



Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Credentials (does not include vendor fees)

License/Permit/Stamps	Price		How to apply for or purchase				Specifications	
	Resident	Non-Resident	Lottery	Online	Vendors	Phone		Paper Application
Trapping	\$10.00			X	X	X		First-time trappers born on or after Jan. 1, 1998 are required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license. Residents with at least 39.5 acres do not need a license to trap.
Youth Hunting and Trapping	\$7.00			X	X	X		Any hunter/trapper under 18 years of age may purchase this license. Hunters/trappers with this license must be supervised by an adult who is 21 years of age or older and has the appropriate Illinois hunting or trapping license. The youth hunter shall not hunt or trap or carry a hunting device, unless the youth is accompanied by and under close personal supervision of that adult.
Trapping (with state reciprocity)		\$175.00		X	X	X		Reciprocity means your state of residence allows Illinois residents to trap.
Trapping (without state reciprocity)		\$250.00		X	X	X		See reciprocity specification above.
Base Hunting License	Variable	Variable		X	X	X	X	See Statewide Regulations section for license types.
State Habitat Stamp	\$5.00	\$5.00		X	X	X		
Species-specific Permits								
Otter Registration Permit	\$5.00	\$5.00		X	X	X		Purchase within 48 hours after otter harvest.
Bobcat Hunting & Trapping Lottery Application	\$5.00	\$5.00	X	X				See lottery section for details.
Bobcat Registration Permit	\$5.00	\$5.00		X				Purchase within 48 hours after bobcat harvest.

General Furbearer Regulations (Additional to Statewide Regulations)

Definitions

Furbearing Mammals: badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox, river otter, striped skunk and weasel.

Trap: To capture, or attempt to capture, by setting or placing a leg-hold trap, body-gripping trap, cage or live-trap or other similar device permitted by the Illinois Wildlife Code to capture, hold or kill any protected wildlife.

Water Set: Any trap or similar device that is placed or set in contact with flowing or impounded water.

Land Set: Any trap or similar device not placed or set in contact with flowing or impounded water.

Green Hide: Any hide or pelt which has not been tanned.

Trapping and Hunting Credentials and Requirements

- To trap furbearers, residents and non-residents will need an appropriate trapping license and habitat stamp listed below. Exemptions to these requirements are specified in table. For residency qualification, see Resident definition in Statewide Regulations.
- To hunt furbearers residents and non-residents will need an applicable hunting license and state habitat stamp listed below.
- See bobcat trapping and hunting map for associated zones.

Possession of Furbearers and Parts

- Road-kill** - Furbearing mammals that are found dead or unintentionally killed by a vehicle along a roadway may only be salvaged if the season for that species is open and you possess all appropriate licenses, stamps and permits required to salvage that species. (see credentials table above) NOTE: Bobcats may only be salvaged by permit holders during the open season. Salvage of weasel, mink, muskrat, beaver, badger and river otter requires a trapping license and state habitat stamp if required; salvage of all other species requires a hunting or trapping license and state habitat stamp if required. Salvaged badgers, bobcats and river otters become part of your harvest limit. River otters and bobcats are subject to registration and tagging requirements.
- Green Hides** - Green hides may be possessed year-round with valid hunting or trapping license.
- Live** - Contact IDNR for more specific regulations dealing with possession of live furbearing animals under Chapter 520 5/3.25 of the Wildlife Code.
- Breeding** - Persons within Illinois who hold, possess or engage in the breeding or raising of live furbearing mammals protected by the Wildlife Code must have a valid Furbearing Mammal Breeder Permit. No permits will be issued for the breeding or raising of striped skunks or coyotes.

Furbearing mammal breeders shall keep a record for two years from the date of acquisition, sale or other disposition of each live furbearing mammal or its green hide so raised or propagated (contact IDNR for more specific regulations dealing with possession of live furbearing animals under Chapter 520 5/3.25 of the Wildlife Code).



Furbearer zones:

Trapping (Badger): Divided by U.S. Route 36.



Bobcat zones:

Taking bobcats is prohibited in an area bounded by Interstate 39/Route 51 on the west side and U.S. Route 36 on the south side. Bobcats may be harvested with a valid permit in the remainder of the state.

