

ALBERTA GUIDE TO

2014-2015

TRAPPING

REGULATIONS



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Minister's Message



**Greetings from
Honourable Robin Campbell
Minister of Environment and
Sustainable Resource Development**

Long before Alberta became a province, trapping and the development of the fur trade was Canada's original economic engine. Today's trappers continue a tradition and livelihood that is linked to our past, and proudly carry on this long standing commercial enterprise.

Trappers have a direct interest in protecting the environment that supports their activity. With sound stewardship from individual trappers and the Alberta Trappers' Association, Alberta has a healthy furbearer population.

Trappers and fur traders in Alberta must conform to very high standards with respect to humane and ethical harvesting. The age-old trade of trapping continues to evolve with the times, and whether you are a new trapper or an experienced old-timer, it is important to keep your skills up-to-date. The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards came into effect in Alberta in 1999. Implementation has been an ongoing process, and this coming year new trappers will be required to complete a trapper education course which deals with humane trapping and fur management.

Please accept my best wishes for a rewarding season, and I encourage you to seek ways to share this honourable tradition with the next generation of trappers.

**Robin Campbell
Minister of Environment and
Sustainable Resource Development**



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NOTE: This pamphlet is neither a legal document nor a complete listing of current Alberta trapping regulations. It is a summary of the Wildlife Regulation published to assist trappers to understand the rules of trapping. Details of the regulations may be obtained from the nearest district Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6) or by viewing the Wildlife Regulation at the Alberta Queens Printer website: www.qp.alberta.ca.

The *Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations* is published annually by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. It is provided free-of-charge to all Alberta trappers and others interested in the fur industry in Alberta. With the exception of short quotations for review purposes, no portion of this document may be reproduced without written permission from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

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Important Changes for 2014 - 2015

- Additional traps have been certified under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). Trappers are reminded that it is unlawful to use traps that do not meet the requirement of the AIHTS (pages 10-12).
- Trappers are reminded that for the voluntary fisher collection program (see page 19) only the heads of fisher are currently being collected.
- In order to advance trapper competency standards in Alberta, first time trappers will no longer be able to qualify for a trapping licence through writing the Trapper Challenge Exam. **Beginning**

with the 2015/2016 trapping season, the Trapper Challenge Exam will be discontinued and first time trappers must successfully complete the Alberta Trapper Education Course.

If you are interested in taking the Alberta Trapper Education Course, contact the Alberta Trappers' Association office in Westlock at (780) 349-6626.

- **For fall 2015**, certified killing traps will be mandatory for Canada Lynx and Weasel. Certified killing traps will be mandatory for otter in **fall 2016**.

Definitions

The following definitions will help you understand this Guide:

Fur Management Zone (FMZ) — Alberta is divided into eight (8) Fur Management Zones, based on similar environmental features. Season timing and length is established on the basis of these zones, reflecting differences in furbearer status, trapping pressure and seasonal pelt quality.

Killing Device

1. a device designed and set in a manner to trap and kill a fur-bearing animal by the action of the trap;
2. a snare set to tighten on the neck of a fur-bearing animal in order to kill it, where the energy to tighten the snare is provided by the animal; or
3. a device that is set so that it will hold and kill a fur-bearing animal under water.

Partner — A person with written permission from a Senior Holder (see Senior Holder definition) to trap on the Senior Holder's Fur Management Area. A partner must be a Resident and must obtain a licence. Partners who are first-time trappers must meet mandatory requirements, outlined on page 8, before their partnership agreement can be approved. For further information, contact the Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch (see page 6).

Resident — a person who either

- has his or her only or primary residence in Alberta **and**
— is a Canadian citizen or admitted to permanent residence in

Canada, or
— has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date;

or

- is on full-time service with the Armed Forces of Canada and would, if an election were held under the *Elections Act* (Canada), be eligible to vote in Alberta under that Act.

Registered Fur Management Area (RFMA) — a parcel of public land the boundary of which is described on the original Registered Fur Management Licence.

Registered Fur Management Licence — a licence to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals on the lands described on the licence, as well as on private lands that the licence-holder owns or occupies.

Resident Fur Management Licence — a licence available for trapping on privately owned and some public lands not included in Registered Fur Management Areas. For further information contact the Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch (see page 6).

Senior Holder — the principal holder of a Registered Fur Management Area, and the person who has authority to give written consent to establish partnerships.

WMU — Wildlife Management Unit, a geographical area prescribed in legislation.

WMU Descriptions

WMUs shown on the enclosed map are legally described in the *Wildlife Regulation* (AR 143/97). The *Wildlife Regulation* may be viewed either at your nearest Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6), online under Wildlife Regulation on the Alberta Queen's Printer website (www.qp.alberta.ca) or purchased from **The Alberta Queen's Printer** at the following address:

Alberta Queen's Printer
10611 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: (780) 427-4952

Note: The Queen's Printer does not sell maps.

Maps

The Fur Management Zone map, on page 14 of this guide, is provided to help you determine the zone and WMU in which you are trapping.

Provincial and Federal Maps

Provincial and federal access and topographical maps are available from various private map dealers throughout the province.

County and Other Municipal Maps

County and municipal offices provide detailed maps showing land ownership status. These maps are available for a nominal fee and are useful for learning land status and ownership.

Further Inquiries

For information about these regulations or other matters concerning wildlife or fish management, please contact the sources listed below.

Telephone Numbers of Fish and Wildlife offices.

Office hours vary, please contact the individual office for hours of operation.

For toll-free access to most Fish and Wildlife offices in Alberta, dial 310-0000.

Note: These may be offices with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development or Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

Northwest Region

Fairview	780-835-2737
Fort Vermilion	780-927-4488
* Grande Prairie	780-538-5265
* High Level	780-926-2238
High Prairie	780-523-6521
Manning	780-836-3065
* Peace River	780-624-6405
Red Earth	780-649-3853
* Slave Lake	780-849-7123
Spirit River.....	780-864-4101
Valleyview	780-524-3605

Northeast Region

Athabasca.....	780-675-2419
Bonnyville	780-826-3142
Cold Lake	780-594-7876
Edmonton	780-427-3574
Fort Chipewyan.....	780-697-3511
* Fort McMurray	780-743-7200
* Lac La Biche	780-623-5247
St. Paul	780-645-6313
Smoky Lake	780-656-3556

Southwest Region

Barrhead.....	780-674-8236
Blairmore	403-562-3289
Canmore.....	403-678-2373
Claresholm	403-625-1450
Cochrane	403-932-2388
Drayton Valley.....	780-542-6616
* Edson	780-723-8244
Evansburg	780-727-3635
Fox Creek.....	780-622-3421
Grande Cache.....	780-827-3356
High River	403-652-8330
Hinton	780-865-8264
Pincher Creek.....	403-627-1116
* Rocky Mountain House	403-845-8230
Stony Plain (Spruce Grove).....	780-960-8190

Sundre	403-638-3805
Swan Hills	780-333-2229
* Whitecourt	780-778-7112

Southeast Region

Brooks.....	403-362-1232
* Calgary	403-297-6423
Camrose	780-679-1225
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Foremost	403-867-3826
Hanna	403-854-5540
Lethbridge.....	403-381-5266
Lloydminster	780-871-6495
Medicine Hat.....	403-529-3680
Olds	403-556-4215
Oyen	403-664-3614
Ponoka	403-783-7093
Provost	780-753-2433
* Red Deer	403-340-5142
Stettler	403-742-7510
Strathmore.....	403-934-3422
Vegreville	780-632-5410
Vermilion	780-853-8137
Vulcan.....	403-485-6971
Wetaskiwin	780-361-1250

*Area Office

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Information Centre

780-944-0313, toll free 1-877-944-0313

Email: esrd.info-centre@gov.ab.ca

Websites — albertaregulations.ca or mywildalberta.com

Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch, Policy Division
2 Floor, 9920-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2M4

NOTICE TO TRAPPERS

The Fish and Wildlife Division frequently conducts vehicle checks to assist in the management of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources and to ensure compliance with existing legislation.

