FURBEARER HUNTING and TRAPPING

FURBEARER HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Kentucky Fish & Wildlife is collecting lower canines from harvested bobcats and river otters for a population study. Please contact the department at 1-800-858-1549 to request a sample packet and instructions. Thank you for your contribution to furbearer management.

SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

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<th>SMALL GAME</th>
<th>Hunting</th>
<th>Trapping</th>
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<td>Squirrel</td>
<td>Aug. 15 - Nov. 13 and Nov. 16, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbit</td>
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<td>Eastern Zone</td>
<td>Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2020 - Jan. 31, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Zone</td>
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<td>Quail</td>
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<td>Eastern Zone</td>
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<td>Western Zone</td>
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<td>Grouse*</td>
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<td>Free Youth Hunting &amp; Trapping Week</td>
<td>Dec. 26, 2020 - Jan. 1, 2021</td>
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* In Grouse Hunting Zone only. Information about grouse hunting on public areas is available online at fw.ky.gov.

SMALL GAME
The following animals are considered small game: squirrels, rabbits, northern bobwhite (quail) and grouse.

BUYING and SELLING HIDES
There is no time restriction on the holding of raw furs of furbearers by a trapper or hunter after the close of furbearer season. Raw furs may be sold only to licensed taxidermists, licensed fur buyers or licensed fur processors.

FREE YOUTH HUNTING and TRAPPING
FREE YOUTH WEEK
Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and younger may hunt and trap applicable game and furbearers, and hunt migratory birds in season without a hunting or trapping license for seven consecutive days starting the Saturday after Christmas.

BUYING and SELLING HIDES
Possession of an unused bobcat or otter CITES tag is prohibited.
A person who transfers, but does not sell, a river otter or bobcat to another person or taxidermist, is not required to request a CITES tag. But, this person must attach a handmade carcass tag to the animal that contains the telecheck confirmation number and the hunter or trapper’s name and phone number.

A CITES tag must be attached to the raw fur, pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat or river otter taken in Kentucky upon receipt of the tag from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife per the instructions provided by the department and remain attached until it is processed or exported outside the United States.

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LEGAL SMALL GAME HUNTING EQUIPMENT and METHODS

Hunters may only use the following to take small game during the fall and winter seasons:
- A rimfire gun or rimfire handgun
- .410 gauge handgun
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber)
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than No. 2
- Muzzle-loading rifles
- Archery or crossbow equipment
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber air guns
- Falconry
- Slingshots with manufactured hunting ammunition
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt

Q: Do I have to telecheck my small game?
A: No. However, you can help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by filling out the hunter cooperator surveys for small game. Click the “Hunt” tab on fw.ky.gov and choose “Game Species” from the dropdown menu.

BAG LIMITS
- Squirrel: Daily limit is 6; possession limit is 12.
- Rabbit: Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.
- Quail: Daily limit is 8; possession limit is 16.
- Grouse: Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.

FREE YOUTH WEEK
Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and younger may hunt and trap small game without a hunting or trapping license for seven consecutive days starting the Saturday after Christmas.

Hunter orange clothing must be worn by all hunters Dec. 28-29, 2019 since youth hunters are also permitted to hunt deer with firearms at that time.

Youth hunters must comply with all equipment regulations and bag limits for small game when hunting or trapping. Hunter education is not required for license-exempt hunters. Adults accompanying youth hunters/trappers during the free youth hunting and trapping week do not need a license if they are not hunting/trapping.

FALCONRY SEASON
The limit for this hunting method is two (2) of any small game or fur bearer species per falconer per day, except during the fall and winter hunting season when the limits are the same as for other methods. Falconers must possess a falconry permit, which costs $75 and is valid for three years, as well as a valid Kentucky hunting license, unless license exempt, and obey all applicable state and federal laws.

bear section.
A trapping license is required for anyone 12 years of age and older.
Trappers must harvest squirrels and rabbits upon capture, unless they possess a captive wildlife permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Seasons on WMAs and other public hunting lands not managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife may be different from statewide seasons. Individual area listings are available online at fw.ky.gov.