

WELCOME TO HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN PENNSYLVANIA

LICENSE BUYERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TAKING PLACE THIS YEAR.

Here are some of the changes this year that hunters and trappers might be interested in: Pennsylvania is conducting its first **river otter trapping season** in more than 50 years. This brief season allows for a conservative harvest of otters, and the season is open only in Wildlife Management Units 3C and 3D. An otter permit is required in addition to a furtaker license. More information is available in the furtaking section. ❖ More than a week has been added to the late segments of the **squirrel, pheasant and rabbit seasons**. Those seasons will end on Feb. 29. ❖ Hunters should note the **length of the fall turkey season** has changed in many Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Season length in WMUs 2E, 3D, 4A, 4B and 4D has been reduced due to recent declines in harvest density and summertime sightings in those WMUs. ❖ The regulations have changed regarding **deer hunting in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D**. The archery season will continue to begin earlier and end later in those WMUs, but unlike previous years, properly licensed hunters may hunt and harvest either antlered or antlerless deer at any time during the season's first segment, which runs from Sept. 19 to Nov. 28. ❖ The total number of **antlerless licenses** to be allocated has been lowered to allow the deer herd to grow in some areas of the state. The first day for residents to apply for a license is July 13, and the first day for nonresidents is July 27. ❖ **Disease Management Area 2 Antlerless Deer Permits** again will be issued to reduce the antlerless deer population specifically within the lone area of the state where chronic wasting disease has been detected among free-ranging deer. A permit costs the same as an antlerless license, but must be used within Disease Management Area 2. The process to apply for a permit is different than that to apply for an antlerless license. Hunters can apply for permits by going online to The Outdoor Shop at the Game Commission's website, or by mailing applications and payments by check, money order or credit card directly to the Game Commission. Detailed information on the application process can be found on the Game Commission's website. ❖ Deer hunters also should understand the boundaries of **Disease Management Areas** established in response to the presence of chronic wasting disease can, and sometimes do, change as new CWD cases are detected. While maps are provided in this digest, hunters can ensure they're looking at the most up-to-date maps by visiting the CWD Info page at the Game Commission's website. ❖ Changes are being implemented to the **Mentored Youth Hunting Program**, whereby harvest tags for antlered deer and spring turkey only will be issued to Mentored Youth ages 7 and older. Mentored Youth younger than age 7 can continue to participate in deer and turkey seasons, if properly accompanied by an adult mentor with a valid tag that can be transferred to the Mentored Youth if an animal is harvested. ❖ The hunting season for **bobwhite quail** has been closed in WMU 5A, where quail might soon be reintroduced. ❖ A total of 116 **elk licenses** have been allocated this year. Twenty-one antlered elk licenses and 95 antlerless licenses will be awarded by lottery. Application instructions can be found in the elk section of this digest. The application deadline is July 31, and the drawing for licenses is scheduled for Aug. 15. ❖ **Tree stands and blinds** left out overnight on state game lands must now be marked with durable identification tags bearing the owner's name and address, or his or her CID number or an alternate number obtained by going onto The Outdoor Shop. ❖ Six relaxing locks have been approved for **cable-restraint trappers**. The list appears in the furtaking section. ❖ Finally, this digest has been redesigned in hopes that hunters and trappers will find it easier to use and find information. Thanks for all you do to continue to celebrate Pennsylvania's rich hunting heritage.

Wildlife Classifications

The Game and Wildlife Code protects all of Pennsylvania's wildlife. The code classifies wildlife as follows:

Game Animals:

Black bear, cottontail rabbit, elk, squirrels (red, gray, black and fox), snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and woodchuck (groundhog).

Game Birds:

Brant, bobwhite quail, coot, gallinule, geese, grouse, Hungarian partridge, merganser, mourning and Eurasian collared doves, pheasant, rail, snipe, swan, wild ducks, wild turkey and woodcock.

Big Game:

Bear, elk, white-tailed deer and wild turkey.

Small Game:

Game birds and game animals not classified as big game.

Furbearers:

Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pine martin, raccoon, red and gray fox, striped skunk and weasel.

Protected Mammals:

Wild mammals not classified furbearers or game animals (For example, chipmunks are protected).

Protected Birds:

Wild birds not classified game birds.

Protection is removed from wildlife, except migratory birds, big game and threatened or endangered species, when personal property, other than an agricultural crop, is being destroyed or damaged. Wildlife may be taken only by the owner or person in charge of the personal property affected. Wildlife taken to protect personal property must be surrendered to a Game Commission representative.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
MANAGES ALL WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS,
AND THEIR HABITATS, FOR CURRENT
AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.**