Licensing and Requirements

A fur management licence or trapper's identification card must be carried at all times while trapping. Resident trappers must also carry Form WA 19A signed by the landowner providing permission to trap on the lands involved. Trappers using power-neck snares and common neck snares on land owned by someone else must carry written permission from the landowner to use these snares.

Registered Fur Management Licence

There are approximately 1632 Registered Fur Management Areas (RFMAs) in Alberta. The Senior Holder is authorized to trap on an RFMA for a five-year term, provided the licence is renewed each year. At the close of the five-year term, the Senior Holder may apply for another five-year term.

Applications: Occasionally, there are vacant RFMA's available. Regional Fish and Wildlife offices (see page 6) list the vacant RFMAs in their district. Qualified adult residents of Alberta may apply for a vacant RFMA at those offices. Successful applicants will receive Registered Fur Management Licences that will authorize them to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals on the lands described on the licence and also on private lands that they may own or occupy.

Renewals: The Senior Holder of a Registered Fur Management Area may apply for a renewal of their licence on or before September 30 of each year. The application for renewal must be accompanied by a report of the number and species of fur-bearing animals harvested on their RFMA the previous year by all trappers, including any spouse, any resident child under 18 years of age and any approved Partners.

Partners on RFMAs require a licence. The Senior Holder of an RFMA may, at any time, acquire a partner by completing a Fur Management Area Partnership Agreement and having it approved in writing by a Fish and Wildlife Officer. The partnership agreement must be completed each year.

***Note:** The spouse or a resident child (under 18 years of age) of the Senior Holder of a Registered Fur Management Area may hunt and trap fur-bearing animals on that RFMA without a licence. The number and species of fur-bearing animals harvested by these persons must be included in the Senior Holder's annual report. A Registered Fur Management Licence authorizes Senior Holders to hunt or trap only on their RFMA(s) or on lands they own, lease or occupy. A Resident Fur Management Licence is required to hunt or trap on other private lands and subsequent authorization conditions apply (see page 8 under Resident Fur Management Licence).

Senior Holders

The Senior holder of a Registered Fur Management Licence shall ensure that the species and number of all furbearers harvested on their RFMA(s) are included in the annual Report of Fur Bearing Animal Taken (WA12). This includes all harvests from the Senior holder, any spouse, any resident child under 18 years of age and any approved partners.

The Senior holder must renew their licence before any partner, or else at the same time as partner.

Partners on Registered Fur Management Areas

All Registered Fur Management Area Partnership Agreements shall be confirmed annually, ideally at the time of licence renewal (on or before September 30 of each year). Any subsequent agreements that occur throughout the trapping year will be approved through the normal process.

Partners, in accordance with approved Partnership Agreements, will be issued a licence and wallet-size cards (WA188) valid for a one (1) year period (July 1 through June 30). Partners are encouraged to carry the WA188 card and their licence while trapping or conducting trapping-related business to both identify themselves and verify their authority as granted by the approved Partnership Agreement.

In addition to written authority from the Senior Licence Holder, partners who are first-time trappers must also meet the mandatory requirements outlined on page 8 before their Partnership Agreement can be approved. For further information, contact a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6).

Fur Dealers

Fur dealers shall ensure that an approved partner as described above (including their spouse or a resident child under 18 years of age) produces a valid licence and WA188 card when selling the pelts and parts of any fur-bearing animals. The appropriate information from the card shall be accurately recorded and maintained as part of the Fur Dealer's Transaction Record. Similarly, fur dealers shall ensure that the appropriate information from Registered and Resident Fur Management Licences is recorded when fur is bought from individuals authorized to sell under these authorities.

For those fur dealers authorized to conduct the registration of the pelts of lynx, fisher, wolverine and otter, the Furbearers Registration Certificate (WA324) shall be fully and accurately completed and appropriately submitted in a timely manner. Fur dealers are required to report monthly all wildlife taken into possession.

Also, fur dealers are required to retain on the licenced premises a copy of all records for 2 years since the wildlife was last possessed. Contact your local Fish and Wildlife office for further information (see Page 6).



Resident Fur Management Licence

An Alberta resident 14 years of age or older must obtain a Resident Fur Management Licence to hunt or trap fur-bearing animals on lands:

- a) they own, lease (other than leases that fall within a registered fur management area) or occupy, or
- b) for which they have written permission — on Form WA 19A “Authorization to hunt fur-bearing animals” — from the person who owns, leases or occupies the land. Additional written permission is required for the use of power-neck snares and common neck snares, see page 13.

While hunting and trapping under the authority of a Resident Fur Management Licence, trappers must carry their licence and relevant Permission to Trap form, and must produce them upon the request of a Fish and Wildlife Officer.

- Holders of a Resident Fur Management Licence are asked to complete a Resident Fur Harvest Report (WA12A) on or before September 30 to report the number and species of fur-bearing animals harvested during the previous year, by Wildlife Management Unit. This information helps to inform management of sustainable furbearer populations, and so trapper participation in completing these reports is encouraged.

Note:

- Holders of Resident Fur Management Licences **may not take fisher, otter, lynx, or wolverine anywhere in Alberta, and may not take marten in FMZ 3.**

Indian Fur Management Licence

This licence authorizes Indians to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals within the boundaries of the Indian Reserve in which they live. These licences may be obtained from Band Administration Offices.

Métis Fur Management Licence

This licence authorizes Métis Settlement members to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals within the boundaries of the Métis Settlement in which they live. These licences may be obtained from Métis Settlement Supervisors.

Trapper Education

Where there is enough interest to justify the program, Standard Trapping and Conservation courses are held at various locations throughout Alberta during the fall and winter. In these courses, lasting a total of 28 to 30 hours, participants receive information on humane trapping techniques, fur management regulations, fur handling and marketing. Expert fur handlers provide instruction on fur quality and grading.

Registration is limited to a maximum of 20 people, and the registration fee is payable in advance. Registrants receive a course manual and a variety of relevant brochures.

Information on program locations may be obtained from the Alberta Trappers' Association, Box 6020, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2P7, phone 780-349-6626, fax 780-349-6634 or www.albertatrappers.com.

When courses are not available, potential first-time licence holders may purchase the Alberta Trapper Education Manual to prepare themselves for writing the required examination. These manuals are available at the Alberta Trappers' Association office.

In order to advance trapper competency standards in Alberta, first time trappers will no longer be able to qualify for a trapping licence through writing the Trapper Challenge Exam. Beginning with the 2015/2016 trapping season, the Trapper Challenge Exam will be discontinued and first time trappers must successfully complete the Alberta Trapper Education Course.

If you are interested in taking the Alberta Trapper Education Course, contact the Alberta Trappers' Association office in Westlock at (780) 349-6626.

Mandatory Requirements for First-time Trappers

A “first-time trapper” is a person who has:

- 1) never before held a licence in Alberta or elsewhere that authorized the trapping of fur-bearing animals, or
- 2) not completed a fur management course.

Before obtaining any fur management licence, first-time trappers must either:

- pass a test which deals with humane trapping and fur management, or
- complete a Trapper Education course.

