Any wild fox, coyote, fisher, wild mink, river otter or beaver killed must be reported within 10 days of the date harvested. There is a detailed procedure for obtaining a special permit to use a body gripping (Conibear) trap for certain types of wildlife damage. Contact your local DFW District Office for details.

Mandatory Training: Persons using Bailey or Hancock traps must take the trapper education class offered by the Hunter Education Program (See Trapper Education).

Reporting stolen traps: A trapper must report loss or theft of a trap in writing to the Office of Law Enforcement within 48 hours of the loss or theft, or remain responsible for its use. The report should include the registration number and type of trap; time and circumstances of the loss or theft. Such reports must be signed under the pains and penalties of perjury. Stolen traps should be reported to:

INLAND:

Inland Law Enforcement
183 Milk Street, Westboro, MA 01581

Coastal Law Enforcement
Att: "Trap Loss"
Bldg. #45, 349 Lincoln St., Hingham, MA 02043

Staking is not a recognized practice and conveys no trapping privileges.

A beaver house or lodge is a den comprised of an aggregate of sticks and mud which is constructed or built by beaver and which is either free-standing in water or connected to an embankment.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO ...

1. Trap before 6:00 am on opening day of any trapping season.
2. Possess or use a trap on another’s land from ten days before to ten days after trapping season.
3. Possess the green pelt of any furbearer except during the open season and for 10 days thereafter.
4. Possess or control an unregistered trap on another’s land.
5. Possess or control another’s registered trap without his written permission.
6. Trap on posted land of another without his written consent.
7. Trap in a public way, cart road or path commonly used by humans or domestic animals.
8. Use poison or use a trap that takes more than one animal at a time.
9. Destroy, mutilate, or spring another’s trap or remove any animal from another’s trap without his written authorization.
10. Fail to check and remove an animal from each trap at least once in each calendar day between 4:00 am and 10:00 pm.
11. Trap on or disturb a muskrat or beaver house or beaver dam, except under permit.
12. Trap fur-bearing mammals with any trap other than a cage or box type trap, or a common rat trap.
13. Use, set, or place a Hancock or Bailey type beaver trap without having completed a training course, or to use, set, or place such trap except when set, set, or upon a beaver lodge, dam, stump, or other above water protrusion surrounded by water.
14. Trap any road-killed furbers during the closed season, or to pick up road-killed furbers during the open season without a valid trapping license.
15. Alter, tamper with or reapply a furbearer tag or seal, or possess any altered or resealed tag (unless it is destroyed to such a condition that it could not be reapplied).
16. Possess any pelt bearing an altered or resealed tag or seal.

PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL TRAPPING

Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents are private individuals licensed by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to assist the public in situations involving sick animals or animals causing property damage. PAC agents are only authorized to handle the following animals: striped skunk, muskrat, raccoon, weasel, gopher,穆田, coyote*, porcupine, rats, mice, voles**, red, gray or flying squirrel, opossum, chipmunk, European rabbit, cottontail rabbit, woodchuck, snapping turtle, muskrat, pigeons, house sparrows, starlings and bats**.

To become a Problem Animal Control (PAC) agent: You must possess a valid trapping license and register and tag all traps and submit an application to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. PAC agents must be available for inspection by an Environmental Police Officer (EPO) or officials of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at any reasonable time. PAC agents must keep a record of all animal complaints handled and submit reports to the EPO and Division of Fisheries and Wildlife within 10 days of the date the animals were handled.

Cost for PAC License: $100.00

* Additional certification required.
** Certain species of bats and voles are not covered under this authorization.

First-time PAC trappers must:
1. Complete a mandatory trapper education class.
2. Pass a written exam on biology, handling, capture techniques, and animal welfare, diseases and parasites. Applicants who fail the exam may retake the exam after a two month period.

Recertification: Permittees are required to attend a PAC workshop every three years from the time of successful completion of the first exam.

Animals taken under PAC permits, their carcasses or any parts cannot be retained, sold, bartered, or exchanged for consideration, except during the open trapping season for that species.

