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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

FUR-BEARING ANIMAL REGULATIONS

Valid Sept. 2009 until amended.

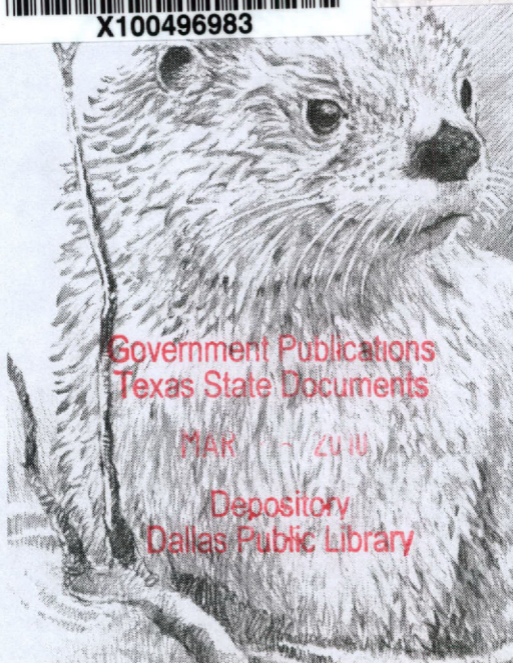
The provisions of the law governing wildlife are subject to changes by the Texas Legislature and Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. As changes occur, the information contained herein shall be amended to reflect the specific changes.

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DEFINITIONS

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS – badgers, beavers, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, ring-tailed cat, skunk and civet cat (spotted skunk).

COYOTES and BOBCATS are not classed as fur-bearing animals and are not subject to these regulations; however, see **BOBCAT PELT tagging requirements** and **RABIES QUARANTINE** described in other sections of this pamphlet.

DEPARTMENT – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

CARCASS – The body of a dead fur-bearing animal, with or without the hide attached.

COMMERCIAL HARVEST – The take of a fur-bearing animal under a trapping license during the season for commercial harvest.

DEPREDAATION – Loss of, or damage to, agricultural crops, livestock, poultry, wildlife or personal property.

FINISHED PRODUCT – The tanned pelt of a fur-bearing animal or any part of a fur-bearing animal (or its resulting products) that has been treated to prevent decomposition (by means other than refrigeration or freezing) and/or packaged for sale. A dried pelt is not a finished product.

LAWFUL ARCHERY EQUIPMENT – The longbow, recurved bow and compound bow.

NUISANCE FUR-BEARING ANIMAL – A fur-bearing animal that is depredating or a threat to human health or safety.

TRAPPER – A person who takes a fur-bearing animal or the pelt of a fur-bearing animal.

PELT – The untanned, green or dried hide or skin of a fur-bearing animal, whether or not the hide or skin is attached to the carcass.

RECREATIONAL HARVEST– The take of a fur-bearing animal at any time under a hunting license or under a trapper's license outside of the season for commercial harvest.

SALE – Includes barter and other transfers of ownership for consideration.

TAKE – The act of snaring, trapping, shooting, killing or capturing by any means and includes an attempt to take.

PLACE OF BUSINESS – A place where fur-bearing animals or their pelts are sold, received, transported, possessed or purchased, and includes a vehicle used by a trapper, wholesale fur buyer and fur-bearing animal propagator.

LICENSES

HUNTING – Required to take fur-bearing animals or their pelts during the recreational season. A person taking fur-bearers with a trapper's license is not required to possess a hunting license.

TRAPPER – Required to take fur-bearing animals or their pelts during the commercial harvest season for the purpose of sale. This license also allows a person to take fur-bearing animals.

Resident \$19.00

Non-resident \$315.00

WHOLESALE FUR DEALER – Required of persons purchasing fur-bearing animals or pelts of fur-bearing animals from trappers, retail fur buyers, fur-bearing animal propagators or another wholesale fur dealer.

Resident \$189.00

Non-resident \$263.00

FUR-BEARING ANIMAL PROPAGATION – Entitles a person to take or possess a living fur-bearing animal and hold it for the purpose of propagation or sale. Facility inspection required prior to initial licensing. \$95.00

NOTE: Persons 17 years of age or older while hunting, fishing or trapping **MUST** have on their person a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

No person may take a fur-bearing animal on privately-owned land or body of water without the consent of the owner of the land or water or his agent. Taking of fur-bearing animals on statutory wildlife sanctuaries, public roads and highways or their rights-of-way is prohibited.