Appointments to write tests may be made at Fish and Wildlife offices (see page 6). Testing times vary with each office.

Licensing and Requirements

Trapping by Youths without a licence

Registered Fur Management Areas – trapping by children of licence holders

A resident under 18 years of age whose parent holds a registered fur management licence as a senior holder or as a partner may hunt or trap fur bearing animals in the RFMA where their parent holds the licence, subject to all applicable seasons, quotas and other restrictions.

Registered Fur Management Areas – trapping by other 12 to 17 year old youths

A person who is 12 to 17 years of age who has obtained permission from the senior holder of an RFMA and who has been authorized in writing by their parent or guardian may hunt or trap fur-bearing animals in the RFMA provided they do so under the senior holder's direct supervision. The trapping by the youth is subject to applicable seasons, quotas and other restrictions.

Resident Fur Management Licences – trapping by children of licence holders

A resident under 16 years of age whose parent holds a resident fur management licence may hunt or trap fur bearing animals on the lands where their parent is entitled to hunt or trap under that

licence, subject to all applicable seasons and other restrictions. Written permission to hunt or trap must be obtained on an "Authorization to hunt fur-bearing animals" (form WA 19A).

Resident and Indian Fur Management Licences – trapping by other 12 and 13 year olds

A person who is 12 or 13 years of age who has obtained permission from the holder of a resident fur management licence or an Indian fur management licence and who has been authorized in writing by their parent or guardian may hunt or trap fur-bearing animals on applicable lands, provided they do so under the licence holder's direct supervision. The trapping by the youth is subject to applicable seasons and other restrictions the same as the licence holder.



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Web Site: www.aheia.com

Licence Fees

All licences are subject to the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST), which has not been added to the fees listed in the table below. Please note requirements for first-time trappers on page 8.

Five dollars from each Registered Fur Management Licence funds the Alberta Trappers' Compensation Program. See page 27 for details.

Licence	Fee	Licence	Fee
Resident Fur Management Licence	\$20.00	6 Townships (more than 466 sq. km or 180 sq. mi.) add'l fee	\$40.00
Registered Fur Management Licence - Senior Holder	\$40.00	Indian Fur Management Licence	N/A
Registered Fur Management Partner Licence	\$20.00	Métis Fur Management Licence	N/A
3 Townships (189 to 260 sq. km or 73 to 108 Sq. mi) add'l fee	\$10.00	Damage Control	N/A
4 Townships (281 to 373 sq. km or 109 to 144 sq. mi) add'l fee	\$20.00	Class 1 Fur Dealer Permit	\$100.00
5 Townships (374 to 466 sq. km or 145 to 180 sq. mi) add'l fee	\$30.00	Class 2 Fur Dealer Permit	\$500.00
Maximum fee for Registered Fur Management Licence and Area is \$80.00 plus GST.			

Humane Trapping

Fur-bearing animals must be trapped using methods that are proven to avoid unnecessary pain and suffering. The manner in which animals are trapped is a concern of many Albertans, including trappers. Those who follow the Code for Responsible Trapping will help to ensure that the harvest of this resource is done in a way that is socially acceptable.

Code for Responsible Trapping

During trapping operations, trappers should:

- show compassion for the animals they capture;
- develop skills so that furs are properly prepared for market;
- know and practice proper releasing and killing methods;
- record all trap-set locations and captures of furbearers;
- dispose of animal carcasses properly; and
- report the presence of diseased animals to a district Fish and Wildlife office.

Trappers are encouraged to:

- make sets that are designed to capture only the intended species of furbearer;
- make only as many sets as they can manage effectively;
- anchor traps or snares securely to hold the largest animal that they may catch; and
- install a centre-mounted, swivelling, short chain (no longer than 30 cm, or 12 in., equipped with a shock absorber) for land foothold trap sets that are solidly anchored.

Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS)

The *Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards* (AIHTS) came into force in Canada on June 1, 1999. It is a binding agreement between the European Union (EU), Canada and Russia. The United States and the EU have signed a similar commitment, which unifies the North American wild fur market. Canada signed the AIHTS only after careful consultation with trappers, provincial and territorial governments and fur industry representatives. Alberta has agreed to implement the AIHTS standards. Implementation is an ongoing process, and trappers will be kept informed of any new developments.

The AIHTS:

- Allows for continuing export of wild fur products into the EU.
- Commits all parties to applying the AIHTS standards to all trapping, including commercial use.
- Supports further research and testing for the ongoing improvement of trapping devices.
- Provides for other elements such as product certification, trap certification and trapper education.
- Will allow for the use of jaw-type leg/foothold restraining traps in submersion sets for semi-aquatic fur-bearers.

- Allows for the use of design-approved snares.
- Allows for the use of traditional wooden dead-fall traps.
- Will allow for the use of cage or box traps on land for the listed fur-bearing species provided these devices meet the restraining trap standard by 2007.
- Prohibits the use of all jaw-type leg/foothold restraining traps (including padded traps) on land for badger, beaver, ermine, fisher, marten, muskrat and otter. Alberta adopted similar legislation for these species, and others before the AIHTS became effective.
- Prohibits the use of conventional steel-jawed leghold restraining traps on land for bobcat, coyote, lynx, raccoon and wolf.

It should be noted that the adequacy of trapping devices must be properly tested. The Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) has taken the lead role in this regard. Killing and restraining traps that have undergone testing and have met the AIHTS requirements and the certification status of these traps are outlined below and are also listed on the FIC web site: www.fur.ca/

Certified Traps - AIHTS Implementation

The Canadian Wildlife Directors, Competent Authorities for implementation of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), have approved a 2-phase process for implementing the AIHTS in Canada. The following lists show the two phases for regulating species-specific traps: (1) the **certified traps regulated for specific species**; (2) **certified traps that are not regulated at this time**. The traps listed by name have all been certified by a governing competent authority as meeting the requirements of the AIHTS for specific species.

Updated May 6, 2014. **New traps for 2014 marked in red**. For the most current list, please see www.fur.ca/certifiedtraps.php

Phase 1 – KILLING TRAPS - Certified Traps actually regulated for use per species:

KILLING TRAPS			
Species	Certified Traps Regulated For Use		
Beaver	Bélisle Classique 330 Bélisle Super X 280 Bélisle Super X 330 BMI 280 Body Gripper BMI 330 Body Gripper BMI BT 300 Bridger 330 Duke 330	LDL C280 LDL C280 Magnum LDL C330 LDL C330 Magnum Rudy 280 Rudy 330 Sauvageau 1000-11F Sauvageau 2001-8	Sauvageau 2001-11 Sauvageau 2001-12 Species Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum Species Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
Fisher	Bélisle Super X 120 Bélisle Super X 160 Bélisle Super X 220 Koro #2 LDL C160 Magnum	LDL C220 Magnum Rudy 120 Magnum Rudy 160 Plus Rudy 220 Plus	Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau 2001-6 Sauvageau 2001-7 Sauvageau 2001-8
Marten	Bélisle Super X 120 Bélisle Super X 160 BMI 126 Magnum Body Gripper Koro #1	LDL B120 Magnum LDL C160 Magnum Northwoods 155 Rudy 120 Magnum	Rudy 160 Plus Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau 2001-6
Raccoon	Bélisle Classique 220 Bélisle Super X 160 Bélisle Super X 220 Bélisle Super X 280 BMI 160 Body Gripper BMI 220 Body Gripper BMI 280 Body Gripper BMI 280 Magnum Body Gripper Bridger 160 Bridger 220	Duke 160 Duke 220 Koro #2 LDL C160 LDL C160 Magnum LDL C220 LDL C220 Magnum LDL C280 Magnum Northwoods 155 Rudy 160	Rudy 160 Plus Rudy 220 Rudy 220 Plus Sauvageau 2001-6 Sauvageau 2001-7 Sauvageau 2001-8 Species Specific 220 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 160 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220
Muskrat (On Land)	Bélisle Super X 110 Bélisle Super X 120 BMI 120 Body Gripper BMI 120 Magnum Body Gripper BMI 126 Magnum Body Gripper Bridger 120 Duke 120	Koro Muskrat Trap LDL B120 LDL B120 Magnum Ouell 411-180 Ouell RM Rudy 110 Rudy 120	Rudy 120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau C120 "Reverse Bend" Triple M Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120
Muskrat (Underwater)	Any jaw type trap (body gripping or leghold) set as a submersion set that exerts clamping force on a muskrat and that maintains a muskrat underwater.		

