

## Fur Harvest Statutes

This brochure contains a summary of the state statutes regarding the commercial harvest of furbearers. Applicable statutes are listed in parentheses at the end of each section of this brochure. Copies of actual statutes of the SC Code of Laws are available online from the SC Legislature at [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov) or by writing: Furbearer Program, SC Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

## Legislative Changes for the 2011-2012 Season

There were no legislative changes for this season.



## Furbearers which may be commercially harvested

The following species are legally classified as furbearers and may be taken by hunting or trapping during the open season: bobcat, red fox, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, otter, mink, weasel, striped skunk, spotted skunk, muskrat and beaver. The pelts of these animals along with coyotes may be sold in SC.

(50-11-110, 50-11-2400)

## License

Anyone who traps or attempts to trap furbearing animals, whether *commercially* or *recreationally*, or anyone that takes by any means, for sale, trade, exchange or barter, and/or anyone who possesses more than 5 furbearing animals or raw or green pelts must have the following licenses: (1) a valid state hunting license (regardless of age) and (2) a Commercial Fur Harvesters License (\$25 for resident, \$200 for nonresidents.) These licenses shall be carried while involved in fur taking activities. A youth (under 16) is not required to be licensed in order to assist a licensed fur harvester, so long

as the youth is in the presence of the licensed fur harvester and the youth does not sell, trade, exchange, or barter any furbearing animals taken under the authority of the licensed fur harvester.

Anyone who purchases any whole furbearing animal, raw or green furs, pelts or hides is required to have a Fur Buyer's License (\$100.00 for residents, \$200 for nonresidents).

Exemptions from Fur Buyer's License: (1) a person who acquires not more than five furs, pelts, hides, or whole animals for his own personal use during one season and not for barter, exchange, or sale; (2) a person licensed as a fur processor (\$500); (3) a taxidermist who possesses a fur, pelt, hide, or whole furbearing animal legally owned by another person which he is holding temporarily solely for the purposes of processing; (4) a person acquiring furbearing animal carcasses without hides; (5) an owner or enclosure operator of a permitted fox and coyote hunting enclosure who purchases live foxes or coyotes for release into the enclosure.

(50-11-2420, 50-11-2470, 50-11-2480)

To purchase your Commercial Fur Harvest, Fur Buyer, or Fur Processing License contact the DNR licensing office at 803-734-3833.

## Seasons

It is lawful to trap furbearing animals and coyotes from December 1 of each year to March 1 of the following year with a valid Commercial Fur Harvesters License. Furbearer hunting seasons vary by game zone and are printed in the annual SCDNR Rules and Regulations brochure. Coyotes & beaver may be hunted during daylight hours year 'round on private lands.

Raccoons, opossums, foxes, mink, and skunk may be hunted at night; however, they may not be hunted with artificial lights except when treed or cornered with dogs and no buckshot or any shot larger than #4, or any rifle ammunition larger than a twenty-two rimfire may be used. Devices that amplify light using any type of power source are considered artificial light (including night vision or thermal imaging equipment).

(50-11-120, 50-11-710, 50-11-2540)

## Night Hunting for Coyotes

A hunting license is required, however there is no closed season on hunting coyotes on private land statewide. Coyotes may be hunted at night with an artificial light that is carried on the hunter's person attached to a helmet or hat, or part of a belt system worn by the hunter. Coyotes may be hunted at night with a firearm no larger than .22 caliber rimfire, a shotgun with a shot size no larger than size BB, or a sidearm of any caliber that has iron sights and a barrel length not exceeding nine inches. A sidearm may not have a butt stock attached so as to create a longarm. Any weapon used to hunt coyotes at night may not be equipped with a scope, laser site, light, or light enhancing device (including night vision or thermal imaging). It is unlawful to have, in one's possession, any shot size larger than a BB while hunting coyotes at night with a shotgun, and coyotes may not be hunted at night from a vehicle, unless specifically permitted by the department.