All otters taken in Texas, except nuisance otters, shall be permanently tagged with a department issued federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag valid for the year in which the otter was taken within 90 days of take. All otter pelts imported into Texas must be accompanied by evidence of lawful take or possession.

Persons violating laws involving fish and wildlife may be fined; charged restitution cost of illegally possessed fish and wildlife; and be subject to license suspension or revocation. Subsequent violations may result in jail terms.

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Each fur-bearing animal taken or possessed in violation of these general laws is a separate offense. The Texas Department of Health and local public health agencies may take and possess, for analysis and disposal, any fur-bearing animal posing a potential or known health hazard. Anyone may transport a suspected diseased fur-bearing animal to a public health facility for diagnosis.

SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

RECREATIONAL HARVEST —

- September 1-August 31
- Fur-bearing animals taken as a result of recreational harvest may not be sold
- No bag or possession limit

COMMERCIAL HARVEST —

- Nutria: September 1-August 31
- Beaver: October 1-May 31
- All other furbearers: November 1-March 31
- No bag or possession limit

To voluntarily report mountain lion harvest, call (512) 389-8047.

PROPAGATORS

Possession of live fur-bearing animals at any time is restricted to licensed fur-bearing animal propagators, persons authorized under Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 43, or representatives of recognized organizations for approved instruction or demonstration purposes. Fur-bearing animal propagators may take fur-bearing animals alive only during the commercial harvest season and live fur-bearing animals may be held only in facilities that meet required specifications. Details on propagator requirements are given in a separate leaflet available from the Fur-bearing Animal Program, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

POSSESSION

No person may possess the pelt or carcass of a fur-bearing animal at any time except as indicated below. For fur-bearing animals taken by a recreational hunter, there is no bag or possession limit. A licensed trapper may possess a pelt or carcass of

a fur-bearing animal at any time. Nutria pelts may be possessed at any time. Pelts that have been reduced to a finished product shall not be considered part of the possession limit.

Live fur-bearing animals may be taken and possessed for three days or less by representatives of recognized organizations for approved instruction or demonstration purposes at scheduled meetings provided prior written authorization has been obtained from the department.

Taxidermists may possess a fur-bearing animal or the pelt of a fur-bearing animal that was lawfully taken or possessed provided the animal or pelt is labeled with a wildlife resource document (see the current Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual). For pelts imported from other states or countries, see IMPORTATION section.

MEANS AND METHODS

Fur-bearing animals may be legally taken with firearms; foothold, conibear style, live or box traps; dogs; snares; lawful archery equipment; electronic or hand-held calls; artificial light; or by falconry **except** as prohibited below.

EXCEPTIONS

It is illegal to:

- Shoot at, take or attempt to take any fur-bearing animal from a boat on public waters in Texas.
- Take fur-bearing animals by means of falconry without a valid falconry permit issued by the department.
- Take fur-bearing animals with a foothold or conibear-style trap except during the season for commercial harvest.
- Take fur-bearing animals with a foothold or conibear-style trap within 400 yards of any school.
- Use smoke, explosives or chemical irritants of any kind to harry or flush fur-bearing animals.
- Take fur-bearing animals with conibear-style traps with a diagonal opening greater than 10 inches set on land or in less than 6-inch deep water.
- Take fur-bearing animals with snare, foothold, conibear-style trap, and live or box trap unless such devices are examined at least once every 36 hours and animals are removed on discovery.

SALE OR PURCHASE OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS OR PELTS