Phase 1 – RESTRAINING TRAPS - Certified Traps actually regulated for use per species:

RESTRAINING TRAPS			
Species	Certified Traps Regulated For Use		
Canada Lynx	Bélisle Footsnare #6 Bélisle Sélectif	Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs Oneida Victor #3 equipped with 8mm thick, non-offset steel jaws, 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on a base plate	

Phase 2. YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE DETERMINED

The following certified killing traps for Canada Lynx and Weasel will become mandatory in fall of 2015. Those for Otter will become mandatory in fall 2016.

KILLING TRAPS - Traps certified per species but <u>not yet</u> mandatory:			
Species	Traps Certified But Not Yet Mandatory		
Bobcat	NO TRAPS YET CERTIFIED		
Canada Lynx	Bélisle Super X 280 Bélisle Super X 330 BMI 220 Body Gripper BMI 220 Magnum Body Gripper BMI 280 Body Gripper	BMI 280 Magnum Body Gripper Bridger 220 LDL C220 LDL C220 Magnum LDL C280 Magnum	Rudy 330 Sauvageau 2001-8 Sauvageau 2001-11 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
Otter	Bélisle Super X 220 Bélisle Super X 280 Bélisle Super X 330 LDL C220 LDL C220 Magnum	LDL C280 Magnum Rudy 220 Plus Rudy 280 Rudy 330 Sauvageau 2001-8	Sauvageau 2001-11 Sauvageau 2001-12 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
Weasel	Bélisle Super X 110 Bélisle Super X 120 BMI #60 BMI 120 Magnum Body Gripper BMI 126 Magnum Body Gripper Bridger 120 Koro Muskrat Trap	Koro Rodent Trap LDL B120 Magnum Ouell 3-10 Ouell 411-180 Ouell RM Rudy 120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5	Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau C120 Reverse Bend Triple M Victor Rat Trap Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120

RESTRAINING TRAPS - Traps certified per species but <u>not yet</u> mandatory:			
Species	Traps Certified But Not Yet Mandatory		
Bobcat	Bélisle Footsnare #6 Bélisle Sélectif	Oneida Victor #1.5 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs Oneida Victor #1.75, Offset, Laminated Jaws equipped with 2 coil springs Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs Oneida Victor #3, Offset, Laminated Jaws equipped with 2 coil springs	
Coyote	Bélisle Footsnare #6	Bélisle Sélectif	
	Bridger #3 equipped with 5/16-inch offset, doubled rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4-inch on underside of jaws), with 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on a base plate.		
	Oneida Victor #1.5 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs Oneida Victor #1.5 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs		
	Oneida Victor #1.75 equipped with 3/16-inch offset, double rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4 inch on underside of jaws), with 4 coil springs		
	Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs		
	Oneida Victor #3 equipped with 3/16-inch offset, double rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4-inch on underside of jaws), with 2 coil springs		
	Oneida Victor #3 equipped with 3/16-inch offset, double rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4-inch on underside of jaws), and with 4 coil springs		
Raccoon	Duffer Duke DP Coon Trap	Egg Trap Lil' Grizz Get'rz	
	Cage and Box Traps Havahart Cage Trap 1079 Havahart Cage Trap 1081 Havahart Cage Trap 1085	Cage and Box Traps Ramconct Dura-Poly Box Trap Tomahawk Cage Trap 108 Tomahawk Cage Trap 108.5	Cage and Box Traps Tomahawk Cage Trap 608 Tomahawk Cage Trap 608.5
Wolf	Bélisle Footsnare #8 Bridger Alaskan #5 Offset and Laminated Jaws Bridger Alaskan #5 Rubber Jaws Livestock Protection EZ Grip No.7 MB 750 Alaskan OS (3/8")	Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs, a minimum 8mm thick base plate and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on the base plate Rudy Red Wolf 4 1/2	

Regulatory Requirements for the Use of trapping Devices

- Foothold traps with toothed jaws or an inside jaw-spread of 23 cm (9 in.) or more may not be used to trap fur-bearing animals.
- Foothold traps that are not set as killing devices may not be used in trees or on poles.
- Foothold traps, that are not set as killing devices, may not be used to harvest furbearers other than bobcat, coyote, fox, lynx or wolf. Other fur-bearing species must be taken in a killing device or in a live-trap set to capture the animal by holding it in a container (see pages 10-13).
- Foothold traps that may be used for trapping bobcat, coyote, fox, lynx or wolf include traps manufactured or modified to have one or more of the following features: (i) Laminated jaws – 2 steel parallel jaws that are at least 8 mm thick, (ii) Offset jaws – jaws that do not touch over their full length when closed on each other, or (iii) Padded jaws – jaws designed or modified to prevent any metallic surface from contacting the animal.
- Traps that are not killing devices must be checked at least once every 48 hours if set under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence, or at least once every 24 hours if set under the authority of a Resident Fur Management Licence.
- Snare devices, including neck snares, power snares and foot snares, may only be set for the taking of fur-bearing animals under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence or — by holders of Resident Fur Management Licences for bobcat, coyote, fox, squirrel or wolf (provided they meet the requirements listed in this section) and for beaver (provided the snare loop is completely under water).
 - by residents for rabbit or hare on lands to which they have right-of-access (provided the snare wire is not larger than 20-gauge and the snare loop is not more than 13 cm (5 in.) in diameter).
- Slide-wire sets must be equipped with a lock. The slide-wires and weight must be properly anchored, and set in water that is deep enough to ensure that the largest animal that may be captured will be totally submerged.
- Neck snares must be equipped with a locking device that is designed and set to prevent the snare loop from loosening again after it has tightened on the neck of the fur-bearing animal, except when:
 - made of a single strand of wire, set to capture squirrel, rabbit or hare.

It should be noted that raccoon and skunk are classed as non-licence animals and may be hunted or trapped (see page 21 for these provisions). Traps meeting requirements of the *Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards* for raccoon are outlined on page 10.

Additional Regulations

No one may remove, damage, spring or in any way interfere with traps set by another person for the taking of fur-bearing animals. (Exception: Holders of Registered Fur Management Licences may remove traps or snares found within the limits of their trapping areas if they are set unlawfully. Any such removal must be reported immediately to a Fish and Wildlife officer.)

