

# **Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**

## **Code Book**

**The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.**

## **17.00 Furbearing Animal Regulations**

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## **17.01 Regular Furbearing Season Trap Restrictions**

It is unlawful to possess or use any cable-restraining device (snare) or trap during open furbearing animal seasons (Addendum [A1.05](#)) without complying with the following restrictions:

- A. Bait Restrictions: Animal matter, including meat, skin, feathers, hair, or any other solid substance that used to be part of an animal, except for bones cleaned of all tissue and viscera, may not be used as bait within 20 feet of a trap unless it is adequately covered to prevent it being seen from above. The cover also must withstand wave and wind action or other normal environmental conditions that could cause the bait to become visible.
- B. Permissible Land-Set Traps:
  - 1. Smooth-jawed traps with a jaw spread of 6 inches or less (traps in excess of 5 inches, measured from the inside edge of the trap at the dog, must have offset or rubber-padded jaws);
  - 2. Size 110, 120, and 160 or comparable body-tripping traps, with a jaw spread of 6 inches or less (measured on the inside edge of the trap from hinge-to-hinge and from top-to-bottom at the dog and may not exceed the specified maximum size either horizontally or vertically); and
  - 3. Box traps.
- C. Permissible Water-Set Traps:
  - 1. Smooth-jawed traps with a jaw spread of 8.5 inches or less (measured from the inside edge of the trap at the dog);
  - 2. Body-gripping traps with a jaw spread of 11 inches or less (measured on the inside edge of the trap from hinge-to-hinge and from top-to-bottom at the dog and may not exceed the specified maximum size either horizontally or vertically); and
  - 3. Box traps.
- D. Snare (Cable Restraint Device) Restrictions:
  - 1. Snares are allowed in water sets;
  - 2. Snares are allowed as land sets provided that snares set more than 20 feet from a permanent body of water have a functional “deer lock” that will not allow the snare to close smaller than 2.5 inches;
  - 3. Land snares must be constructed of braided cable with a loop no more than 12 inches in diameter (side-to-side) and a lower loop no more than 10 inches off the ground. Only snares with single-piece locks may be used on land;
  - 4. Leg snares are prohibited;
  - 5. No snare shall be set or maintained in any public road; and
  - 6. Fully extended snares may not touch any fence.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 17.02 Trap Checking Requirements

It is unlawful to use traps without checking them daily and removing the catch. Kill sets shall be checked within 72 hours.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 17.03 Trap Identification Requirements

It is unlawful to use any trap, snare or cable-restraint device for taking furbearing animals without affixing one of the following to the device, the user's legible:

- A. Name and address;
- B. Driver's license number;
- C. AGFC customer identification number; or
- D. Current vehicle license number (registered to the trap user) .

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 17.04 Unlawful Possession Of Pelts

It is unlawful to possess the untanned or green pelts of any animal for which there is no open season in Arkansas.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. Possession of pelts legally taken in another state and accompanied by verification required by the state of origin.
- B. Under a permit issued by the Commission or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- C. Pelts or carcasses of furbearers legally taken in Arkansas may be possessed outside of the furbearer hunting and trapping seasons. Otter carcasses or pelts possessed outside the hunting and trapping season must be tagged in compliance with Code [17.06](#).

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 17.05 RESERVED

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## 17.06 Bobcat And Otter Pelt Tagging Requirement

- A. It is unlawful to import bobcat or otter into Arkansas without an affixed CITES tag from the state of origin, or to export bobcat or otter pelts from Arkansas without a CITES tag affixed.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to possess an untagged otter (other than mounted specimens, tanned pelts, or animals in the possession of a taxidermist) from April 1 to the beginning of otter hunting and trapping seasons (Addendum [A1.05](#)).

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 17.07 Fur Purchasing And Selling Restrictions

It is unlawful for any person to buy or resell pelts or furbearer carcasses without the appropriate Resident or Nonresident Fur Dealer License for each individual buyer or separate place of business. Applications for permits by individuals that failed to submit a Fur Dealer Report for previous years as required by Code [17.08](#) shall be denied. The purchase of pelts or furbearer carcasses from May 1 - June 30 is prohibited.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. Nonresident fur dealers buying pelts from or selling pelts to Arkansas resident fur dealers.
- B. Arkansas residents purchasing tanned pelts, taxidermy mounts, or whole carcasses of legally-taken furbearers for personal use.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 17.08 Fur Dealer Reports Required

Fur dealers must daily itemize and legibly complete a Fur Dealer Report, and provide said report for immediate inspection upon request of a Commission employee. Fur Dealer Reports shall be submitted to the Commission no later than May 5 of each year.

**PENALTY:** Class 1; dealer license may be suspended for up to one year, or both.

## **17.09 Nonresident Trapper Report Requirements**

It is unlawful for holders of a Nonresident Trapper Permit to fail to submit a report of furbearers taken in Arkansas during the furbearer trapping season, other than those sold to licensed Arkansas fur dealers, by May 1.

**PENALTY:** Class 1