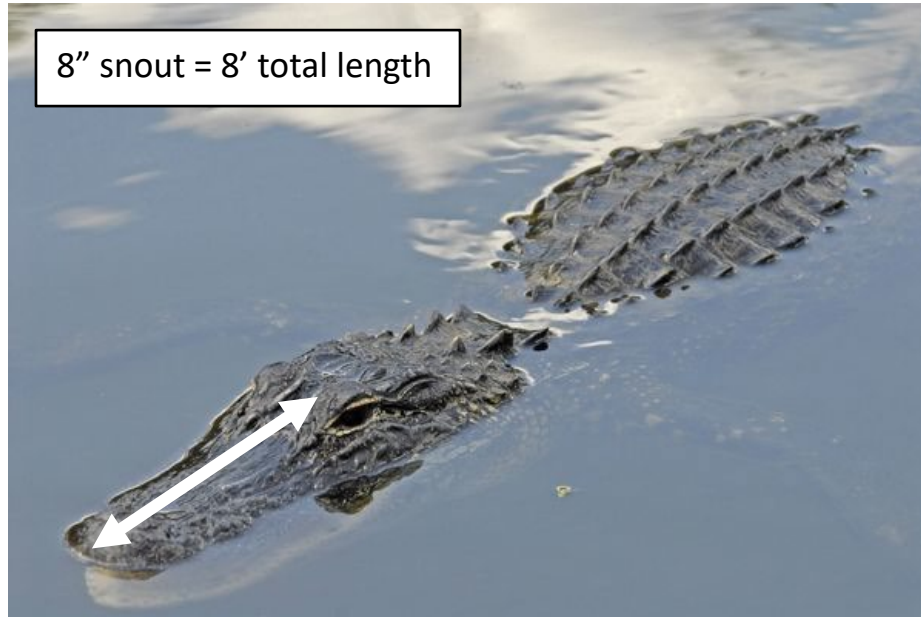




# South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

## Alligator Size Guide



You don't need to see an alligator's entire body to estimate their size! Estimate the number of inches from between the eyes to between the nostrils, and that roughly translates to the total length in feet.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



The average weight of a 3-foot alligator is less than 4 pounds. 4-footers average about 11 lbs., while 5-foot alligators average about 22 lbs.

How old are alligators?  
Guess the age based on size!

Size	Estimate Age
<b>Males</b>	
6 ft.	9-12 yrs.
8 ft.	17-20 yrs.
10 ft.	27-29 yrs.
12 ft.	36+ yrs.
<b>Females</b>	
6 ft.	12-15 yrs.
8 ft.	20-25 yrs.
9 ft.	26+ yrs.

## How fast do alligators grow?

- Alligators hatch at about 9 inches and within one year most have reached 1.5 feet.
- On average, males grow about 8 inches/year and females about 6 inches/year until they reach 6 feet → ~1 foot/2 years
- Alligators greater than 6 feet have a reduced growth rate of about 2.5 inches/year → 1 foot/~5 years

**DID YOU KNOW?**



## Sexual maturity and reproduction among alligators is dependent on size.

- Alligators reach sexual maturity around 6-7 feet.
- It can take alligators anywhere from 9-16 years before they are able to contribute to the population.

Alligators can live up to 40-60 years in the wild & can live even longer in captivity!



Clutch



Hatchlings



Juveniles



Adults

*Live Life Outdoors*



<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/herps/alligator.html>