

2010-2011 Summary of Fishing and Hunting Regulations

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Nongame and Other Species

NONGAME ANIMALS (Includes, but is not limited to the following):

Armadillos*	Flying squirrels	Mountain lions	Rabbits
Bobcats*	Frogs	Porcupines	Turtles
Coyotes*	Ground squirrels	Prairie dogs	

- Does not include feral hog (see Exotic Animals and Fowl).
- No closed season. These animals may be hunted at any time by any lawful means or methods on private property. Public hunting lands may have restrictions. A hunting license is required.
- *BOBCAT pelts sold, purchased, traded, transported or shipped out of state must have a pelt tag (CITES) attached. A pelt tag must be attached prior to being transported or shipped out of this state. Pelt tags may be obtained from any permitted bobcat pelt dealer, or [TPWD Regional & Field Law Enforcement Offices](#). For additional information contact TPWD (800) 792-1112, menu 7, option 9 or (512) 389-4481.
- Live *COYOTES are currently under a statewide rabies quarantine that prohibits them from being transported or sold in Texas (see [exceptions](#)). For information on the rabies quarantine, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services [Infectious Disease Control Unit](#) Web site.
- *ARMADILLOS: Possession and sale of live armadillos is restricted.
- No person may possess a diamondback terrapin at any time.
- No person may hunt (capture, trap, take, or kill) any wild animal or wild bird on a public road or the right-of-way of a public road.

POSSESSION AND SALE OF CERTAIN NONGAME WILDLIFE

- The take of any nongame species for commercial purposes (sale, offer for sale, barter, or exchange) from public lands or waters is unlawful.
- Provided the appropriate permit has been obtained, red-eared slider, common snapping turtle, and softshell turtle may be taken from private water for commercial purposes; however, the take or possession of any other species of turtle for commercial activity is unlawful.
- Many species of nongame wildlife may be sold, offered for sale, bartered, or exchanged, provided the proper nongame permit has been obtained from TPWD and all reporting and recordkeeping requirements are met; however, the collection from the wild, sale, offer for sale, or exchange of certain species of nongame wildlife is unlawful.
- A landowner or landowner's agent may kill any nongame wildlife other than protected birds and threatened or endangered species (see below) at any time in any number, provided the wildlife is not used in a commercial activity.

For more information on nongame regulations, permit requirements, and lists of lawful

and prohibited species, contact TPWD at (800) 792-1112, menu 7 or (512) 389-4481 or go to [Nongame Permits](#).

"CANNED HUNTS" (DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS)

No person may kill or attempt to injure a dangerous wild animal (African or Asiatic lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, hyena, bear, elephant, wolf, or rhinoceros, or any subspecies or hybrid of these animals) that is held in captivity in this state or that is released from captivity in this state for the purpose of being killed, nor may any person conduct, promote, advertise, or assist in the hunting of a dangerous wild animal.

EXOTIC ANIMALS AND FOWL

Exotic animal refers to grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hoofed or cloven-hoofed mammals that are not indigenous or native to Texas and are known as ungulates, including animals from the deer and antelope families that landowners have introduced into this state. Includes, but is not limited to feral hog, Aoudad sheep, Axis deer, Elk, Sika deer, Fallow deer, Blackbuck antelope, Nilgai antelope, and Russian boar. Exotic fowl refers to any avian species that is not indigenous to this state, including ratites (emu, ostrich, rhea, cassowary, etc.).

There are no state bag or possession limits or closed seasons on exotic animals or fowl on private property. It is against the law to:

- Hunt an exotic without a valid hunting license.
- Hunt an exotic on a public road or right-of-way.
- Hunt an exotic without the landowner's permission.
- Possess an exotic or the carcass of an exotic without the owner's consent.

Penalty: A person who violates these laws commits an offense that is a Class A Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor (\$500-\$4000 and/or up to one year in jail).

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) regulates the movement of feral swine for disease-control purposes. For more information please call TAHC at (800) 550-8242 or visit the [TAHC Web site](#).

