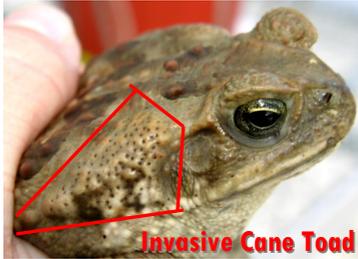


How do I know if I have a dangerous Cane Toad or a harmless native toad?

First— are you sure it is a toad?
Toads:

- Live on the ground, not on walls like treefrogs
- Have dry, warty skin
- Have *parotoid* glands on their shoulders



- Grows larger than 3" (young smaller)
- Parotoid glands are large & somewhat triangular, tapering back to a point
- No knobs/ridges on top of the head



Southern Toad—Native, Very Common

- NEVER larger than 3"
- Parotoid glands small & oval
- 2 obvious ridges on head end in knobs



Oak Toad—Native

- NEVER larger than about 1.5"
- Parotoid glands tiny & oval
- No knobs/ridges on top of the head

FLORIDA INVADER: CANE TOAD

Scientific Name: *Rhinella marina*
AKA: Bufo Toad, Marine Toad



Cane Toads are native to South and Central America, and have become established in southern Florida. They are called “true toads” because they belong to the frog family Bufonidae. “True toads” are the typical dry, warty toads that live on the ground. The *parotoid* glands on the shoulders of Cane Toads produce toxins that can cause pets to become very ill or die. Cane Toads should be captured and humanely euthanized. Native Southern Toads and Oak Toads also have these glands, but their toxins are much less potent — they are harmless to pets. It is nearly impossible to tell the difference between the eggs (all lay long strings of eggs), tadpoles, and young of these species, but the adults can easily be identified using the tips shown here. Remember — the color of the toads can vary a lot!

How to humanely euthanize a Cane Toad: generously rub or spray 20% benzocaine (toothache gel or sunburn spray) on the toad's belly. Place the frog into a plastic bag in the freezer for at least 24 hours, then dispose of the toad in the garbage or bury in a hole in the garden.