(50-11-710)

## Electronic Calls

It is illegal to hunt, catch, take, kill or attempt to hunt, catch, take or kill any game bird or game animal with the aid of electronic calls. Furbearing animals are also classified as small game and cannot be taken with electronic calls. However, crows, coyotes or hogs are not game birds/animals and therefore can be hunted using electronic calls on private lands and on WMA lands where hunting for those species is allowed. (50-11-40)

## Depredation Permits

Depredation permits may be issued by the SCDNR for the taking of nuisance furbearing animals or coyotes at any time of year. There is no cost for this permit. Animals captured under a depredation permit may not be relocated, sold, traded, exchanged, or bartered.

A depredation permit or license *is not required* by the property owner, or his or her designee, when capturing furbearing animals or squirrels within one-hundred yards of the owner's home when the animals are causing damage to the owner's property. Animals captured under this exemption may not be relocated and must be released or destroyed. (50-11-2570)

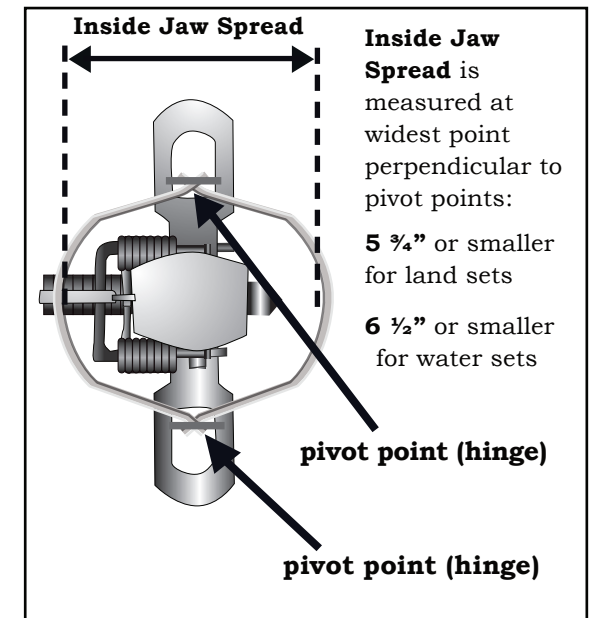


Figure 1. How to measure foothold trap size

## Legal Traps

In South Carolina, a *trap* is defined as: "**any device**, other than a weapon, designed or constructed for taking animals."

The following traps are legal to use for trapping statewide:

- Foothold traps with an inside jaw spread of 5 3/4" or smaller on land and 6 1/2" or smaller for water sets. Inside jaw spread is measured at the widest point perpendicular to the pivot points (jaw hinges) when the trap is in the set position (Figure 1).
- Enclosed foothold traps such as "Egg", "Duffer", "Coon-cuff", and similarly designed dog-proof style traps designed for raccoons.
- Body gripping traps of the Conibear type in water or slide sets only. No bait or scents are allowed to be used with body-gripping traps.
- Snares may be used in water sets only.
- Live traps.

**All other traps and trap uses, including deadfall traps are unlawful, regardless of the intended species.**

*All traps must have an identification tag bearing the owner's name and address.*

(50-11-2400, 50-11-2460)

## Trapper's Responsibility

A person may trap on lands that he owns, or on lands owned by others, provided the trapper has written permission from the landowner. The written permission must be carried on the trapper's person at all times while engaged in trapping activities.

There is no trapping allowed on Wildlife Management Area or Heritage Preserve lands.

All traps must be checked at least once daily. It is illegal to visit traps at night. No one, except the owner of the trap, may remove any legally trapped animal from the trap.

No trap may be set in the open, or in paths commonly used by persons or domestic animals.

Any person shipping or transporting raw furs, pelts, hides or whole animals out of South Carolina must obtain a permit from the SCDNR. A conservation officer should be notified at least *48 hours* prior to the need of a shipping permit in order to inspect the package and issue the permit. A list of SCDNR Law Enforcement offices can be found on the back of this brochure.