Reporting: Licenses are valid from January 1 to December 31. PAC agents receive a reporting form on which they must record transactions as they occur. All agents must keep a record of all animal complaints handled or investigated by them. Reporting forms must be mailed to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife or the Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) or officials of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at any reasonable time.

Application Fee:

Inland Law Enforcement
$20.00

COASTAL:

$10.00

$5.00

$20.00

$20.00

Cost for PAC License: $100.00

* Additional certification required.
** Certain species of bats and voles are not covered under this authorization.
No license is required by any legal resident of Massachusetts or member of his immediate family for trapping on land owned or leased by him which is used principally for agriculture, if he is actually domiciled on that land.

FURBuyER LicEnceS
A Furbuyer is any person who is dealing in raw furs. A valid Massachusetts furbuyer license is required for any person who is receiving, buying, or bartering the raw pelts of wild animals. This includes persons handling green (a pelt which has not been dried, cured or tanned) or raw (a pelt, including a green pelt, which has been dried, fleshed, or cured) pelts. A permit is not required if a skin or skins are purchased from a licensed fur dealer, hunter or trapper for the personal use of the purchaser and not for sale. Licenses are valid from January 1 to December 31. Furbuyers receive a reporting book in which they must record transactions of pelts received as they occur. Log books must be open to inspection by Environmental Police Officers or any agents of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at any reasonable time.

Furbuyer annual report forms from record books are required to be initialed by an EPO and submitted yearly to the Division no later than April 1.

Costs of Furbuyer Licenses are as follows ...
- Resident $30.00
- Non Resident Citizen/Alumni $90.00

Applications for furbuyer licenses, or a listing of current furbuyers can be obtained by calling 617-626-1575, or by writing the Boston office of the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

SAle of peLts
Exporting raw furs: When shipping raw fur pelts by any carrier, the contents of the package and the shipper’s hunting or trapping license number must be listed on the outside of the package.

The destruction or removal of any identifying tag or label that is attached to a container in which skins are shipped is unlawful.

All river otter and bobcat require CITES tags to be affixed to the pelts at the time of sale. This is to prevent illegal trafficking of these species.

SAFETY
When boating and canoeing from September 15 to May 15 all canoe or kayak occupants must wear a United States Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device.

LANDOWNER LIABILITIES
Any landowner permitting use of his property for recreation without charging a fee is not liable for injuries to recreational users or their property, except in cases of willful, wanton or reckless conduct by the owner. (MGL Chapter 21, Section 17C).

Rabies
Rabies in raccoons has been confirmed in all counties in Massachusetts except Dukes and Nantucket. Wear rubber gloves when skinning fur-bearers. If you believe you have been exposed to a rabid animal, scrub the wound thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately. Isolate and preserve the dead animal by refrigeration as soon as possible. Contact your local Board of Health. For a free pamphlet on rabies and furbearers write any Division office or call (508) 389-6300.

Trapping & Furbearer Management Regulations

MassWildlife 2009 - 2010

Hunting regulations for furbearers are found in the Abstracts of the 2009 & 2010 Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Laws.

Furbuyer Check Stations
Check stations are open Monday - Friday (excluding holidays). The following are Division furbuyer check stations:

- Western District - Dalton: 413-684-1646
- Conn. Valley District - Belchertown: 508-389-6300
- Central District - West Boylston: 978-263-4347
- Northeast District - Ayer: 508-825-3607
- Southeast District - Buzzards Bay: 508-759-3406
- Sunderland Hatchery - Sunderland: 413-665-4680
- Bitzer Fish Hatchery - Montague: 413-367-2477
- Martin Burns WMA Hqtrs - Newbury: 978-465-8012
- DFW Field Headquarters - Westboro: 508-389-6300

Some deer check stations may also check coyotes.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626-1590
www.mass.gov/masswildlife
The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife is an Agency of the MA Department of Fish & Game

TRAPping regulations

Open Season (All Dates Inclusive)

Species
- Bobcat, Coyote, Fox, Weasel
- Fisher
- Mink, River Otter
- Beaver
- Muskrat, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk

This pamphlet contains abstracts of essential portions of the laws and regulations dealing with various aspects of furbearer trapping/management. It is not the complete law and is subject to change.

(MGL Ch. 131 and 321 CMR)