

### HARVEST RECORDING and TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

The process and requirements for recording, checking and tagging harvested turkeys are the same as for deer and elk. See the “Recording, Checking, Tagging and Transporting” guidelines in the “General Information” section of this guide.

### POSSESSION/RELEASE OF LIVE TURKEYS

Because of potential disease problems and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domes-

### LEGAL FALL TURKEY HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410.
- 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. 4
- Longbows, recurve bows and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum) with a working safety device.
- Non-barbed broadheads with a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8-inch, whether expandable or non-expandable.

tic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild.

### HUNTING TURKEYS OVER BAIT IS ILLEGAL

It is illegal to hunt turkeys over bait – an area where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys have been placed. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substances exists as the result of a bona fide agricultural practice or manipulation of a crop for wildlife management purposes is legal for turkey hunting.

# FURBEARER HUNTING and TRAPPING

## SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

FURBEARERS	Hunting	Trapping
<b>Raccoon &amp; Opossum</b>	Oct. 1, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018, day* or night (exceptions apply)	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018
<b>Coyote</b>	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)	
<b>Bobcat</b>	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 25, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018, daylight hours only	
<b>River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel &amp; Striped Skunk</b>	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018, daylight hours only	
<b>Free Youth Hunting &amp; Trapping Week</b>	Dec. 30, 2017 – Jan. 5, 2018	

\*See exception in Special Hunting Restrictions

### SPECIAL HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

(Daylight hours are defined as 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.)

During modern gun deer season, raccoon and opossum hunters may not hunt during daylight hours. Night hunting on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 shall conclude by 30 minutes before sunrise on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017, which is when shooting hours open for modern gun deer season.

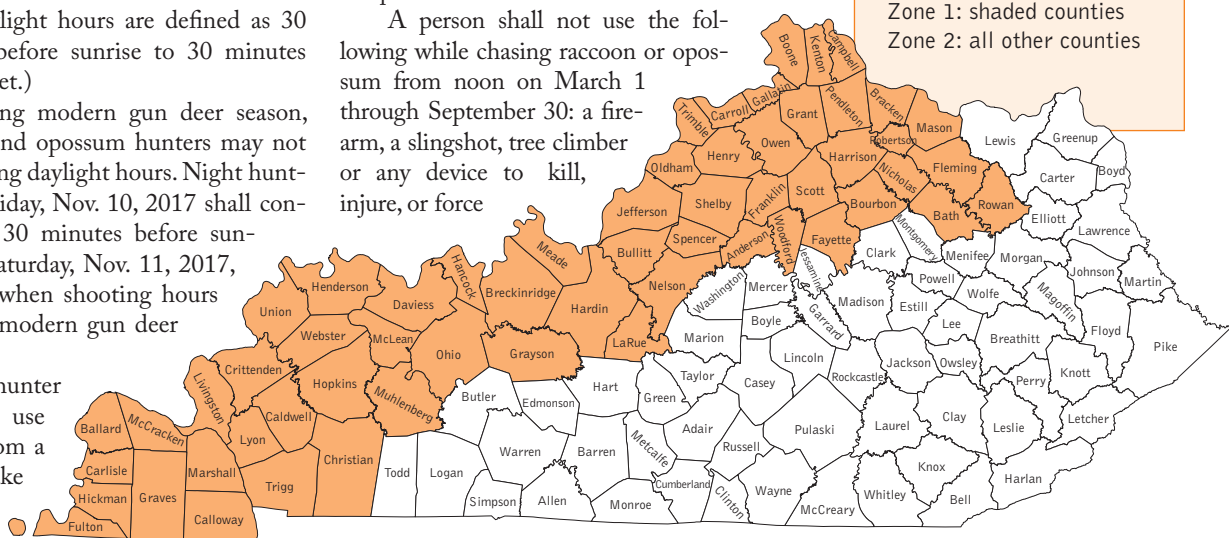
A hunter shall not use a light from a boat to take raccoon

or opossum.

A person shall not use the following while chasing raccoon or opossum from noon on March 1 through September 30: a firearm, a slingshot, tree climber or any device to kill, injure, or force

### RIVER OTTER ZONES

- Zone 1: shaded counties
- Zone 2: all other counties



## LEGAL METHODS and EQUIPMENT FOR HUNTING FURBEARERS

- Centerfire or rimfire gun (daylight hours only)
- Muzzle-loading rifle or handgun (daylight hours only)
- 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). There is no limit on shot size. Shotguns must be shoulder fired.
- Shot shells with a single projectile may only be used during daylight hours.
- Bow and arrow or crossbow
- Air guns with pellets that are at least .22 caliber in size.
- Hand or mouth operated calls, electronic calls, or attracting devices
- Falconry

## FURBEARER BAG LIMITS

<b>Raccoon &amp; Opossum</b>	No limit
<b>Coyote</b>	No limit
<b>Bobcat</b>	5; no more than 3 of which shall be taken with a gun
<b>River Otter</b>	10; only 6 of which can be taken from Otter Zone 2
<b>Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel &amp; Striped Skunk</b>	No limit

a raccoon or opossum from a tree or den.

