Furtaking Seasons & Bag Limits

Hunting (A furtaker license is needed to hunt all furbearers except coyotes)

Foxes & Raccoons: Oct. 26-Feb. 22, 2014; no limit; foxes can but raccoons cannot be hunted on Sundays. Foxes and raccoons may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during the regular antlered or antlered/antlerless deer seasons, and during that time they may be hunted **only after the legal hours** for deer.

Opossums, Skunks & Weasels: No Closed Season. No limit. No Sunday hunting.

Coyotes: (Statewide): No Closed Season. Coyotes can be hunted on Sundays.

(Outside of Any Big Game Season) - May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker's license and without wearing orange.

(During Any Big Game Season) - May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker's license.

Natural or manmade nonliving bait and any electronic or mechanical device can be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping. The law allowing trappers to use any natural or manmade nonliving bait to attract coyotes still does not permit the bait to be visible from the air. Those hunting coyotes, however, may hunt over bait visible from the air.

Bobcats (WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E): Jan. 21-Feb. 11, 2014

Requires a furtaker license and a Bobcat Hunting-Trapping Permit. One bobcat per license year, but all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit. Permits can be purchased on the PGC website (www.pgc.state.pa.us) by clicking on "The Outdoor Shop," or through any license issuing agent. Bobcats may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during the regular antlered or antlered/antlerless deer seasons.

Firearms For Hunting Furbearers: It is unlawful to take furbearers, including bobcats, with shotguns using shot larger than size number 4 buckshot, or implements that are not lawful firearms, bows or crossbows. Manually operated rifles or handguns of any caliber, manual or semi-automatic shotguns and, bows and crossbows can be used. Persons hunting for furbearers, including coyotes, foxes, bobcats, raccoons, skunks, opossums and weasels, may use gun-mounted lights that **do not** project a laser-light beam.

Dogs: Dogs are permitted to hunt furbearers.

Trapping

It is unlawful to take furbearers through the use of fish hooks, snagging hooks or any other hooks of similar design, or implements that are not lawful traps. A furtaker's license is needed to trap coyotes.

Mink & Muskrat: Nov. 23-Jan. 5, 2014; no limit

Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Skunks & Weasels: Oct. 27-Feb. 23, 2014; no limit

Coyotes & Foxes (Cable Restraints): Dec. 26-Feb. 23, 2014; no limit

Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can now keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint during seasons in which those furbearers are legal for harvest.

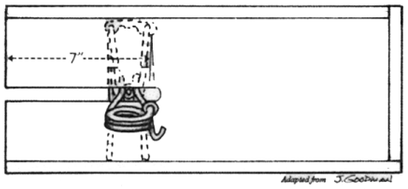
Bobcats (WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E): Dec. 21-Jan. 12, 2014. Requires a furtaker license and a Bobcat Hunting-Trapping Permit. Limit of one per permit.

Fishers (WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3D, 4D & 4E): Dec. 21-26. One fisher per license year, but all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit. Permits can be purchased on the PGC website (www.pgc.state.pa.us) by clicking on "The Outdoor Shop," or through any license issuing agent. There have been no regulation changes regarding the types of traps allowed or sets that may be used to take fishers during this season.

Regulations

Traps:

Artificial Cubby: A baited enclosure constructed of natural or artificial material that is designed to house and corral a furbearer into a body-gripping trap. Furtakers are permitted to trap furbearers using body-gripping traps set in artificial cubbies when all of the following conditions are met: 1) The artificial cubby is placed within an established watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam. 2) The entrance to the artificial cubby does not exceed 50 square inches. 3) Traps no larger than $6^1/_2 \times 6^1/_2$ inches can be used. 4) The triggering mechanism of the trap is recessed within the artificial cubby at least 7 inches from the entrance. 5) The artificial cubby is anchored in a manner that it cannot be moved or rolled. Note: These requirements shall not apply to body-gripping traps that are $5^1/_2$ inches or less and set in artificial cubbies to target mink or muskrat.



Foot Encapsulating Trap: A device that has all triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing that, once set, allows access to the triggering and restraining mechanisms through a single opening not to exceed two inches in diameter or diagonally and is anchored by a swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism. Encapsulating traps may be used to harvest furbearers during legal seasons.

Setting Traps: It is unlawful to 1) stake or set traps prior to 7 a.m. on the first day; 2) set traps within five feet of a hole or den, except for underwater sets; 3) use pole traps, jaw-toothed traps, deadfalls, poison, explosives, chemicals, or traps with a jaw-spread exceeding 6.5 inches; 4) set body-gripping traps outside a watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam; 5) set a trap not marked with a durable identification tag attached to either the trap or chain showing the first and last name and address of the trapper, or a number issued by the Game Commission; 6) set a trap with bait visible from the air; 7) smoke or dig out a den or house or cut den trees; 8) disturb traps or remove any wildlife from the traps of another without specific permission; and 9) on the closing day, traps must be removed by sunset.

Possession: It is unlawful to 1) possess green pelts, except during open season and for 10 days thereafter; 2) possess live, wild furbearers, except foxes, for which a permit must be issued by the Game Commission; and 3) buy, sell or possess furbearers or parts unlawfully taken, transported, imported, exported or improperly tagged.

Cage and Box Traps: It is unlawful to 1) use a cage or box trap in water; and 2) use a cage or box trap capable of capturing more than one animal at a time.

Tending Traps: Traps must be visited by the owner once every 36 hours, and each animal removed or released.

Exporting Furs: It is unlawful to ship furs or harvested furbearers outside the state unless an official "Shipping Tag" is properly attached. Tags are available from Game Commission offices and licensed fur dealers.

Importing Furs: Furs and furbearers taken outside of Pennsylvania must be tagged according to laws of the state or country where harvested.

Firearms While Trapping: To dispatch trapped animals during deer season, trappers are limited to a manually operated 22 caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or handgun. Persons under 12 may use only a manually operated 22 caliber or smaller rimfire rifle and only when accompanied by an adult.