

Alligator Rescued from Valley Stream Pond

By *Lindsay Christ* on June 6th, 2011

A Valley Stream veterinary hospital is taking care of a two-and-a-half foot American Alligator after it was found by passersby in a nearby pond Saturday.

A couple spotted the reptile at Mill Pond, captured it and brought it to Central Veterinary Associates, where it was placed under the care of Dr. John Charos, a veterinarian experienced with small and exotic animals and reptiles.



Charos

Dr. John Charos, Director of Avian and Exotics Medicine, Central Veterinary Associates, P.C., with the alligator that was found in Mill Pond on June 4.

An advertisement for Fios 1. It features the word "Fios" in a stylized font with a red circle containing the number "1" next to it. Below this, the text reads "THE 1 PLACE FOR EVERYTHING LONG ISLAND." At the bottom left is the Verizon logo, and at the bottom right is a red button with the text "Check Availability".

advertisement

determined that the alligator was in good health, well-fed and approximately two-and-a-half years old. He believes it was abandoned and said that it could have been outside since early spring.

"The person got rid of the alligator because it was becoming too big to take care of," he said. "Whoever left this reptile out in the pond not only broke the law but put the lives of others at risk."

It is illegal to have an alligator in one's residence without a special New York State Department of Environmental Conservation certification from the state health department.

The Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is working to transport the reptile to a licensed facility in Massachusetts.

Alligators are not native to Long Island, but recently have been popping up in the area.

Less than a month ago an alligator was found on the side of the Long Island Expressway in Yaphank. In February, a Syosset man was arrested for allegedly selling a baby alligator on Craigslist, and last October a pet alligator was seized from a Wading River liquor store.

Alligators can grow to be up to 14-feet in length.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked the Nassau County District Attorney's Animal Cruelty Hotline at 516-571-ACHL (2245). All calls will remain anonymous.