Trap Tagging and Checking Requirements

You cannot legally

- fail to mark or tag with metal tags or inscribe in lettering the name and address of the owner or customer identification number issued by the Department of Natural Resources, all traps used in the taking of furbearing mammals.
- fail to visit and remove all animals from traps at least once each calendar day.

Trap Size Restrictions

You cannot legally:

- on land use a leghold trap that has a jaw spread larger than 6 ½ inches or a body-gripping trap that has a jaw spread larger than 7 inches on a side, if square, and 8 inches, if round.
- in water use a leghold trap that has a jaw spread larger than 7 ½ inches or a body-gripping trap that has a jaw spread larger than 10 inches on a side, if square, and 12 inches, if round.
- trap beaver or river otter with a leghold trap or one of similar construction having a jaw spread of less than 5 ½ inches or more than 7 ½ inches, except that these restrictions shall not apply during the open season for trapping raccoons.
- trap beaver or river otter with a body-gripping trap or one of similar construction having a jaw spread of less than 7 inches or more than 10 inches on a side, if square, and 12 inches, if round, except that these restrictions shall not apply during the open season for trapping raccoons.
- NOTE: diameter of traps is measured from the inside edges of the jaws.

Closed Trapping Season

You cannot legally set or place any trap in the field, set or unset, during the closed trapping season. Setting out stakes or floats before the season opens, if no traps are attached to them, is permissible.

Illegal traps

You cannot legally:

- use any trap with saw-toothed, spiked or toothed jaws.
- use or possess a deadfall, net or pit trap to take any protected wildlife.
- use any colony traps or cage, box or stove-pipe trap designed to harvest more than one mammal at a single setting. Single catch cage or box traps are legal.

Snares

You cannot legally:

- place, set, use or maintain a snare unless at least half of the loop is underwater at all times. When set, the snare loop must be 15 inches or less in diameter. Snares must be constructed of cable that is at least 5/64 inch, but no more than 1/8 inch in diameter, and must be equipped with a mechanical lock, anchor swivel and stop device that prevents the snare loop from closing to less than 2 ½ inches in diameter.
- use or possess cable or wire snares constructed of stainless steel metal.

Dens, Nests and Feed Beds

You cannot legally:

- destroy, disturb or in any manner interfere with dams, lodges, burrows or feed beds of beaver while trapping for beaver or to set a trap inside a muskrat house or beaver lodge.
- set traps closer than 10 feet from any hole or den which may be occupied by a game mammal or furbearing mammal except that this restriction does not apply to water sets. Traps may be legally set within 10 feet of dens in water, but such sets are unlawful on land.

Furbearer Trapping Reporting Requirements

The Department conducts an annual survey of trappers to estimate the number of furbearing mammals trapped and sold during the regular trapping season. Approximately 20% of trappers are surveyed annually and if you receive a survey form, you **must** complete and return it.

River Otter Harvest and Possession

- No more than five otters may be harvested or possessed during the season. Possession limits do not apply to fur buyers, tanners, manufacturers or taxidermists. Possession limits do not apply to tanned pelts, mounted specimens or manufactured products.
- Trapping is the only legal method of harvest. Licensed trappers may salvage otters found dead along a roadway during the open season; such animals become part of the person's harvest limit and are subject to permit and tagging requirements.
- Trappers must purchase an Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after harvesting a river otter. The cost of a permit is \$5 plus a vendor's fee. Permits are available anywhere you can purchase a hunting or trapping license, including DNR DIRECT. You will be mailed an official CITES pelt tag within 2-3 weeks after purchasing a permit. Otter registration permits must be purchased by the individual who captured the otter and cannot be transferred to another person. NOTE: Do not purchase a permit before you harvest an otter.
- An official CITES tag must be permanently affixed to the green hide of each otter (including a whole, un-skinned carcass) before it is exported outside the United States or transferred to a fur buyer, fur tanner, taxidermist or manufacturer (a manufacturer is an individual who dresses and fabricates green hides into fur garments or products). Unsealed CITES tags cannot be transferred to another person.

Bobcat Hunting and Trapping

Hunters and trappers must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE taking or attempting to harvest a bobcat. Applications will be available online only at <https://www.il.wildlifelicense.com/start.php> during 1-30 Sep. Applicants must submit a \$5 non-refundable fee. Available permits will be allocated during a lottery and mailed to successful applicants.

