

Furtaking

① Sunday, Nov. 13 ② Sunday, Nov. 20 ③ Sunday, Nov. 27

Hunting Foxes and coyotes may be hunted on all Sundays within their open seasons.

Coyotes

No Limit

No closed season, with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

① ② ③

Raccoons & Foxes

No Limit

Oct. 22-Feb. 18

① ② ③

Opossums, Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit

July 1-June 29 with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

① ②

Bobcats

1 per license year

Jan. 7-Feb. 1

WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Permit required

Porcupine

3 daily, 10 season

Oct. 8-Jan. 28

① ②

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes

No Limit

GENERAL

Oct. 22-Feb. 19

CABLE RESTRAINTS

Dec. 26-Feb. 19

Raccoons, Opossums

Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit

Oct. 22-Feb. 19

Minks & Muskrats

No Limit

Nov. 19-Jan. 8

Bobcats

1 per license year with permit

Dec. 17-Jan. 8

WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Beavers

Limits vary by WMU

Dec. 17-March 30

Fishers

1 per license year with permit

Dec. 17-Jan. 1

WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

River Otters

1 per license year with permit

Feb. 11-18

WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C & 3D

A **furtaker license** is not required to hunt coyotes, but is required to trap them. Porcupines may be hunted with a **hunting or furtaker license**. A furtaker license is required to take any other furbearer by hunting or trapping. In addition to a furtaker license, **permits** are required for bobcat, fisher and otter.

Firearms While Trapping

- To dispatch trapped animals during deer season, trappers are limited to semiautomatic or manually operated 22-caliber rimfire or smaller rifles, manually operated 22-caliber or smaller rimfire handguns, or manually operated or semiautomatic air- or gas-operated rifles, manually operated handguns, that are 177- to 22-caliber. Persons under 12 may use a 22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle, but only when accompanied by an adult.

Firearms for Hunting Furbearers

- It is unlawful to take furbearers, including bobcats, with shotguns using shot larger than size No. 4 buckshot, or implements that are not lawful firearms, bows or crossbows. Semiautomatic and manually operated rifles, manually operated handguns of any caliber, manual or semiautomatic shotguns and, bows and crossbows can be used. Muzzleloading rifles or handguns that propel single-projectile ammunition can be used. Air- or gas-operated firearms of at least 22-caliber and propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet can be used. Persons hunting coyotes, foxes, bobcats, raccoons, striped skunks, opossums and weasels may use gun-mounted lights that do not project a laser-light beam, as well as handheld and sporting-arm mounted night-vision and infrared (thermal) optics. Porcupines may not be hunted at night.

Dogs

Dogs are permitted to hunt furbearers.

Unlawful Devices

It is unlawful to take furbearers through the use of fish hooks, snagging hooks or any other hooks of similar design, or implements that are not lawful traps. A furtaker license is needed to trap all furbearers, including coyotes.

Foxes & Raccoons

Foxes and raccoons may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during the regular firearms deer season, when they may be hunted **only after the legal hours for deer**. Foxes may be hunted on Sundays throughout the season.

Coyotes

While there is no closed season for the hunting of coyotes, and coyotes may be hunted on Sundays throughout the year, there are additional requirements for hunting coyotes during big-game seasons.

OUTSIDE OF ANY BIG GAME SEASON

- Coyotes may be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker license and without wearing orange.

DURING ANY BIG GAME SEASON

- Coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (big-game orange requirements must be followed) or with a furtaker license.

BAIT AND DEVICES

- Natural or manmade nonliving bait and any electronic or mechanical device may be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping.

BAIT VISIBLE FROM THE AIR

- The law allowing trappers to use any natural or manmade nonliving bait to attract coyotes does not permit the bait to be visible from the air. It is unlawful to bait a trap with meat, animal products or their facsimiles if the bait is visible from the air. Those hunting coyotes, however, may hunt over bait visible from the air.

Traps & Trapping

Setting Traps

It is unlawful to 1) stake or set traps prior to 7 a.m. on the first day; 2) set traps within 5 feet of a hole or den, except for underwater sets; 3) use pole traps, jaw-toothed traps, deadfalls, poison, explosives, chemicals, or traps with a jaw-spread exceeding 6½ inches as measured to the outside of the jaw; 4) set body-gripping traps outside a watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam; 5) set a trap not marked with one durable identification tag attached to either the trap or chain showing the first and last name and address of the trapper, or a number issued by the Game Commission; 6) set a trap with bait visible from the air; 7) smoke or dig out a den or house or cut den trees; 8) disturb traps or remove any wildlife from the traps without specific permission; and 9) on the closing day, fail to remove traps by sunset.

