Rules of  
Department of Conservation  
Division 10—Conservation Commission  
Chapter 8—Wildlife Code: Trapping: Seasons, Methods

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3 CSR 10-8.505 Trapping

PURPOSE: This rule requires any person engaged in trapping to possess the prescribed permit.

Any person, to exercise the privilege of trapping, shall obtain and have on his/her person the prescribed permit or temporary permit authorization number(s), unless exempt under provisions of 3 CSR 10-5.205. The temporary permit authorization number(s) and picture identification must be carried at all times while trapping until the actual permit(s) is received. Furbearers may be purchased and sold only under provisions of Chapter 10, 3 CSR 10-4.135, and this rule. No person shall accept payment for furbearers taken by another. Furbearers may not be held alive under trapping permits, except as provided in 3 CSR 10-10.789 by residents who also possess the prescribed Resident Commercial Live Coyote and Fox Trapping Permit in accordance with 3 CSR 10-10.788.


3 CSR 10-8.510 Use of Traps

PURPOSE: This rule specifies the types of traps that are permitted and the restrictions on their use.

(1) Traps shall have smooth or rubber jaws only, and may include foot-hold traps, Conibear® or other killing-type traps, foot-enclosing-type traps, cage-type traps, colony traps with openings no greater than six inches (6") in height and six inches (6") wide, or snares (as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805) set under water only, and cable restraint devices (as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805). Use of pitfalls, deadfalls, snares set in a dry land set, and nets are prohibited.

(2) Traps, snares, and cable restraint devices shall be plainly labeled, on durable material, with the user’s full name and address or Conservation Number. Wildlife held in traps, snares, or cable restraint devices may be killed or removed only by the user. Conibear® or other killing-type traps set under water, colony traps set under water, and drowning sets shall be attended and wildlife removed at least once every forty-eight (48) hours. All other traps, snares, and cable restraint devices must be attended daily and wildlife removed or released. Traps may not be set in paths made or used by persons or domestic animals, and Conibear® or other killing-type traps may not be set along public roadways, except under water in permanent waters. Traps may not be in paths made or used by persons or domestic animals.

(3) Use of Conibear® or Other Killing-Type Traps.

(A) No Conibear® or other killing-type traps with a jaw spread greater than five inches (5") shall be used in any dry land set.

(B) Conibear® or other killing-type traps with a jaw spread not greater than eight inches (8") may be set six feet (6') or more above ground level in buildings.

(C) Conibear® or other killing-type traps of any size may be set under water. Conibear® or other killing-type traps having no food, scent, or visual lure placed within one foot (1') of the trap may be partially exposed above water provided the hinges are fully submerged.

(4) Use of Snares and Cable Restraint Devices.

(A) Snares (except as provided in subsection (4)(B)) must be set in water and must have the loop at least half (1/2) submerged. Snares (as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805) must have a loop fifteen inches (15") or less in diameter when set and must have a stop device that prevents the snare from closing to less than two and one-half inches (2 1/2") in diameter.

(B) Furbearers may be taken by trapping through the use of cable restraint devices during specified seasons (3 CSR 10-8.515). Cable restraint devices (as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805) must have a loop size of twelve inches (12") in diameter or smaller when set, and the bottom of set restraint cable loop must be at least six inches (6") or greater above the ground. Cable restraint devices must be anchored solid or staked in a location not allowing entanglement (such as rooted, woody vegetation greater than one-half inch (1/2") in diameter), and shall not be capable of extending to within twelve inches (12") of a fence, nor shall be set using a drag, or used with a kill-pole. Cable restraint devices may not be used within one hundred fifty feet (150') of any residence, occupied building, or a driveway leading to a residence.


3 CSR 10-8.515 Furbearers: Trapping Seasons

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open seasons for trapping and for selling pelts and carcasses of furbearers.

(1) Badger, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mink, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk may be taken in any numbers by trapping...
from November 15 through January 31. Otter and muskrat may be taken in any number by trapping from November 15 through February 20. Beaver and nutria may be taken in any number by trapping from November 15 through March 31. Traps may not be placed or set before November 15 and must be removed by midnight of the last day of the applicable trapping season.

(2) Pelts of furbearers may be possessed, transported, consigned for processing, and sold only by the taker with a valid permit throughout the year. Bobcats and otters or their pelts shall be delivered by the taker to an agent of the department for registration or tagging. Bobcats and otters shall be registered or tagged before selling, transferring, tanning, or mounting not later than April 10. It shall be illegal to purchase or sell untagged bobcats and otters or their pelts. After tanning, pelts may be possessed, bought, or sold without permit. Skinned carcasses of legally taken furbearers may be sold by the taker throughout the year. (Certain Department of Health and Senior Services’ rules also govern how furbearer carcasses might be utilized.)

(3) Rabbits may be taken by trap from November 15 through January 31 within prescribed hunting limits, but carcasses may not be sold.

(4) Restrictions on possession shall not apply to tanned pelts, mounted specimens, or manufactured products.