- If you receive a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit, you may harvest one bobcat by hunting, trapping or salvaging a road-kill during open seasons. Examples of legal methods of hunting include archery, predator calling, stalking, and treeing with dogs. The hunting season for bobcats is closed during firearm deer seasons.

- Taking bobcats is prohibited in the closed zone.
- If you harvest a bobcat, you must purchase a \$5 Bobcat Registration Permit at www2.illinois.gov/dnr/hunting/Pages/Furbearers.aspx within 48 hours. (Code 306 under "Permits") The Department will mail you a federal CITES tag within 2-3 weeks. NOTE: Bobcat Registration Permits are not available at license vendors or DNR DIRECT.
- A federal CITES tag must be permanently affixed to each bobcat pelt before it is exported from the United States or transferred to a fur buyer, taxidermist, fur tanner, or garment manufacturer. If you plan to have a bobcat mounted, we recommend making a slit between the inner lip and eye hole then placing a piece of wood or plastic in the slit before freezing the bobcat. This will make it easier to insert the federal tag when you receive it.
- Applicants who received a bobcat permit in the previous years lottery are not eligible to receive a permit the following year (regardless of whether they harvested a bobcat).

Attention Trappers and Hunters

Researchers at two Illinois Universities are continuing their work with the Department of Natural Resources to study bobcat populations and abundance in Illinois. At Western Illinois University, researchers will use both trail cameras and traditional traps to safely capture and collar bobcats to learn more about population dynamics, abundance and habitat use in north-central Illinois (Bureau, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Tazewell, and Woodford counties). Researchers would benefit from the help of the trapping community across the 6-county area in capturing bobcats and collecting tissue samples from road-kill bobcats in north-central Illinois. Contact Dr. Chris Jacques (309)-298- 2155 at WIU for more information.

In addition, researchers at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale are continuing their research on bobcats and river otter and are seeking lower jaws from hunter/trapper harvested animals. They will use the information to update the population estimate for bobcats and river otter in Illinois. Recolonization of central and northern Illinois by these species is a conservation success story made possible by conservation programs and the sportsmen and women throughout Illinois. For more information about the bobcat research at SIUC or if you have a bobcat or otter jaw you would like to donate, please contact Stefano Anile (618) 527-0001 for more information.



Photo by Michael Jeffords

This will be the 5th year for bobcat hunting and trapping in Illinois since the season was reopened in 2016. The bobcat and many other game mammals in Illinois were nearly extirpated from the state in the early 1900's because of habitat loss and unregulated harvest. Bobcats, like white-tailed deer, wild turkey, river otter, and beaver made remarkable recoveries as habitat quantity and quality improved and conservation strategies were implemented by wildlife managers. Much of this work was funded by hunters and trappers through license fees and the Pittman-Robertson Act, which taxes sporting goods, firearms, and ammunition. Funds are used for wildlife conservation including: research, habitat improvements, and acquisition of habitat.

FURBEARER HUNTING

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Raccoon Opossum Fox <i>(Red and Gray)</i> Bobcat	10 Nov 2020–15 Feb 2021 Closed during the first and second firearm deer seasons in counties open to firearm deer hunting.	Open 24 hours and season begins 1/2 hour before sunrise on 10 Nov 2020 and closes 1/2 hour after sunset 15 Feb 2021. *see archery restrictions	During Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for raccoon, opossum, fox, coyote and striped skunk will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat. Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of harvesting a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
Woodchuck <i>(groundhog)</i>	1 Jun 2020-31 Mar 2021. Closed during the first and second firearm deer seasons in counties open to firearm deer hunting.	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may harvest coyotes during firearm deer seasons with weapons legal for deer hunting from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
Coyote Striped Skunk	Year round, Closed during the first and second firearm deer seasons in counties open to firearm deer hunting.	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. No time restriction 10 Nov 2020–15 Mar 2021	There is no limit on foxes, coyote, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk or woodchuck.

Tree Climbing or Cutting Devices

You cannot legally use or possess any tree climbing or tree cutting device (i.e., saw or axe) when hunting furbearing mammals, except coyotes.

