License Information

License Required: A current hunting license is required to hunt, take or kill any wildlife in Pennsylvania not classified as a furbearer. A current furtaker license is required to hunt, trap, take or kill any furbearer (coyotes are the exception). A license is valid July 1 to the following June 30. Licenses are no longer required to be displayed on an outer garment.

Identification Required When Hunting: While afield, in addition to their hunting or furtaker license, sportsmen are required to have cards or papers that must be shown to an officer or landowner upon request to confirm identification and residency.

Customer Identification Number (CID): If you have already purchased a hunting license or fishing license through the Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS), you were assigned a CID number which was printed on your license. Please use this number when applying through PALS, because this will identify you in the database and speed the license issuance process. If you have never purchased a license through PALS, you will need to provide your Social Security number (SSN) when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again unless you don't have or can't remember your CID.

Senior Lifetime License holders: If you have not purchased or renewed **(lifetime licenses must be renewed each year)** your senior lifetime license through PALS, you will need to provide your SSN when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again unless you don't have or can't remember your CID. Senior lifetime license ID cards are no longer required, because PALS will recognize your record through your SSN or CID. You still need to provide proof of residency when renewing your license, usually through a valid PA driver's license.

Junior Licenses and Hunters: Persons under 17 years of age must have their parent or legal guardian's approval to purchase a general hunting, combination or furtaker license. Persons who turn 17 after purchasing a Junior License can still hunt that year with the Junior License. 11-year-olds who have successfully completed a required Hunter-Trapper Education course may apply for a Junior License if they will be 12 years old by June 30 of the license year. They may not lawfully hunt with the license prior to their 12th birthday. Persons 12 and 13 must be accompanied by an adult member of the family (at least 18), or by an adult serving in place of a parent. Persons 14 and 15 must be accompanied by any adult 18 or older. 16-year-olds may hunt alone. It is unlawful while accompanying junior hunters to be out of sight of or unable to physically or verbally control the junior hunter or to fail to comply with fluorescent orange requirements. Verbal instructions given through the use of an electronic or other sound amplification device does not meet this requirement.

Unlicensed Persons: An unlicensed person may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper provided the unlicensed person acts only as an **observer** and does not, in any manner, participate in hunting or trapping. Any person accompanying a licensed hunter must wear the required amount of fluorescent orange. An unlicensed person **who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state** may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper and **participate** in these activities providing the following requirements are met: The person remains in sight and close to a hunter at least 18 years of age; the unlicensed person does not possess a firearm, bow or other hunting device; the person complies with fluorescent orange requirements; and the person is listed, if mandated, on a hunting roster as a member of the hunting party. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed persons must not exceed 1:1.

Proof of Residency: Proof of Pennsylvania residency must be shown to obtain a resident hunting or furtaker license. Persons must be domiciled in PA at least 30 consecutive days prior to application. Valid PA driver's license, certain PA and local tax receipts, or other positive means indicating residency may be used.

Training Certificate—Hunting: Persons who have not held a hunting license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation, or do not possess a training certificate, are required to attain certification in an accredited hunter-trapper education program before applying for a hunting license. These provisions do not apply to a person presenting: 1) evidence of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard and honorable discharge or separation within six months of the application, or 2) evidence the person is currently serving in the Armed Forces.

Replacement Training Certificate: A $10 fee is now in effect for a replacement Hunter Education Training Certificate.

Training Certificate—Trapping: Persons applying for a furtaker license must present to the issuing agent one of the following: 1) evidence the applicant has held a trapping or furtaker license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation; 2) a certificate of training; 3) an affidavit the applicant completed a voluntary trapping course sanctioned by the Commission, or 4) the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbearers within the last five years. These provisions do not apply to persons under 12 who trap furbearers under direct supervision of a licensed adult furtaker at least 18 years old.

Antlerless Deer Licenses: Antlerless deer licenses are required to hunt for antlerless deer during any deer season, except during the after-Christmas flintlock season, and only then if the hunter **has not** used his general license (buck) tag. An antlerless deer license is valid only in the Wildlife Management Unit of issuance. The use or attempted use of an antlerless license in another WMU is a violation of the law.

Resident Landowner Hunting License: An eligible landowner who owns 80 or more contiguous acres open to public hunting in a Cooperative Hunter Access Program, or a designated immediate family member living in the same household, is entitled to a Landowner Hunting License. Applicants must have their PGC cooperative hunter access program agreement number when applying.

Landowner Antlerless Deer Licenses: An eligible landowner who owns 50 or more contiguous acres within any county is entitled to one antlerless deer license for the WMU where the land is located, at the prescribed fee ($6.70 for residents, $26.70 for nonresidents). If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the management unit he or she desires. A landowner must keep his/her property open to public hunting and trapping year-round to qualify. These licenses are allocated in advance of regular licenses. Landowner license affidavit forms are available from county treasurers, PGC offices and on-line. Applicants must apply directly to the county treasurer of the county where the acreage is located. These licenses must be applied for **prior** to start of the regular application period, which begins the second Monday in July.

