



How to Get a Captive Cervid Permit from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

1. Begin by building a facility according to current Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) regulations regarding captive cervids (301 KAR 2:083). (Contact KDFWR, 800-858-1549, for captive cervid applications and regulations or go to the KDFWR website: fw.ky.gov, (from the middle of the menu) click "Licenses & Permits," click "Wildlife Permits," click "Holding and Transportation of Captive Cervid.")
2. Once you have a facility that meets the specifications in the regulation (301 KAR 2:083), contact your local law enforcement captain to schedule an inspection. (**Note:** You may not move any animals into the facility until you have received a valid captive cervid permit from KDFWR.) Your captain will mail the completed and signed inspection form to KDFWR Headquarters in Frankfort. (You should retain the pink copy for your records.) If your captain does not approve your facility, the inspection form should explain why. Make the necessary changes, and schedule another inspection with your captain.
3. Mail your completed application and correct payment to KDFWR, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, ATTN: Captive Cervid Permit. (You may mail your application and payment before the inspection, but please note that we cannot begin to process an application until we have received all three parts: application form, correct payment, and the completed inspection form.)
4. KDFWR will then review the application and either approve or deny the permit. If approved, you will receive a copy of your valid Captive Cervid Permit. If denied, you will receive notice as to the reason and be given 60 days to rectify any deficiencies.
5. If you have not already done so, be sure to contact the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) State Veterinarian's Office before you stock your facility with deer or elk, as you will need to complete an application for enrollment in the disease surveillance program and become familiar with their requirements for holding and transporting cervids (302 KAR 20:066). You can reach KDA at 502-564-3956.
6. Once you have received your Captive Cervid Permit from KDFWR and have successfully enrolled with KDA, you may begin adding cervids to your facility (as long as they are not on the list of prohibited species). **REMEMBER:** You must acquire a transportation permit from the Agriculture KDA before you move live captive cervids.
 - a. You may only obtain animals from properly permitted captive cervid facilities deemed by KDA.
 - b. A transportation permit number must accompany any cervid being transported.
7. **Renewal inspections** for your KDFWR Captive Cervid Permit (yearly for a commercial permit and every 3 years for a non-commercial permit) will be done in **February**.