but not unusual, for Tallahassee.

"Black bears are native to North Florida and the Apalachicola National Forest, says Mike Keever, a FWC officer who was at the scene. He said that he has seen two or three bears over the last 20 years. Fairfield says that he's seen three in 17 years.

What is unusual is the bear's behavior.

Bears are naturally fearful of humans, but when a bear becomes accustomed to people or falls into the lure of a free garbage meal, they become a threat, Warwick said.

FWC officials did not want to euthanize the bear, but felt that his history left them no other alternative.

"We don't like doing it," Crisfield said. "But when they travel down that road (and get accustomed to people) we have to act."

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Sure they could have relocated the bear BUT it apparently was smarter than the average bear and escaped back into a populated location not once but twice before today. Typically the police shoot folks for escaping from prison the first time they escape; this bear escaped three times. Sounds to me like the three strikes and your out program working at its best. So cut TPD a break and thank them once in a while. They were doing their job to protect "curious" or "uninformed" individuals from harm.

Posted by: **lipstickgal** on Sun Jun 03, 2007 10:56 pm

To put it simply, as a last resort they could have sent the bear down to the Tally Museum with the other animals ie. panthers, bobcats, gators etc.

Posted by: **Jess James** on Sun Jun 03, 2007 10:43 pm

The bear was far safer than the Tally PD operating under the Patriot Act.

If blind people own a vehicle and they randomly run the plate during one of there wolf packs, they will pull the vehicle over to see if the blind guy is driving it instead of his chauffer. It happend this week, call Tally PD and ask.

Spotcoolercf should watch who he calls a tree hugger. I don't need the Tally PD to protect me from a Black Bear. The bear is welcom on my property, the are not.

Posted by: **Jess James** on Sun Jun 03, 2007 10:31 pm

Next time someone sees a Bear in the City limits, please call these tree huggers to come get it. That way our Firefighters and Police Officers do not have to respond to a call like this. For God sakes, it was a Bear, not a cat. The thing could have attacked someone. Better yet, next time a Bear is spotted, bring your kids so they can play with the cute thing. This isn't Country Bear Jamboree folks. There is a reason why they are called "Wild". As soon as a Bear visits a Whataburger, all bets are off.

Posted by: **spotcoolerscf** on Sun Jun 03, 2007 10:25 pm

Did the bear do it?

Posted by: **Jess James** on Sun Jun 03, 2007 10:24 pm

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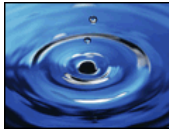
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