Possession

It is unlawful to 1) possess green pelts (not dried, cured or tanned), except during open season and for 10 days thereafter; 2) possess live, wild furbearers, except foxes, for which a permit must be issued by the Game Commission; and 3) buy, sell or possess furbearers or parts unlawfully taken, transported, imported, exported or improperly tagged.

TRAPS

Foot-Encapsulating Trap

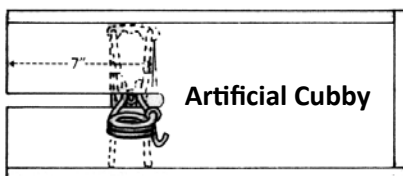
A device that has all triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing that, once set, allows access to the triggering and restraining mechanisms through a single opening not to exceed 2 inches in diameter or diagonally and is anchored by a swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism. Encapsulating traps may be used to harvest furbearers during legal seasons.

Cage and Box Traps

Cage and box traps can be used to take furbearers, however it is unlawful to 1) use a cage or box trap in water; and 2) use a cage or box trap capable of capturing more than one animal at a time.

Artificial Cubby

A baited enclosure constructed of natural or artificial material that is designed to house and corral a furbearer into a body-gripping trap. Furtakers are permitted to trap furbearers using body-gripping traps set in artificial cubbies when all of the following conditions are met: 1) The artificial cubby is placed within an established watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam. 2) The entrance to the artificial cubby does not exceed 50 square inches. 3) Traps no larger than 6½ x 6½ inches can be used. 4) The triggering mechanism of the trap is recessed within the artificial cubby at least 7 inches from the entrance. 5) The artificial cubby is anchored in a manner that it cannot be moved or rolled. Note: Requirements 2 through 5 shall not apply to body-gripping traps that are 5½ inches or less and set in artificial cubbies to target mink or muskrat.



Cubby entrance cannot exceed 50 inches, and traps no larger than 6½ by 6½ inches are permitted. Trap trigger mechanism must be recessed at least 7 inches from the cubby entrance.

Tending Traps

Traps must be visited by the owner once every 36 hours, and each animal removed or released.

Exporting Furs

It is unlawful to ship furs or harvested furbearers outside the state unless an official "Shipping Tag" is properly attached. Tags are available from Game Commission offices and licensed fur dealers.

Importing Furs

Furs and furbearers taken outside of Pennsylvania must be tagged according to laws of the state or country where harvested.

Cable Restraint Captures

Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has license or permit for that furbearer.

TRAPPERS MUST BECOME CERTIFIED TO USE

CABLE RESTRAINTS

A cable restraint is a highly specialized trapping device designed to restrain foxes and coyotes without injury.

Cable restraints employ modern modifications, such as flexible multi-strand cable, relaxing locks, and breakaway stops and hooks to restrain animals in winter conditions where traditional trapping methods are less effective.

Trappers use cable restraints to capture foxes and coyotes by suspending the loop within a pathway used by the species of interest. The loop is usually held in place by a piece of light wire.

As the animal enters the device, its own forward progress draws the loop tight around the neck. The animal is then held alive until the trapper arrives to check the set.

The legalization of cable restraints in Pennsylvania was based on data collected during one of the most ambitious trap research projects in the history of wildlife management—the development of Best Management Practices for Trapping (BMPs) in the United States.

Trapping BMPs identify techniques, traps and cable restraints that maximize the welfare of trapped animals and allow for the efficient, selective, safe and practical capture of furbearers.

Cable restraints have been field tested by experienced trappers during legal land trapping seasons throughout North America. Animals harvested during these studies were sent to wildlife veterinarians who used international guidelines to examine and evaluate them for capture-related injuries. The animal welfare performance of cable restraints was outstanding.

Cable Restraints

Cable Restraint Regulations

The use of cable restraints by certified trappers in Pennsylvania is highly regulated.

Cable restraints are permitted only for foxes and coyotes during late winter periods (Dec. 26-Feb. 19, 2023), when freezing conditions render traditional methods ineffective.

Everyone who traps in Pennsylvania must follow strict guidelines established and enforced by the Game Commission.

Regulations dictating the species that may be harvested, seasons, trap types and where traps can be placed are reviewed annually by Game Commission biologists and law-enforcement personnel. In addition to general trapping regulations, these specific regulations have been instituted for using cable restraints in Pennsylvania.

