

## TRAPPING IN ALABAMA

### *What You Should Know*



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
Department of Conservation  
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The fur industry in North America was primarily responsible for the exploration and settlement of this country. In 1670, (the nation's largest fur company), the Hudson Bay Company, was established on the East Coast. Soon after, other trading companies were also involved in the fur business. Many large cities can trace their origin to fur trading outposts. These outposts were all established adjacent to major river systems. These natural trading routes reached as far south as the Tennessee Valley and down the Alabama River system.

Regulated trapping is an important part of modern wildlife management programs. Regulated trapping is the most efficient and practical means available to manage furbearer populations and their associated habitats.

Furbearers are a valuable and renewable natural resource that are managed and regulated by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Regulated trapping has been used successfully in the past to minimize localized disease problems, reduce damage problems, support wildlife research projects, and promote restoration of certain endangered species.



Coyote tracks

## OPEN TRAPPING SEASONS ON FUR-BEARERS 220-2-.29

The open seasons during which fur-bearing animals may be trapped in Alabama are fixed by the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources by virtue of the authority contained in the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 9-2-7 and 9-2-8, are as follows:

**BOBCAT, SPOTTED SKUNK (CIVET CAT), COYOTE, FOX, MINK, MUSKRAT, NUTRIA, OPOSSUM, OTTER, RACCOON AND SKUNK:**

*Mid-November through February (see current Hunting and Fishing Digest for season dates).*

**BEAVER: No Closed Season**

**COYOTE: No Closed Trapping Season on Private Lands with Landowner Permission**

NOTE: See tagging requirements for Bobcat and Otter under Alabama Regulation 220-2-.30.

## MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NOTE: Title 9 Code of Alabama and Regulations are cited at the end of each response for future reference.

- **Is a license required to trap furbearers in Alabama?** Yes. A fur catcher's license is required by state law if an individual is commercially trapping furbearing animals [9-11-59].

### **FUR CATCHERS LICENSE:**

<b>Resident</b>	\$8.40*
<b>Nonresident</b>	\$500.90*

\*Includes Issuance Fees

- **Can you trap the banks of public waters?** Yes. With written permission of the adjacent landowner [9-11-.243].

- **What traps are legal to use for land sets?** Leg-hold traps having a jaw width of 6 inches or less. Leg-hold traps shall not have teeth or serrated edges along the inside jaws. Conibear traps or killer type traps shall not exceed more than 5 inches in spread for utilization on land sets. The use of snares (except powered foot snares with a maximum loop of 5½ inches) is prohibited [220-2.30].
- **Are traps required to be marked with some form of identification?** Yes. Each trap must be identified with a plastic or metal tag bearing the license number, name and address of the owner. Traps that are used for beaver only must have the name and address of the owner [9-11-59B].
- **How often must traps be checked?** All traps set in or beneath water must be checked at least once every 72 hours. All traps other than water sets must be checked at least once every 24 hours [9-11-266].
- **Is it legal to hang or suspend bait for use in trapping?** No. It is illegal for anyone to hang or suspend bait over or within 25 feet of a steel trap [9-11-266].
- **Is it legal to trap off the right-of-way on any public roadway?** No. It is illegal to trap off the right of way unless the trapper has permission of the adjoining landowner [9-11-265].
- **Is written permission required in order to trap the lands of another?** Yes. Written permission is required [9-11-241 & 242].
- **Are there a maximum number of traps that may be set by one trapper in a 24-hour period?** Yes. Trappers are limited to setting no more than 150 traps in one day [9-11-254].
- **Do you have to report all caught furbearers to the Dept. of Conservation?** Yes. A mandatory fur harvest report must be submitted. Number of animals harvested, county of harvest and list of who fur or pelts were sold to must be submitted no later than 45 days after the close of trapping season [9-11-267].
- **Is a trapper legally responsible for any injured domestic animals?** Yes. Trappers are liable for civil damages if they cause injury or damage to any person or domestic stock as a result of using a trap or similar device [9-11-264].
- **What is required in order to transport furs or pelts of legally caught furbearers?** A fur catcher license is required to transport raw furs, skins or pelts [9-11-61].
- **Are bobcat and otter required to be tagged prior to going to market?** Yes. Bobcat and otter pelts must be tagged by a representative of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries within 14 days of harvest and prior to pelt or fur being sold or disposed of, or left with a completed report form at a dealer or taxidermist who must have tagging completed within 14 days [220-2.30(2)].
- **Can you place a trap on an elevated stake or post in Alabama?** No. It is illegal to set a trap on top of a post or stake elevated above ground level [220-2.30(3)].
- **Is it legal to predator hunt at night?** No. It is illegal to use or possess any device as a predatory call at night, while in possession of a firearm [220-2.30(4)].
- **Is there an age requirement to purchase a trapping (fur catcher) license?** No. All persons trapping fur-bearers for commercial use are required to purchase a fur catchers license [9-11-59].
- **Is a trapper required to carry a choke stick while trapping in Alabama?** Yes. Any person trapping furbearing animals in Alabama is required to carry a choke stick [220-2.30(1)].
- **Is it legal to use body grip traps on land?** Any body-gripping trap or Conibear trap that has a maximum jaw spread of 5 inches or less are legal to use on land [220-2.30].
- **Are deadfall traps legal to use in Alabama?** No. The use of pitfall and dead-fall traps are illegal [9-11-245].
- **Is a fur catcher's license required of an individual who is nuisance beaver trapping?** No. Nuisance beaver trapping does not require the purchase of a fur catchers license, if the raw furs or pelts are not intended for commercial use [9-11-59].
- **Is it legal to possess and sell live furbearers in this State?** No. The sale of live furbearing animals is prohibited [220-2-.26(8)].



Raccoon tracks



OPERATION GAME WATCH  
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