It is unlawful to:

- use traps that do not meet the requirements of the AIHTS;
- use a poison or drug for taking a fur-bearing animal, except as authorized by the *Agricultural Pest Act*;
- use sharp hooks or similar devices to capture furbearers; or
- trap in a wildlife sanctuary. Please refer to the map for locations of these sanctuaries. Some exceptions exist for Registered Fur

Management Areas — RFMAs, (for further information, contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office - see page 6);

- harvest fur-bearing animals within 100 metres of Highway 1A in WMU 410, except with the use of traps.
- carry a weapon on an off-highway vehicle, between one hour before sunrise and the following noon, during an open season for big game in WMUs 102 – 166, 200 – 260, 300 – 351, 354 – 360, 400 – 446, 507, 508, 514, 521, 522, 526 and 841, (see current Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations). This prohibition does not apply to persons hunting on privately owned lands, and it does not apply to those trapping under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence or a Resident Fur Management Licence.

Natural Areas and Ecological Reserves

In Alberta, special parcels of public land, such as natural areas and ecological reserves, have been set aside for conservation purposes. Trapping is prohibited within ecological reserves. For information about ecological reserves and natural areas, contact Parks and Protected Areas Division, Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture in Edmonton at 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582).


Fur Handlers

A person may skin and prepare another person's furs for market, provided the handler maintains on premises records for inspection purposes. These records no longer have to be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch. If you have specific questions contact a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6).



Alberta
Government

Fur Management Zones

-  Fur Management Zones
-  Roads
-  Cities
-  Wildlife Management Units

Furbearer Seasons

The following table lists the seasons in each Fur Management Zone (see enclosed map).

O – October • N – November • D – December • J – January • F – February • M – March • Ap – April • Ma – May

Species	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
Badger	CLOSED	CLOSED	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - M31
Beaver	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma31	O15 - Ma15	O15 - Ap30	O15 - Ap30
Bobcat	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	D1 - J31	CLOSED	N1 - F28
Coyote	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28 ³	O1 - F28 ³	O1 - F28 ³	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
Fisher	N1 - J31 ^{2,4}	N1 - J31 ^{2,4}	N1 - J31 ²	N1 - J31 ²	N1 - J31 ²	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Fox	O1 - J31 ⁴	O1 - J31 ⁴	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
Lynx	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	CLOSED	CLOSED
Marten	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31 ²	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	CLOSED	CLOSED
Mink	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31
Muskrat	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O15 - Ma15	O15 - Ap30	O15 - Ap30
Otter	D1 - Ma15 ¹	D1 - Ma15 ¹	D1 - Ma15 ¹	D1 - Ma15 ^{1,6}	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Squirrel	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28
Weasel	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28 ⁵	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N15 - F14 ⁵	N15 - F14 ⁵
Wolf	O1 - M31	O1 - M31	O1 - M31	O1 - M31 ³	O1 - M31 ³	O1 - F28 ^{3,7}	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
Wolverine	N1 - J31 ^{1,4}	N1 - J31 ^{1,4}	N1 - J31 ¹	N1 - J31 ¹	N1 - J31 ¹	N1 - J31 ¹	CLOSED	CLOSED

- 1 This season is provided only for those who are authorized under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence.
- 2 This season is provided only for those who are authorized under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence, Indian Fur Management Licence or Métis Fur Management Licence issued under the Métis Settlements Act.
- 3 Seasonal Snaring Restriction: In order to reduce the potential for accidental harvest of Grizzly Bears, seasonal snaring restrictions will apply for Fur Management Zones 4, 5 and 6. **For the period October 01 through November 30, the use of snares is ONLY ALLOWED in the following WMUs of Fur Management Zones 4, 5 and 6 (WMUs 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348, 360, 410, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 507, 508 and 521).**
- 4 Season extended to February 15, 2015, in WMUs 524, 532, 534, 536, and 539.
- 5 Weasel may not be harvested in that part of the province described as ranges 1 – 5, west of the 4th meridian, from the international boundary to the north boundary of township 63. This does not apply to Indian Reserves and Métis Settlements set aside under the *Métis Settlements Act*, which fall within the area described.
- 6 This season applies only to WMUs 330, 336 to 360, 507, 508 and 521.
- 7 This season does not apply in WMUs 314, 316, 318, 410, 412, 414, 416, 417 and 418. The season for wolves in these WMUs is from October 1 to March 31.

Black Bear Seasons and Baiting

Six black bear may be hunted but not trapped in each Registered Fur Management Area north of the Red Deer River during the open season for black bear. Registered trappers who are permitted to hunt black bear on their RFMA may use bait for that purpose in the following WMUs: 322, 330 – 338, 348, 358 – 360, 500 – 507, 509, 510, 512 – 520, 522, 523, 529 – 536, 539 – 544 and portions of 320, 324, 357, 521, 526 and 528. Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi) of occupied dwellings (owners or occupants of dwellings are exempted from this restriction if they have permission

to bait from the owner or occupant of all other dwellings within 1.6 km of the bait), provincial parks, provincial and forest recreation areas and some industrial sites. Each bait site must have a readily observable sign legibly showing the owner's name or Registered Fur Management Area number. Furthermore, each bait must be posted with surrounding signs to warn other people of its presence. Also, baiting is restricted to the open season and preceding 2 weeks in each specific WMU. See the current **Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations**.

Primeness of Pelts

Furs that are at their peak in quality (their prime) offer trappers the greatest financial return. Successful trappers concentrate their efforts so that they collect most of their furs when pelts are in their prime.

The pelt of a fur-bearing animal is in its prime when the underfur is dense, deep and well covered by the longer guard hair. The leather side should be clear and white or slightly blue, and pliable. Each species reaches its prime during certain periods in the season. The grey shading in the following table shows the approximate time of the year when each species is in its prime.

Species	November	December	January	February	March	April
Badger						
Beaver						
Bobcat						
Coyote						
Fisher						
Fox (Red/Arctic)						
Canada Lynx						
Marten						
Mink						
Muskrat						
River Otter						
Squirrel						
Weasel (Ermine)						
Wolf						
Wolverine						



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The artwork is a detail from Near Journey's End Paul Calle is courtesy of the artist & art publisher Mill Pond Press.

SALE DATES

2015

LAST RECEIVING DATES	SALE DATES
December 15, 2014 January 19, 2015 April 20, 2015 June 15, 2015	January 27 to February 2, 2015 March 28 to April 3, 2015 June 28 to July 3, 2015 September 1 to 3, 2015

ALBERTA RECEIVING DEPOTS

Trapper Gord HWY # 43 Debolt, AB T0H 1B0 Tel: 780-957-3731	c/o Alberta Trappers Association HWY 44 South, Industrial Park Lot 14, Box 6020 Westlock, AB T7P 2P7 Tel: 780-349-6626 Email: info@albertatrappers.com	c/o The North West Co. (Brian Finlayson) Storage Bay # 6 3618 - 49th St. Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 2Y5 Tel: 780-361-5591 Cell: 780-518-5132
c/o Marty & Marilyn Senneker Box 58 Hays, AB T0K 1B0 Tel: 403-725-2283 Fax: 403-725-2299 Email: coyklr@hotmail.com	c/o Halford Hide & Leather Co. Ltd 8629 126 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5B 1G8 Tel: 1-800-353-7864 Email: order@halfordhide.com	

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Limits

The various species of furbearers differ in abundance, distribution and opportunity to harvest. Registered Fur Management Areas (RFMAs) also vary in size. To allow trappers a greater opportunity to manage furbearers, varied limits exist.

Limits for fisher, lynx and otter within each RFMA have been linked to the size of the trapping area. A basic quota for these species will apply for all RFMAs up to two townships in size. Additional increments will be added for additional townships (or parts of a township).