**(50-11-2430, 50-11-2440, 50-11-2445, 50-11-2500, 50-11-2550)**

## Special Tagging Requirement for Bobcat and Otter

Any person required to have a commercial fur license who takes any bobcat or otter must tag the fur, pelt, hide, or whole animal before it is sold, shipped, transferred to any person or business, or transported out of the state, if required by the Federal Government in order to comply with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (**CITES**).

A commercial fur licensee must apply to SCDNR before CITES tags can be issued. There is no fee for each individual tag, but the SCDNR must charge a processing fee of \$3.00 for each order. No more than 10 tags may be ordered at any one time. Bobcat and Otter tags may only be ordered from Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The tags must be securely attached and may not be removed until the time of processing. CITES tags are nontransferable and may not be altered in any manner. The SCDNR may limit the number of tags issued for each species and

the area in which they may be used. Furbearing animals to be sold as live animals are not required to be tagged. **(50-11-2510)**

## Fur Harvest Reporting Requirement

All commercial fur harvest licensees shall submit an annual report of their harvest to the SCDNR by **April 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year, using forms provided by the SCDNR. In addition, a trapper shall maintain an accurate **daily** record of all live fox and coyote sales or transfers on forms provided by the SCDNR. These live fox and coyote transaction forms must be retained by the trapper and made available for reasonable inquiry by SCDNR employees.

Any trapper who sells or transfers live foxes or coyotes to permitted fox and coyote hunting enclosures must submit all daily records of these transactions by **April 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year on the forms provided by the SCDNR.

Failure to report by date due, upon 2nd offense, shall render the violator ineligible for a commercial fur harvest license the following year, in addition to fines for each offense. **(50-11-2450, 50-11-2620, 50-11-2630, 50-11-2650)**

## Fur Buyers Reporting Requirement

Fur buyers shall keep a daily register of furs purchased on forms provided by the SCDNR. No later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month the fur buyer shall furnish the SCDNR all daily register sheets from the previous month.

Failure to report will result in the loss of buying privileges for one year in addition to the prescribed penalties. **(50-11-2490, 50-11-2560).**

## Importation of Wildlife

It is unlawful to bring, import, or cause to have imported a live coyote or fox into the state. It is also unlawful to release a coyote or fox into the state, except as authorized.

It is unlawful to import any other furbearers into this state without a permit first being issued by the SCDNR. **(50-11-1765, 50-11-2605, 50-11-2640, 50-16-20)**

## Possession and/or Sale of Live Foxes or Coyotes

Live foxes or coyotes may only be sold or transferred to the listed owner or operator of a permitted fox and coyote hunting enclosure by the licensed trapper who took the animal.

A licensed trapper may only possess a live fox or coyote during the commercial fur harvest trapping season (Dec. 1- Mar.1) and for 30 days after (Mar. 2-April 1). After this time, it is unlawful for *anyone*, except a currently permitted fox and coyote enclosure, to possess a live fox or coyote without a permit issued by the SCDNR. **(50-11-2605 50-11-2630)**

To purchase your Commercial Fur Harvest License, contact the DNR licensing office at 803-734-3833.

## Law Enforcement Offices

Charleston	(843) 953-9307
Clemson	(864) 654-8266
Columbia	(803) 734-4002
Florence	(843) 661-4766

## Wildlife Section Offices

Charleston	(843) 953-5291
Clemson	(864) 654-1671
Columbia	(803) 734-3886
Florence	(843) 661-4766



**OPERATION  
GAME THIEF  
1-800-922-5431**

**Operation Game Thief: Reward up to \$500.00 cash** for information leading to the arrest of violators of the game and fish laws of South Carolina

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO BOX 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

Total Cost: \$ 271.00  
Total Copies: 2,500  
Cost Per Copy: \$0.1084

# South Carolina Trapping and Commercial Fur Harvest Regulations 2011 - 2012



*Gray Fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus)*

**SC Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division**

**Wildlife Section  
Furbearer Project**



**DNR**

**www.dnr.sc.gov**

**This brochure expires July 1, 2012**