Cable restraints must be made of a galvanized stranded steel cable with a diameter of not less than 3/32 of an inch. The cable must be constructed of 7 bundles of 7 wires per bundle (7x7), 7 bundles of 19 wires per bundle (7x19), or 1 bundle comprised of 19 wires (1X19). The cable may not exceed 7 feet in length from the anchor point to the lock contacting the fully closed loop stop, must be equipped with at least one swivel device (which allows for 360-degree rotation) between the loop and the anchor, and must have stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the circumference of the cable that makes up the loop may not be greater than 38 inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches when fully closed. Cable restraint loops must be set so that the bottom of the loop is no less than 6 and no greater than 12 inches above the first surface beneath the cable restraint. Cable restraints must be equipped with an approved lock, and the lock may not be constructed with moving parts.

A cable restraint must include a breakaway device affixed between the lock and cable or at the end of the cable that is rated at 375 pounds or less. The cable must be maintained in good condition so that all components operate properly.

A cable restraint must be anchored to prevent the animal from

CABLE RESTRAINT CERTIFICATION

To use cable restraints, trappers must first complete a certified cable restraint training course.

To view course schedules, visit www.pgc.pa.gov, or contact the Game Commission's Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015.

Trappers shall keep the certificate from the training course in possession while setting or checking sets using cable restraints, and present the certificate upon the request of a game warden.

In addition to the certificate, those using cable restraints must possess a valid furtaker license, or qualify for license and fee exemptions under Section 2706 of the act relating to resident license and fee exemptions, or qualify for trapping exceptions under Section 2363 of the act relating to trapping exceptions for certain persons.

moving the restraint from place of capture.

Cable restraint may not be set where entanglement may occur or where the animal may become suspended.

Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has a license or permit for that furbearer.

Bobcats may not be taken in cable restraints during the bobcat hunting season. Other wildlife mistakenly killed with cable restraints must be reported to any game warden in the county where the kill occurred. Call the Centralized Dispatch Center to have a game warden respond.

Approved Cable Restraint & Snare Locks Include:



Reichart 180-Degree Reverse Bend Washer



Kaatz "Relax-a-Lock"



Berkshire 90-Degree Bend Washer



Micro Lock



BMI Slide Free Lock



Penny Lock

Bobcats, Fishers, Beavers & Otters

Season length is used to regulate bobcat taking in specified WMUs in the state. Because fisher populations have increased dramatically in many areas of the state, the Game Commission has adopted a fisher trapping season in select WMUs. To assess interest, effort, and harvest success rates during these seasons, the Game Commission requires that hunters and trappers possess bobcat and/or fisher permits to pursue these species. All furtakers may purchase one permit for each species during the 2022-23 season, and successful permit holders must report their harvest.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest A Bobcat?

Licensed furtakers (hunters and trappers) who possess a valid bobcat permit can harvest one bobcat per license year in WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D or 4E (combined) from **Jan. 7-Feb. 1, 2023, by hunting only, or Dec. 17-Jan. 8, 2023, by trapping only**, using lawful devices and methods.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest A Fisher?

Licensed furtakers who possess a valid fisher permit can **harvest, by trapping**, one fisher per license year in WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D or 4E (combined) from **Dec. 17-Jan. 1, 2023** using lawful devices and methods during the trapping season.

If You Harvest a Bobcat or Fisher

A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall, immediately before removing the animal from the harvest site, fully complete and attach

BOBCAT, FISHER AND OTTER PERMITS

Bobcats, fishers and river otters can only be taken by furtakers holding valid permits.

Bobcat permits, fisher permits and otter permits are available through any license issuing agent and through "HuntFishPA" on the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov.

Furtakers may purchase one bobcat permit, one fisher permit and one otter permit per license year, and they may take no more than one animal with each permit.

Each permit costs \$6.97.

Bobcat, fisher and otter permits must be purchased before the start of each respective season.

Bobcat and fisher permits must be purchased **before Dec. 17.**

Otter permits must be purchased **before Feb. 11.**

to the animal the harvest tag furnished with the permit. The tag shall remain attached to the animal until it is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. A CITES tag automatically will be issued for bobcats that may be exported or sold. A CITES tag *is not* required for a fisher pelt. Within 48 hours of harvesting a bobcat or fisher, a permit holder must report the harvest to the Game Commission through <https://huntfish.pa.gov>, or by calling 1-800-838-4431.