These increments vary according to WMU, (please note: the higher limit applies when an RFMA falls into WMUs having different limits). The following table lists the limits and increments applicable to RFMAs lying in the designated FMZs or WMUs (see map).

Registered Fur Management Area Limits

Zones	Fisher		Canada Lynx		River Otter		Wolverine
	Basic Limit	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Limit	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Limit	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Limit
Zone 1 WMU 511, 512, 516-519, 529	10	3	10	4	10	3	1
WMU 530-532	10	3	10	5	8	2	1
Zone 2 WMU 357-359, 522-527, 534-537, 539	10	4	12	5	2	1	1
WMU 520, 528, 540-542, 544	10	4	12	5	6	3	1
Zone 3	6	4	4	2	10	3	1
Zone 4 WMU 320-328, 332, 334, 429	3	1	5	2	0	0	1
WMU 330, 336-342, 348, 507, 508	3	1	5	2	1	0	1
WMU 344, 346, 347, 352	3	1	5	2	2	1	1
WMU 349, 353-356, 360, 521	10	4	6	3	2	1	1
WMU 350, 351	10	4	6	3	2	1	1
Zone 5	1	1	4	2	0	0	1
Zone 6	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
Zone 7 & 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Increase for each Township (Twp), or part of it, in excess of two Townships.

Mandatory Registration

If fisher, lynx, otter or wolverine are killed during an open season they must be registered within 30 days of the close of that season. If they are killed outside of an open season they must be registered within 30 days of the kill. In all cases they must be registered before being sold, processed or exported.

To register fur-bearing animals the trapper must take the pelt in to a Fish and Wildlife office or another approved location.

All wolves taken in any of WMUs 300 – 318, 324 – 330, 339 or 400 – 434 under any authority must be registered within 30 days after the date of harvest.

All bobcat taken under any authority must be registered before the skin is sold, processed or exported from Alberta or within 30 days after the date of harvest.

Registration is a way of recording information about the harvest of furbearers. This information helps fur managers set seasons and quotas for following years. Registration provides information such as:

- the size and number of males, females and juvenile animals captured;
- the time of the season they were caught; and
- where they were caught.

Trappers benefit from the mandatory registration requirement because it allows for appropriate changes in quotas and seasons. Accurate data prevents the overharvest of sensitive species of furbearers, ensuring a viable resource for the future.

Fisher Head and Wolverine Carcass Collection Program

Mandatory registration of certain pelts of furbearers provides valuable information to wildlife managers. However, there is a need for additional biological information on **fisher and wolverine** to determine the age structure, reproductive capability and general health of these populations.

Fish and Wildlife offices (see page 6) will issue a direct payment of \$5.00 to trappers for each fisher head and wolverine carcass submitted. Each item should be individually labelled with the date of harvest, the trapper's name, and the RFMA number.

In order to provide the greatest benefit, carcasses must be submitted by March 10 of each year. Your participation in these programs is encouraged and appreciated. The information trappers provide allows quotas to be more accurately set, thus ensuring sustainability of the resource.

During the 2013-14 trapping season, trappers continued to support

the ongoing monitoring of the fisher population through fisher carcass collection. The fisher carcass collection program resulted in the analysis of 477 carcasses from across the province. The fisher carcasses submitted represents approximately 30% of the fishers harvested from this past trapping season.

From the samples submitted there were 111 adult females, 115 adult males, 143 juvenile females and 108 juvenile males. The 2013-14 season yielded a juvenile to adult female ratio of 2.3:1. This ratio indicates a lower reproduction rate than the target of 3:1, juveniles to adult females.

The continued support of Alberta trappers is essential so that a meaningful analysis can be completed annually for the provincial fisher population, ensuring the continuation of the resource for future years.

Sale of Wildlife

In Alberta anyone may sell the following:

- processed (tanned or otherwise permanently preserved, but not dried, salted or frozen) skins of fur-bearing animals;
- black bear skins, provided they have been taken lawfully (black bear claws may only be sold if they remain attached to the whole skin);
- the skins of most animals, including skunk and raccoon, for which a licence is not required;
- skinned beaver carcasses including the tail; or
- the claws, skulls and teeth of lawfully taken furbearing animals.

Sale of Pelts and Parts

No pelt of any fur-bearing animal, except one taken according to the regulations listed under Control of Problem Wildlife (page 21), may be wasted, destroyed or spoiled. No raw skins of fur-bearing

animals may be sold to anyone who is not a fur dealer. Anyone in legal possession of a beaver may sell the skinned carcass of the beaver to use as bait or animal food. Except as noted under Exporting (page 19), it is unlawful to export from Alberta all, or any part of, the skin or pelt of a fur-bearing animal, without first obtaining a provincial Export Permit.

The claws, skulls and teeth of lawfully taken fur-bearing animals may be sold without restriction (note that black bears are not included as they are big game animals). These parts of fur-bearing animals may also be exported without a provincial export permit (note that Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna — CITES permits are required for exporting any part of a wolf, lynx, bobcat or otter across an international boundary).

Exporting

With some exceptions noted below, those wishing to export fur-bearing animals from Alberta must have a provincial export permit. These permits may be obtained from any Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6).

Persons exporting wolf, lynx, bobcat, otter or black bear products out of Canada must also obtain a federal export permit issued according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Information about CITES permits may be obtained at Environment Canada offices in Edmonton (780-951-8891) or Calgary (403-292-4103).

The following products* may be exported **without a provincial** export permit:

- beaver castor,
- beaver oil glands, claws, skulls and teeth of fur-bearing animals, and
- processed (tanned or otherwise permanently preserved, but not dried, salted or frozen) skins of fur-bearing animals.
- coyote skins lawfully possessed.

*The above products must have been harvested under a lawful authority in Alberta or elsewhere.

(**Note:** Black bear are classified as big game, not as fur-bearing animals. Most black bears taken from an RFMA require provincial export permits. For more information on export conditions for black bear, please contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office [see page 6]. CITES permits are still required for exporting any part of a black bear, wolf, lynx, bobcat or otter across an international boundary.)

*Persons exporting fur directly to the European Union without using the services of Canadian fur auction houses, should be aware that special documents may be required. Please contact the receiving jurisdiction for applicable information.

Commercial Export of Wildlife to the United States

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) regulates commercial shipments of wildlife that enter or leave the U.S. In particular, taxidermists, trappers and outfitter-guides may experience difficulties transporting wildlife to the U.S. unless such businesses are licenced with the US FWS for transporting commercial shipments of wildlife across the U.S. border. For more information, contact the US FWS at 1-800-344-9453 or view information at: www.fws.gov/

Furbearer Management Registration Information

2009-2014 Annual Fur Production and 5-Year Average Based on Export Permits

Species	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	5-Year Average
Badger	172	358	362	644	391	385
Beaver	10,618	9,743	14,079	10,585	12,088	11,423
Bobcat	21	14	27	22	29	23
Coyote	14,401	14,970	35,050	29,326	33,364	25,422
Fisher	1,271	1,251	2,095	1,391	1,772	1,556
Fox	966	938	1,940	1,807	1,836	1,497
Canada Lynx	1,346	1,491	2,486	1,930	2,093	1,869
Marten	9,485	9,402	12,883	9,627	11,505	10,580
Mink	591	564	613	475	560	561
Muskrat	9,283	6,411	15,453	18,757	41,632	18,307
River Otter	265	284	316	266	269	280
Raccoon	83	85	216	179	221	157
Skunk	31	14	75	24	32	35
Squirrel	19,058	9,601	24,175	5,704	13,555	14,419
Weasel (Ermine)	3,243	3,822	4,132	3,613	4,486	3,859
Wolf	360	430	586	574	598	510
Wolverine	51	54	41	46	75	53