Bear Licenses: Required to hunt bears. Licenses available directly from all issuing agents. **Bear licenses will be available for purchase on a split schedule this year.** Bear licenses can be purchased from the start of 2012 license sales (approximately mid-June) until the day before the statewide firearms bear season (Nov. 16). Licenses will then be available for purchase from Nov. 22-25, 2012.

Federal Duck Stamp: All persons **16 and older** are required to have a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. It must be signed in ink across the face and carried by the hunter. It is not necessary to display the stamp.

Migratory Game Bird License: All persons **12 and older** are required to have a Migratory Game Bird License to hunt waterfowl and migratory birds including doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, moorhens, rails and snipe. The license must be signed in ink and carried by the hunter.

Resident Military Personnel License: To qualify for this general hunting license for $2.70 applicants must: 1) be a resident of this commonwealth; 2) be on active and full-time duty in the U.S. Armed Forces; 3) be currently assigned to a facility outside this commonwealth; and 4) be on temporary leave in the commonwealth. Reduced fee $2.70 general hunting licenses are also available to residents serving in the PA National Guard and Reserves who, within the previous 24 months, were deployed overseas for a period of 180 consecutive days or more, or were released early from such service due to an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one reduced-fee license may be issued for each qualifying deployment. In addition, reduced fee $2.70 general hunting licenses are also available to residents who are former Prisoners of War imprisoned by enemy forces while in the service of the armed forces of the U.S. as certified by the appropriate branch of the armed forces of the U.S. All of these licenses, except for POWs (county treasurers and PGC offices sell POWs), are available through commonwealth hunting license issuing agents. If applicant cannot apply in person, he or she may submit to a Game Commission office or county treasurer a written request, including full name, legal address, telephone number, date of birth, height, eye color and documentation verifying PA residency and military orders and, for the POW license, a copy of DD 214 stating prisoner of war status. Applicant must include a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope with the request.

Disabled War Veterans: Resident disabled war veterans with service-incurred 100% disability, or the loss of use of one or more limbs, may qualify for free hunting and furtaker licenses. Call your county treasurer.

Replacement Licenses: If a general license has been lost or destroyed, a replacement may be purchased for $6.70 by applying to any issuing agent. A lost antlerless license can be replaced only by a county treasurer. County treasurers may issue replacement antlerless deer licenses for any WMU. Other replacement licenses may be purchased on-line at www.pgc.state.pa.us (The Outdoor Shop).

Purchasing Licenses On-Line: Most licenses, except antlerless deer licenses and military licenses, may be applied for on-line at www.pgc.state.pa.us (The Outdoor Shop). All general hunting, combination and furtaker licenses, and bear licenses are mailed to applicants and are not valid until they are received and signed by the license holder. Add-on privileges purchased on-line, such as archery, muzzleloader and migratory game bird licenses, can be printed by the applicant. These add-on privileges (images if printed by the applicant) are not valid unless the applicant has their general license in-hand.

License Transfers: Pennsylvania hunting and furtaker licenses are non-transferable and non-refundable. It is unlawful to possess another's hunting license or big game tags when afield.

Uncollectible Checks: If a check issued in payment of any fee or fine is returned uncollectible, the person who makes, issues or presents it will be charged a $25 fee. This fee is in addition to any costs of prosecution or penalties assessed as a result of the uncollectible check. Any license, permit or privilege granted by an uncollectible check shall be void until all applicable fees are paid.

Elk Licenses: Hunters may apply to enter the drawing one time per year, either on-line, or at any issuing agent. Please refer to the "Elk Section" in this Digest for detailed information.

Special Second Spring 2013 Gobbler Season License: Hunters may purchase online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent before the start of the spring season. Refer to the turkey hunting section for detailed information. Only one license may be issued per license year.

Unsold Antlerless Deer License: Available through county treasurers statewide for WMUs with unsold antlerless licenses beginning the first Monday in August. Refer to the "Antlerless and Unsold Antlerless License" sections elsewhere in this Digest.

Antlerless Deer License in Designated WMUs: Beginning the first Monday in August, there is no limit to the number of antlerless deer licenses a hunter may receive in designated WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D until individual WMUs' allocations are exhausted. Over-the-counter sales in these three units only begin the fourth Monday in August.

Checks or Money Orders: Checks or money orders for antlerless licenses must be in U.S. dollars and made payable to "County Treasurer." Applications must be mailed in an official envelope available from license issuing agents. All antlerless license applications must be made through the U.S. Regular First Class Mail using the pink official antlerless deer license envelope. For detailed information and instructions, please refer to the "Antlerless and Unsold Antlerless Deer License" sections elsewhere in this Digest.

Validity of Licenses: Only one hunting or furtaker license shall be valid during any license year. Any replacement license, or purchase of a second or subsequent license, shall immediately invalidate any license of the same kind that had been previously issued.