BEAVERS & OTTERS

Beavers

Dec. 17-March 30, 2023

WMUs 1A & 1B

(Combined) 20 daily, 60 per season

WMUs 2A, 2B & 3C

(Combined) 20 daily, 40 per season

WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C & 5D

(Combined) 20 daily, 20 per season

WMUs 2G, 2H, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A & 5B

(Combined), 5 daily, 5 per season

River Otters

Feb. 11-18, 2023

WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C & 3D

1 per year with permit

Beaver and Otter Regulations

In addition to general trapping regulations, it is unlawful to: 1) destroy, disturb or interfere with a beaver dam or house; 2) use other than raw, native wood and stone materials to direct the travel of beavers or otters (manmade materials may be used only to support traps or snares); 3) place, check, reset or tend a trap or snare on an established beaver dam or beaver house, or within 15 feet of either a dam or a house. Measurement shall be from directly above the trap or snare, across the water, ice or land to the nearest point of the structure; 4) check or maintain a beaver or otter trap, or remove a beaver or otter unless the person who owns the trap is present; 5) set body-gripping traps larger than 10 inches tall by 12 inches wide.

Special Otter Regulations

Licensed furtakers must purchase a river otter permit to participate in the season. Before removing an otter from the location where it was caught, successful permit holders must immediately complete and attach to the otter the carcass tag furnished with the permit, and report their harvest within 24 hours through <https://huntfish.pa.gov>, or by calling 1-800-838-4431. The harvest tag must remain attached to the otter until a plastic Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag is attached, if applicable, or the animal is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. For research purposes, the Game Commission may ask some successful otter trappers to surrender the carcass of their otter within 30 days.

Beavers & Otters

Trapping Device Limitations

The number of trapping devices allowed for beaver and otter trapping differs depending on furbearer species, WMU trapped, and beaver/otter season overlap.

OTTER TRAPPING

- It is unlawful for otter trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

BEAVER TRAPPING DURING OTTER SEASON

- Where beaver season overlaps with otter season by calendar date within WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C & 3D, it is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

BEAVER TRAPPING

- Where no overlap of otter and beaver seasons occurs by both calendar date and WMU, it is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined statewide total of 20 traps or snares, no more than 10 of which may be traps. No more than two of the traps may be body-gripping traps, except in WMUs where beaver bag limits are 40 per season all 10 traps may be body-gripping traps. In WMUs where beaver bag limits are 60 per season, all 20 traps or snares may be body-gripping traps.

A legal snare for beaver and otter trapping must be looped galvanized stranded steel cable 3/32 inches in diameter, equipped with the approved locks required for cable restraints. A metal ferrule shall be crimped on the cable to prevent the snare loop from closing to a circumference less than 7 inches. It is unlawful to equip snares with a spring-activating mechanism

AVOIDING ACCIDENTAL OTTER CAPTURES

Trappers are urged to learn to identify otter sign and, where otters exist, to adopt the following recommendations to avoid the accidental capture of otters while trapping beavers:

- When using snares, set snare loops at 10 to 12 inches in diameter.
- Use baited sets for beavers where feasible.
- Avoid main channels in ponds and primary crossings where otter sign is present.

If an otter is captured accidentally, report it to the local game warden through the Commission Centralized Dispatch Center.

or any device designed to aid in closing the snare loop. Snares used for taking beavers must be set completely or partially submerged in water within a waterway, watercourse, marsh, pond or dam. There must be one durable identification tag attached to each trap or snare by means of an extension wire of sufficient length so that the name tag or identification number is completely above the water or ice level and totally visible. The tag must list the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or a number issued by the Game Commission.

Beaver Season Limit

Trappers may legally take up to 125 beavers with the combined harvest in multiple Wildlife Management Units in a season. When trapping in multiple WMUs, a trapper may set or tend up to 10 traps, up to 20 snares, and not more than a total of 20 devices statewide. Beavers or pelts do not need to be tagged.

PENNSYLVANIA'S BIG GAME SCORING PROGRAM

Each year, deer, bear and elk that are among the largest ever to be harvested in Pennsylvania are added to the Pennsylvania Big Game Records book.

Now those hunters and trophy owners who have a listing in the record book also may purchase an Exclusive Member Big Game Records patch.

Patches are \$9.43, plus \$2.95 shipping, plus sales tax. Funds from the sale of these patches are used to support the state's Big Game Scoring Program.

To order, call 1-888-888-3459 or visit www.huntfish.pa.gov.

The 2022 records book becomes available in October, and costs \$10, plus \$2.95 shipping, plus 6 percent sales tax.

To enter a big game animal, or for more information about the Game Commission's Big Game Scoring Program, contact Boone & Crockett Club certified scorer and coordinator of Pennsylvania's program Bob D'Angelo at rdangelo@pa.gov or call the Game Commission Harrisburg Headquarters.