Fur Production Based on Export Permits

Species	2013/2014 Season			2012/2013 Season			% Change		
	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value
Badger	391	\$30.71	\$12,008	644	\$30.40	\$19,578	-39%	1%	-39%
Beaver	12,088	\$19.07	\$230,518	10,585	\$31.81	\$336,709	17%	-40%	-32%
Bobcat	29	\$334.82	\$9,710	22	\$399.00	\$8,778	32%	-16%	11%
Coyote	33,364	\$77.22	\$2,576,368	29,326	\$76.00	\$2,228,776	14%	2%	16%
Fisher	1,772	\$122.07	\$216,308	1,391	\$161.50	\$224,647	27%	-24%	-4%
Fox	1,836	\$36.52	\$67,051	1,807	\$64.08	\$115,793	2%	-43%	-42%
Lynx	2,093	\$155.92	\$326,341	1,930	\$217.16	\$419,119	8%	-28%	-22%
Marten	11,505	\$78.16	\$899,231	9,627	\$150.00	\$1,444,050	20%	-48%	-38%
Mink	560	\$22.83	\$12,785	475	\$32.20	\$12,295	18%	-29%	-16%
Muskrat	41,632	\$9.37	\$390,092	18,757	\$10.40	\$195,073	122%	-10%	100%
Otter	269	\$70.68	\$19,013	266	\$117.73	\$31,316	1%	-40%	-39%
Raccoon	221	\$15.43	\$3,410	179	\$21.41	\$3,832	23%	-28%	-11%
Skunk	32	\$6.58	\$211	24	\$10.37	\$249	33%	-37%	-15%
Squirrel	13,555	\$0.92	\$12,471	5,704	\$1.09	\$6,217	138%	-16%	101%
Weasel	4,486	\$3.35	\$15,028	3,613	\$2.84	\$10,261	24%	18%	46%
Wolf	598	\$144.31	\$86,297	574	\$155.40	\$89,200	4%	-7%	-3%
Wolverine	75	\$264.70	\$19,853	46	\$238.33	\$10,963	63%	11%	81%
Total Fur Value			\$4,896,692			\$5,159,855			-5%

Trapper Statistics 2013/14

Registered Licences	1542
Partner Licences	1166
Resident Licences	1191
Registered Fur Management Areas	1632



Trapping and Cougar Management

In recent years, the number of cougars accidentally killed by trappers in Alberta has increased. Cougars are carefully managed as a hunted game animal in Alberta, and no trapping season exists. In areas where incidental mortality of cougars is high, hunting quotas for cougars may need to be reduced to prevent population declines. As important stewards of Alberta's wildlife resources, trappers should take precautions to limit the number of cougars and other non-target species that are accidentally captured.

Most cougars are captured in snares set for wolves or coyotes, or in large conibears set for lynx, bobcats, or wolverines. Cougars are not trap-shy and are much more easily captured than wary species such as wolves. Therefore, trappers should take steps to reduce the chance that a cougar will find their traps. Avoid placing snares or large conibears in areas where ungulates are wintering. When possible, place your sets in open areas where cougars will feel uncomfortable. Keep snares and traps well away (>200 m) from

bait; use canid-specific gland lures, urine, and scats to lure wolves and coyotes to your sets. If you see cougar tracks near your sets, close the snares or pull the traps until the cougar has moved on. Consider moving your sets to a new area if you're seeing regular cougar activity. By taking these few simple precautions, trappers can reduce the chance that they will accidentally catch a cougar, leaving more of these animals for enjoyment by all Albertans. For more information on cougars and cougar management in Alberta, download the Management Plan for Cougars in Alberta at: esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife.

Reminder: All cougar harvests (even accidental) must be registered at a Fish and Wildlife office immediately!

Accurate harvest information helps in managing the furbearer resource, and ultimately benefits the trapping industry. Your full cooperation is both required and appreciated.

Control of Problem Wildlife

Regulations allow landholders (residents only) to take immediate action to control some problem wildlife. The following privileges are beyond those permitted under fur management licences during the seasons set out on page 15.

Please contact your district Fish and Wildlife office when furbearers other than the species shown in this section are destroying property. A damage control licence may be necessary.

Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act* specifies that no person shall hunt wildlife or discharge firearms on or over occupied lands, or enter on such lands for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant.

Beaver may be hunted and trapped, without a licence and during all seasons, on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with written permission from the owner or occupant of the land.

Wolf¹ may be hunted (but not trapped) without a licence during all seasons, as follows:

- on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with permission from the owner or occupant.
- on public land by a person authorized to keep livestock on that land, or by a resident who has written permission from that authorized person.

The above authorities to hunt wolves extend to lands within 8 km (5 mi.) of the land described above, provided the authorized person or resident has right of access.

Coyotes¹ may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence, at all times of the year throughout the province:

- a) by a resident who has right of access to hunt on lands that are not public lands within the Green Area;
- b) by the owner or occupant of privately owned land, on the privately owned land;
- c) by a person maintaining livestock on public land, on that public land; or

d) *on lands described in c) that are in the Green Area, by a resident who is authorized in writing by the person described in c).

* These pelts must be salvaged.

¹ For further information and other seasons regarding the hunting of wolf and coyote, including the use of bait for hunting wolf and coyote, please refer to the current *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*.

Red fox may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

Badger and Red Squirrel may be hunted or trapped, without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

Skunk and raccoon may be hunted or trapped during all seasons by the owner or occupant of land, or by a person authorized by the owner or occupant, or by the holder of a licence authorizing the trapping of fur-bearing animals.

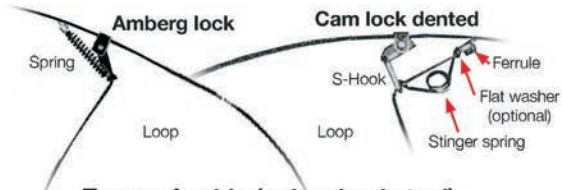
Rabbit or hare may be hunted (but not trapped), throughout the province, at any time of year, without a licence on land which the person has the right of access for hunting. A resident may use snares to take rabbit or hare, provided the snare meets the requirements set out on page 13.

Bobcat may be hunted (but not trapped) by a resident on land which the resident has the right of access for hunting in WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118 and 119 and that part of WMU 110 east of Highway No. 2 and south of Highway No. 3 from November 1 to February 28.

Best Trapping Practices

The illustrations and data provided below were inspired from the results of the trap testing completed through the work of the Trap Research and Development Committee of the Fur Institute of Canada. They are intended as general guidelines for trap users.