Armed Services Personnel: (Guaranteed Licenses) Regardless of allocations or application deadlines, certain special licenses are guaranteed to resident Pennsylvania military personnel serving on active duty in the Armed Forces. These licenses include: muzzleloader, archery, migratory game bird and antlerless deer, but not unsold tags. Muzzleloader, archery, migratory game bird licenses are available from any issuing agent; antlerless deer licenses only from county treasurers at current fees.

LICENSE AVAILABILTY

The following licenses, permits and special draw applications are available from all issuing agents, including county treasurers, Game Commission offices and on-line. Questions about licenses should be directed to the License Division at 717-787-2084.

Resident Junior Hunting	Ages 12 through 16	$6.70
Resident Junior Furtaker	Ages 12 through 16	$6.70
Resident Junior Combination *	Ages 12 through 16	$9.70
Resident Landowner Hunting	Ages 12 & older	$4.70
Resident Adult Hunting	Ages 17 through 64	$20.70
Resident Adult Furtaker	Ages 17 through 64	$20.70
Resident Senior Hunting **	Ages 65 & older	$13.70
Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting **	Ages 65 & older	$51.70
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo *	Ages 65 & older	$101.70
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo Upgrade *		$51.70
Resident Senior Furtaker **	Ages 65 & older	$13.70
Resident Senior Lifetime Furtaker **	Age 65 & older	$51.70
Nonresident Adult Hunting	Ages 17 & older	$101.70
Nonresident Junior Hunting	Ages 12 through 16	$41.70
Nonresident Junior Combination *	Ages 12 through 16	$51.70
Nonresident Adult Furtaker	Ages 17 & older	$81.70
Nonresident Junior Furtaker	Ages 12 through 16	$41.70
Nonresident 7-Day Small Game ***		$31.70
Mentored Youth Hunting Program Permit		$2.70

LICENSE AVAILABILTY Cont.

Resident Military Personnel, National Guard, Reserves and POW Hunting Licenses *	$2.70

*Not available online; POW only from Co. Treas. & PGC

Add-on Licenses:

Resident Archery ****	$16.70
Nonresident Archery ****	$26.70
Resident Muzzleloader ****	$11.70
Nonresident Muzzleloader ****	$21.70
Resident Migratory Game Bird License (Ages 12 & older)	$3.70
Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License (Ages 12 & older)	$6.70
Resident Bear License (see bear section for cutoff purchase dates)	$16.70
Nonresident Bear License	$36.70
Resident Second Spring Gobbler Season License	$21.70
Nonresident Second Spring Gobbler Season License	$41.70
Resident DMAP Harvest Permits	$10.70
Nonresident DMAP Harvest Permits	$35.70
Elk License Drawing (See elk section in this Digest)	$10.70
Bobcat Permit (See bobcat section in this Digest)	$6.70
Fisher Permit (See fisher section in this Digest)	$6.70

* All combination licenses include hunting, furtaker, archery and muzzleloader privileges. **Bear hunting privileges, antlerless deer license, migratory game bird license and federal duck stamp not included.** A migratory game bird license is required to hunt migratory birds, and anyone 16 years and older needs a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl.

** Senior resident hunting and furtaker (annual and lifetime, including combination) licenses are available to those who will be 65 years old by June 30 of the current license year.

*** Nonresident of Pennsylvania—12 years of age and older. Seven consecutive days and includes waterfowl, but not valid for coyotes or big game, including turkey. To hunt waterfowl, applicants also need a federal duck stamp (16 years old and older need the duck stamp) and a Migratory Game Bird License.

**** Muzzleloader firearms and bows and arrows may be used during the firearms deer hunting seasons without purchasing muzzleloader or archery licenses.

Available Only from County Treasurers (See "Antlerless and Unsold Antlerless Deer License" sections elsewhere in this Digest for additional information):

Resident Antlerless Deer License	$6.70
Resident Unsold Antlerless License	$6.70
Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless License	$6.70
Resident Armed Forces Antlerless License	$6.70
Nonresident Antlerless License	$26.70
Nonresident Unsold Antlerless License	$26.70
Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting License (annual or lifetime, if qualified)	No Charge
Resident Disabled Veteran Furtaker License (annual or lifetime, if qualified)	No Charge

Note: All issuing agents can now sell licenses year-round.

Firearms Regulations For Non-Immigrant Aliens

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has enacted new permit requirements for bringing firearms and ammunition across the U.S. border. Any resident of another country who intends to import a firearm and ammunition into the U.S. for the purpose of hunting or recreational target shooting should contact the ATF's Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch. Provide yourself ample time for the processing of the import permit application. It could take six weeks or more to receive the required permit. The ATF can be contacted at 202-927-8500. Visit the ATF website at http://www.atf.gov. An application for the Permit for Importation of Firearms can be found at ATF F6 NIA (5330.3D).