

pelt dealer (bobcat or otter) or at any regional TPWD Law Enforcement office.

Individuals desiring to purchase and/or tag bobcat or otter pelts taken in Texas must be a permitted Pelt Dealer (www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife/cites/).

NOTE: it is UNLAWFUL for any dealer to:

- possess untagged pelts;
- transfer tags to any other dealer, or to use tags issued to another dealer;
- refuse to tag a bobcat or otter 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.)

RABIES QUARANTINE

It is a **Class C misdemeanor** to transport or sell live foxes, skunks, 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) 776-7676.

TPWD CONTACT INFORMATION

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



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FUR-BEARING ANIMAL REGULATIONS

Valid September 2018 until amended.

The provisions of the law governing wildlife are subject to changes by the Texas Legislature and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.



DEFINITIONS

Fur-bearing animals: badgers, beavers, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otters, raccoons, ring-tailed cats, skunks.

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.

Depredation: 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.

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.

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.

Recreational harvest: the take of a fur-bearing animal for non-commercial purposes at any time under a hunting license or under a trapper's license.

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.

TPWD: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Trapper: a person who takes a fur-bearing animal or the pelt of a fur-bearing animal.

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 for recreational harvest.

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.

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. A facility inspection is required prior to initial licensing.

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 in addition to the appropriate hunting or fishing license.

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.

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.

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.

Bobcats and coyotes are not classed as fur-bearing animals and are not subject to fur-bearing regulations; **HOWEVER**, coyotes are subject to rabies quarantine regulations and bobcats are subject to pelt tagging requirements (both described in this pamphlet).

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 harvests, call (512) 389-4505.

FUR-BEARING ANIMAL PROPAGATORS

Possession of live fur-bearing animals at any time is **restricted to** “permitted” fur-bearing animal propagators, authorized Chapter 43 (c) permit holders 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. Live fur-bearing animals may only be held in facilities that meet required specifications. Additional details on propagator permit requirements are available at www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife/furbearing/.

POSSESSION

No person may possess the pelt or carcass of a fur-bearing animal at any time except as indicated below.

Licensed trappers: may possess a pelt or carcass of a fur-bearing animal at any time.

Recreational hunters: there are no bag or possession limits for fur-bearing animals.

Representatives of recognized organizations: may take and possess live fur-bearing animals for three days or less for approved instruction or demonstration purposes at scheduled meetings provided prior written authorization has been obtained from TPWD.

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 (WRD; see the current TPWD 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, body-gripping-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:

- take fur-bearing animals with snare, foothold, body-gripping-style traps, and/or live or box trap unless such devices are examined at least once every 36 hours and animals are removed on discovery.
- 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 TPWD.
- take fur-bearing animals with a foothold or body-gripping-style trap except during the season for commercial harvest.
- take fur-bearing animals with a foothold or body-gripping-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 body-gripping-style traps with a diagonal opening greater than 10 inches set on land or in less than 6-inch-deep water.

SALE OR PURCHASE OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS OR PELTS

Fur-bearing animals and their pelts can only be sold by:

- licensed trappers;
- wholesale fur dealers;
- 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 a permit issued by TPWD 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 (PWD 137) accounting for all sales out of state.

A report must be completed and filed with TPWD 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. Contact TPWD for the appropriate report forms (PWD 137 and 137A).

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 TPWD and the owner of the property where the release will occur. A monthly report is required detailing the number and kind of fur-bearers captured, location of release site, and name and

address of person authorized to release. Report due to TPWD no later than the tenth of each month.

IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION 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 into Texas from another state or country without a permit.

Written authorization shall be obtained from TPWD 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.

RELEASE OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

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 AND OTTER PELTS

Tagging Requirements

Prior to purchase, sale, trade or transport outside Texas, BOBCAT pelts taken in Texas (including tanned pelts and mounts) MUST be permanently tagged with a TPWD issued federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag valid for the year in which the bobcat was taken.

In addition, all OTTERS taken in Texas except nuisance otters, MUST be permanently tagged with a TPWD issued CITES tag valid for the year in which the otter was taken. Legally taken pelts and carcasses may be tagged at no cost by a permitted