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

Badger	Mink	Opossum	Ring-tailed cat
Beaver	Muskrat	Otter	Skunk
Fox	Nutria	Raccoon	

- A trapper's license is required to take or attempt to take fur-bearing animals, except that a person who possesses a hunting license may take and possess a fur-bearing animal, provided the furbearer (or any part thereof) is not to be sold.
- A department-issued CITES tag is required to be attached to all otters taken and possessed in this state.
- A landowner on their own land or their authorized agent is not required to have a trapper's or hunting license if these nuisance animals are taken while causing loss or damage to agricultural crops, livestock, poultry, or personal property. However, such animals or their pelts may not be possessed or sold.
- Fur-bearing animals may be hunted at night on private property with the aid of an artificial light.
- There is no bag or possession limit for fur-bearing animals.
- For more detailed information about seasons, legal means, and other rules for fur-bearing animals and their pelts, consult the Fur-bearing Animal Digest, available [online](#), at TPWD Law Enforcement Offices, or by calling (800) 792-1112.
- All hunter education requirements apply.

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND OTHER PROTECTED NONGAME SPECIES

It is unlawful for any person to hunt (see [Definitions - Hunt](#)) threatened, endangered, or protected nongame species. To sell or purchase goods made from threatened or endangered species, proper documentation must accompany the goods. For a complete list of threatened and endangered species, and regulations relating to breeding threatened and endangered species, please call (800) 792-1112 (menu 5).

- Protected Birds: Hawks, owls, eagles, and all other nongame birds and songbirds (except for the few unprotected birds listed below) are protected by various state and federal laws and may not be killed, taken from the nest, picked up, or possessed for any reason, and their feathers may not be possessed or sold. Arts and crafts may not include these protected species under any circumstances.
- Unprotected Birds:
 - The only birds not protected by any state or federal law are *European starlings*, *English sparrows*, *feral rock doves* (common pigeon - *Columba livia*) and *Eurasian collared-doves*; these species may be killed at any time, their nests or eggs destroyed, and their feathers may be possessed.
 - *Yellow-headed*, *red-winged*, *rusty*, or *Brewer's blackbirds* and all *grackles*, *cowbirds* (does not include cattle egret), *crows*, or *magpies* may be controlled without a federal or state depredation permit when found committing or about to commit depredations on ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in numbers and in a manner that constitutes a health hazard or other nuisance.
- Bats: May not be hunted, killed, possessed, purchased or sold; however, bats may be moved, trapped, or killed if inside or on a building occupied by people. A person may transport a bat for the purpose of laboratory testing if there is a rabies concern.

BLACK BEARS and MOUNTAIN LIONS

Black bears are protected and cannot be hunted or killed. Mountain lions are not protected and can be harvested at any time. Please report black bear sightings or mortalities, and mountain lion sightings, harvests, or mortalities to (512)389-8047.

CONTROLLED EXOTIC SNAKES

It is unlawful (Class C misdemeanor) for any person, regardless of age, to possess certain nonindigenous snakes for commercial (Type 581) or recreational (Type 580) purposes if that person has not obtained a TPWD controlled exotic snake permit for that purpose. A controlled exotic snake is any species of venomous snakes not indigenous to Texas; African rock python (*Python sebae*); Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*); green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*); reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*); southern African python (*Python natalensis*), and includes ANY hybrid of these species. Permits may be purchased anywhere hunting and fishing licenses are sold. In addition, it is unlawful (Class A misdemeanor) to intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence release or allow the release from captivity of any of these snakes. Snakes possessed without the necessary permit may be seized, removed, and disposed of at the cost of the person possessing the snakes. Controlled exotic snakes are regulated under Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 43, Subchapter V, which may be enforced by any licensed Texas peace officer. For further information, call (800) 792-1112 (menu 7) or visit [Frequently Asked Questions on Controlled Exotic Snakes](#).



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