- Fur-bearing animals and their pelts can only be sold by:
 - (1) licensed trappers;
 - (2) wholesale fur dealers;
 - (3) fur-bearing animal propagators.
- Fur-bearing animals and their pelts can only be purchased for resale by wholesale fur dealers.
- Fur-bearing animals and their pelts may be purchased by consumers only for personal use (no resale).
- Trappers may sell non-living fur-bearing animals or their pelts taken during commercial harvest at any time during the year.
- Live fur-bearing animals may be sold only by a licensed fur-bearing animal propagator, and only sold to persons authorized by permit issued by the department or to another licensed fur-bearing animal propagator.
- A person who sells fur-bearing animals prepared for immediate consumption may purchase the carcass of a fur-bearing animal only from a wholesale fur dealer.
- A wholesale fur dealer may purchase the carcass or pelt of a fur-bearing animal at any time, provided it was lawfully taken during the commercial season.
- Fur-bearing animals offered for sale may only be taken during the commercial season.
- Finished products may be sold by anyone.
- No person may purchase, possess after purchase or transport for commercial purposes a pelt or carcass taken in this state unless the person has acquired and possesses a wholesale fur dealer's license.
- A trapper may sell the carcass or pelt of a fur-bearing animal only to a wholesale fur dealer or a purchaser outside Texas. **Trappers selling fur-bearing animals to purchasers outside Texas must complete and submit an annual report accounting for all sales out of state.**

A report on a form provided by the department must be completed and filed with the department on or before May 31 by holders of wholesale fur dealer's licenses. Licensed fur-bearing animal propagators must file reports by August 31 of each year. **Failure to meet these reporting requirements will prevent renewal of the dealer or propagation license.**

NUISANCE FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

Landowners or their agents may take nuisance fur-bearing animals in any number by any means at any time on that person's land without the need for a hunting or trapping license. However, fur-bearing animals or their pelts taken for these purposes **may not be retained or possessed by anyone at any time** except licensed trappers during the lawful open season and possession periods.

Nuisance fur-bearing animals may be captured and relocated if the person has received authorization from the department and the owner of the property where the release will occur. A monthly report is required and must be submitted to the department on number and kind of fur-bearers captured, location of release site, name and address of person authorized to release.

IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND RELEASE OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS OR THEIR PELTS

Importation of fur-bearing animals or their pelts into Texas from another state or country requires proof of legal take, purchase or possession. Importation from another country is prohibited without first completing the import documentation required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Customs Service. No person may import live fur-bearing animals taken from the wild into Texas from another state or country without a permit. An importation permit will only be issued to licensed fur propagators. Written authorization shall be obtained from the department prior to sale or export of live fur-bearing animals to persons outside of Texas. Applicants shall provide written verification that recipients of live fur-bearing animals have complied with applicable regulations in the destination state. A copy of the import permit or export authorization must accompany any live fur-bearing animal being imported or exported. Each shipment must be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian accredited in the state of origin and if the imported animals are foxes, raccoons or skunks, a signed letter of authorization issued by the Texas Department of Health. Imported live fur-bearing animals and live fur-bearing animals previously held in captivity may not be released into the wild in this state.

BOBCAT PELTS: TAGGING

Prior to purchase, sale, trade or transport outside Texas, **bobcat pelts** (see definition of bobcat) taken in Texas (including tanned pelts and mounts) must be permanently tagged with a department issued federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag valid for the year in which the bobcat was taken. Legally taken pelts may be tagged at no cost by any registered bobcat pelt dealer or at TPWD Law Enforcement offices. Individuals desiring to purchase and/or tag bobcat pelts taken in Texas must register with the Fur-bearing Animal Program (4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744) and be issued a Bobcat Pelt Dealer Permit and Tag Voucher. It is unlawful for any dealer to: (1) possess untagged pelts; (2) transfer tags to any other dealer, or to use tags issued to another dealer; (3) refuse to tag a bobcat pelt presented as being legally taken in this state. This is not construed to mean the person must sell to the dealer from whom the tag is obtained.

Persons desiring to transfer bobcat pelts out of Texas for non-commercial purposes may obtain a tag by presenting the pelt to any dealer or Department Law Enforcement Office and completing and signing an Annual Bobcat Pelt Tag Report.

RABIES QUARANTINE

It is a Class C misdemeanor to transport or sell live foxes, coyotes and raccoons from, to, or within this state. For additional information, please contact the Zoonosis Control Division of the Texas Department of Health at (512) 458-7255.

For other information concerning hunting and fishing regulations, parks, wildlife or other subjects related to TPWD, call our toll-free number: (800) 792-1112 during regular business hours. At any time of the day, a person may call toll-free (800) 792-GAME to report a violation of the state's game and fish laws. A reward may be offered to eligible callers who provide information which leads to a conviction.



4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

NOTICE

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.