Furbearer Running Season

Furbearers may be pursued or chased with dogs, but not killed, during the running season. The running season for coyote, gray and red fox, opossum, raccoon and striped skunk is open year-round. Exception: You cannot legally pursue any furbearer with a dog or dogs between the hours of sunset and sunrise during the 10-day period preceding the opening date of the raccoon hunting season and the 10-day period following the closing date of the raccoon hunting season. Note: Competitive hunts licensed by U.K.C., N.K.C., P.K.C. or A.K.C./A.C.H.A. may be held during the 10-day closed periods under authority of a IDNR Field Trial Permit.

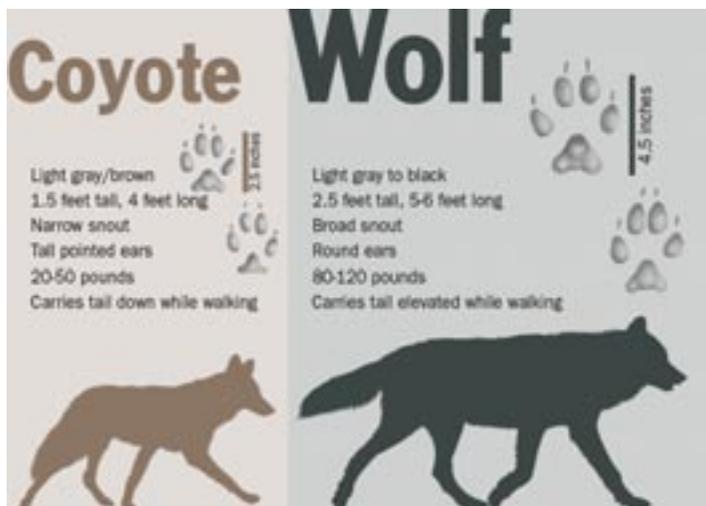
You cannot legally possess any firearm or ammunition other than a pistol loaded with blank cartridges while training dogs during the time when hunting seasons are closed except on an authorized field trial or dog training area.

When training dogs from sunset to sunrise, no person in, along with or accompanying the dog training party shall be in possession of a firearm or live ammunition, except pistols capable of firing only blank cartridges.

Non-residents are prohibited from hunting furbearers or running their dogs in Illinois during any time when Illinois residents would not be allowed to hunt furbearers or run dogs in the non-resident's state.

Coyote Hunting

- Coyotes can be hunted 24 hours from 10 November through midnight on 15 March. During the rest of the year, hunting hours for coyotes are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Closed during shotgun deer seasons - see restrictions below.
- Hunters need a hunting license and habitat stamp unless exempt.
- Coyotes may be hunted on private property using dogs, archery devices, any type and caliber of handgun, any type of legal rifle including large capacity semi-automatic rifles, and shotguns using any type of shell. During firearm deer seasons, coyotes may be harvested only by hunters with valid, unfilled deer permits using the same types of firearms that are allowed for deer. When hunting with a shotgun, make sure that the magazine has been fitted with a plug which makes the shotgun incapable of firing more than three consecutive shots.
- Electronic calling devices are legal for coyote hunting.
- It is legal to bait coyotes for hunting as long as any wild game used was legally harvested.
- Illinois does not restrict the type of sights or scopes used for coyote hunting (including laser sights and night vision scopes).
- Lights with any color of lens can be used while hunting coyotes as long as the lights are not used from or connected to any vehicle or conveyance (including ATVs and horses).
- It is illegal for a coyote hunter to wantonly allow a dog to hunt on another person's land without first obtaining permission of the landowner or tenant. If a hunting dog crosses onto property in which the coyote hunter has no permission to hunt, the hunter has no legal right to follow the dog. Illinois Animal Control Laws or other local animal control ordinances could apply to dogs running at large.
- Coyote hunters are required to keep their guns unloaded and in a case while in a vehicle or on a conveyance (including but not limited to ATVs and horseback) unless exempt by special IDNR permit.
- Guns must remain unloaded until the hunter is clear of the road and right-of-way alongside the road.
- Deer hunters with an unfilled firearm deer permit may hunt coyotes during the first and second firearm deer seasons, but must wear a cap and 400 square inches of solid blaze orange or solid blaze pink outer clothing when hunting.
- Before coyote hunting at public hunting areas, check with the site office for [site specific regulations](#).
- It is legal to hunt coyotes while using or possessing a tree climbing device.



IDNR gets many reports of wolf sightings each year, but wolves are very rare and sightings are almost always coyotes. Help us teach others the physical differences between coyotes and wolves.