Coyotes may be hunted year-round, day or night, with no bag limit. However, they can be hunted using lights or night vision equipment after daylight hours from Feb. 1 – May 31 only. Lights or other means to make coyotes visible at night cannot be connected to or cast from a mechanized vehicle. Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting but a shell containing a sin-

## LEGAL METHODS and EQUIPMENT FOR TRAPPING FURBEARERS

Trappers may use lights from boats or vehicles to check traps.

Traps may not be set in trails or paths commonly used by people or domestic animals.

**There are no restrictions on the size or type of trap used as a water set, except that any body-gripping trap greater than 20 inches wide must be set so the trap is completely submerged under water. A water set is a trap set in the water of a river, stream, pond, lake, wetland or other body of water so that a portion of the trap body is underwater.**

The following equipment is permitted for dry land sets. **A dry land set is a trap set so that no portion of the trap touches the water of a river, stream, pond, lake, wetland or other water course.**

- Deadfall
- Wire cage or box trap.
- Foothold traps with a maximum inside jaw spread of 6 inches measured perpendicular to the hinges.
- On private land, a body-gripping trap with a maximum inside jaw spread of 7½ inches measured

parallel with the trigger.

- **On wildlife management and outdoor recreation areas, a body-gripping trap with a maximum inside jaw spread of 5¼ inches.**
- Snare. A snare means a wire, cable, or string with a knot, loop, or a single piece closing device, the deployment of which is or is not spring-assisted, but any spring-assisted device is not for the purpose of applying tension to the closing device.

On wildlife management and outdoor recreation areas, dry land sets may not be placed closer than 10 feet apart.

**On private land, dry land sets may not be placed closer than 10 feet apart unless the person trapping has written permission from the landowner or the landowner's designee, except there shall not be more than three traps set within any 10-foot spacing. The trap spacing requirement does not apply to wire cage or box traps or on properties of 5 acres or less.**

gle projectile may not be used.

Night hunting for coyotes is prohibited on Kentucky lands managed by Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, including Beaver Creek, Cane Creek, Mill Creek, Pioneer Weapons and **Redbird** wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Hand or mouth-operated calls and electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal. It is legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses.

Animal carcasses are considered bait. A hunter shall not place or distribute bait or otherwise participate in baiting wildlife on all WMAs, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson National Forest, Land Between The Lakes and state parks open to hunting.

## SPECIAL TRAPPING RESTRICTIONS

- All traps must bear a metal tag giving either the name and address of the trapper, or a unique identification number issued by the department as well as the 1-800-25-ALERT phone number.
- Any trap found without a tag can be immediately confiscated by the department without a court order.
- All traps must be visited at least once every twenty-four (24) hours and all animals removed.
- Coyotes can only be trapped during furbearer trapping seasons.
- Trappers must harvest furbearers upon



Sample trap tags

capture, unless they possess a captive wildlife permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

- Spotted skunks are protected year round and may not be taken or possessed. Report incidental trappings to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- It is illegal to intentionally obstruct or disrupt the right of a person to lawfully take wildlife by trapping.

#### TELECHECK and CITES TAGGING

Harvested bobcats and otters must be telechecked by calling 1-800-245-4263 by midnight on the day the animal is recovered, **before processing the carcass and before transporting the raw fur, pelt or unskinned carcass out of Kentucky.** A hunter or trapper who wants to have a bobcat or otter mounted shall provide his or her name, telephone number and telecheck confirmation number to the taxidermist. Taxidermists cannot legally accept an unchecked otter or bobcat for mounting.

A Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag, issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, must be attached to the raw fur of

any bobcat or river otter taken in Kentucky if the hunter or trapper intends to sell or export internationally.

To complete and submit a CITES tag request form online, access the “My Profile” feature on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife’s website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Those without internet access may call the department at 1-800-858-1549 on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) and provide the animal’s telecheck confirmation 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.**

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.

#### 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 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.

Please refer to the hunter orange clothing law section for guidelines.

Youth hunters must comply with all equipment regulations and bag limits for furbearers 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.

# SMALL GAME HUNTING and TRAPPING

## SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

SMALL GAME		Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel		Aug. 19 – Nov. 10 and Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018
Rabbit	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2017 – Jan. 31, 2018	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 13, 2017 – Jan. 31, 2018
	Western Zone	Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 10, 2018	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 10, 2018
Quail	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2017 – Jan. 31, 2018	No trapping
	Western Zone	Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 10, 2018	
Grouse*		Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018	
Falconry		Sept. 1, 2017 – March 30, 2018	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week		Dec. 30, 2017 – Jan. 5, 2018	

\* In Grouse Hunting Zone only. Information about grouse hunting on public areas is available online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

#### SMALL GAME

The following animals are considered small game: squirrels, rabbits,

northern bobwhite (quail) and grouse.

Only rabbits and squirrels may be trapped. Quail and grouse may not

be trapped. Hunting bag limits apply.

Trapping equipment and restrictions are the same as those listed in the fur-