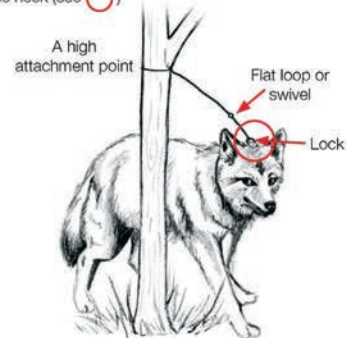
GENERAL INFORMATION – KILLING NECK SNARES



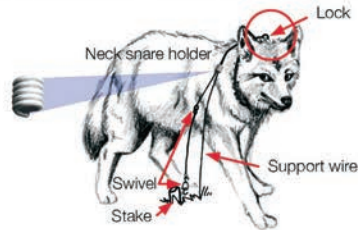
Types of cable (galvanized steel)

Target species	Diameter (inches)	Construction	Breaking point (lbs)
Lynx/Bobcat + Fox/Coyote	1/16	1 x 19 7 x 7	500 480
Coyote/Fox	5/64 5/64	1 x 19 7 x 7	800 650
Wolf	3/32 3/32	1 x 19 7 x 7	1 200 920

- Always tie off the snare for the largest possible animal you may catch
- To enable the neck snare to close behind the ears and a proper positioning of the lock on the dorsal part of the neck (see ○)



- Use of a neck snare holder (whammy) to provide a sufficient "temporary" resistance



Improving construction

S-Hook (To avoid cervidae captures + provide better lock sliding movement)

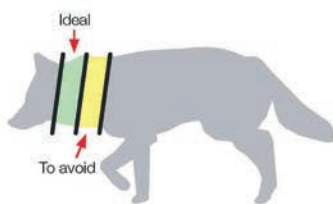


Ferrule
Flat washer



SETTING PRINCIPLES – KILLING NECK SNARES

Striking areas (Canidae + Felidae)

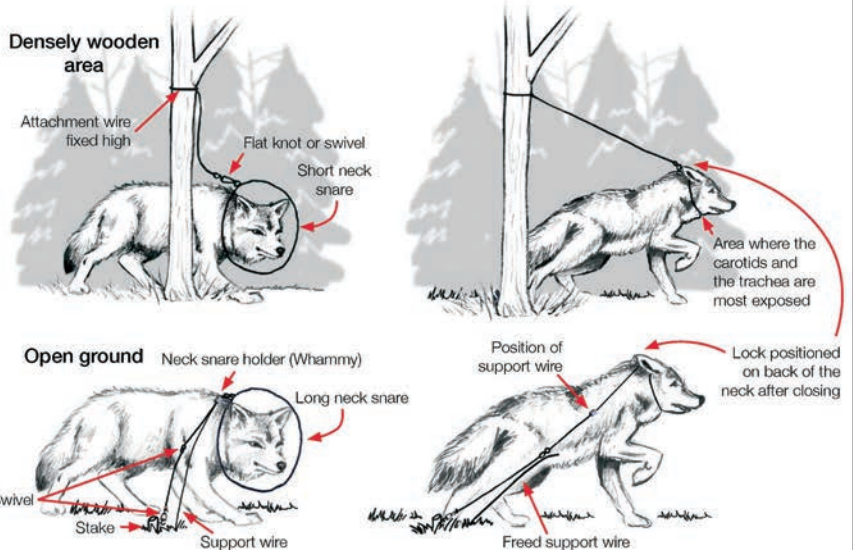


Loop diameters and heights

Species	A	B
Fox	18 cm (7")	18 cm (7")
Bobcat	20,5 cm (8")	20,5 cm (8")
Lynx	20,5 cm (8")	30,5 cm (12")
Coyote	25 cm (10")	25 cm (10")
Wolf	35 cm (14")	35 cm (14")
Wolf (Northern)	40,5 cm (16")	45,5 cm (18")



Snare set sites and attachment points



N.B. On top of these considerations, in order to ensure a rapid loss of unconsciousness and death, killing neck snares must be properly constructed: efficient locks equipped with compression spring, smallest possible cable wire diameter for the target species. The assembly must produce the best possible mobility (S-Hook) and efficiency of the sliding lock (Senneker trigger, Power snare).

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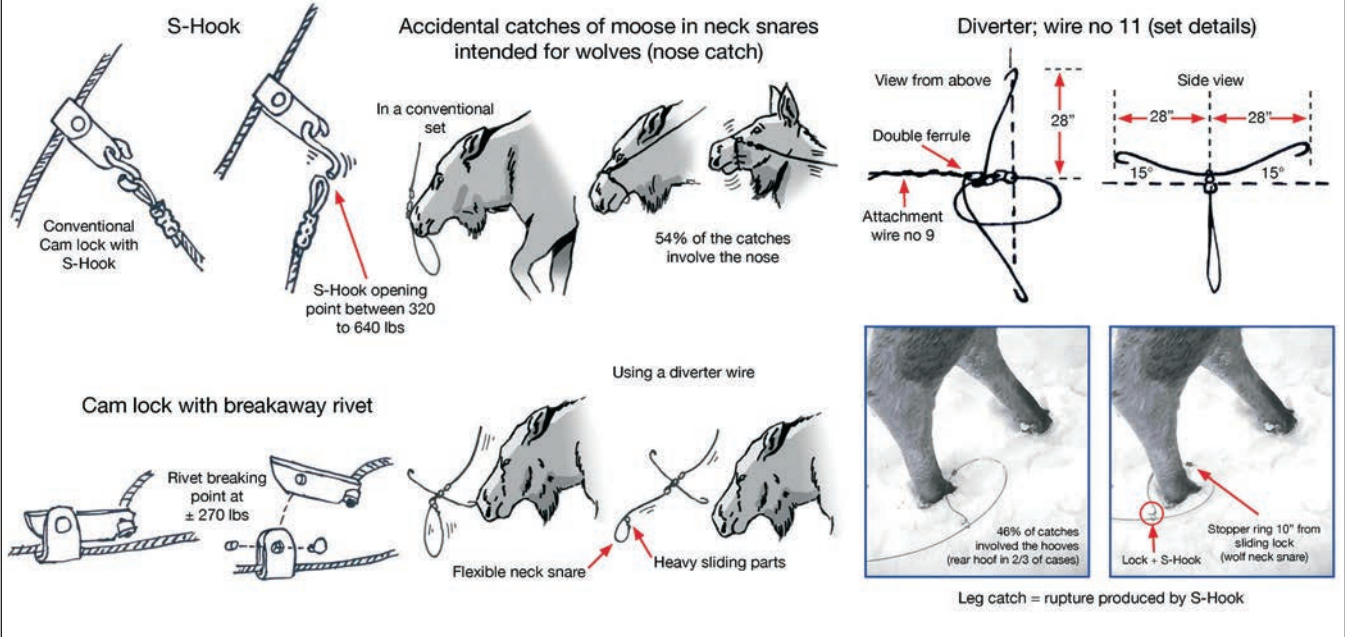


Best Trapping Practices

continued from previous page

ACCIDENTAL CATCHES (cervidae, cattle, sheep)

To avoid capture and retention of cervidae, cattle and sheep, killing neck snares must be constructed and set the proper way.



ACCIDENTAL CATCHES (eagles and birds of prey)

Problems

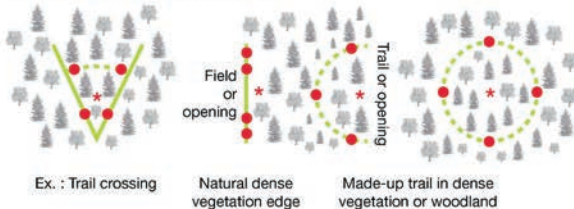
- Trapping period = critical period for migration
- Solution :



Use of trail sets (no bait)

AND / OR

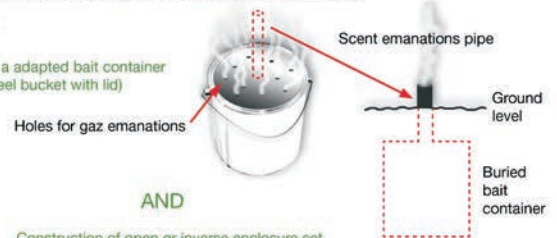
Use of snare sets with scent lure and very small size hidden baits (1 lb/0,5 kg) hidden inside a bait container (plastic tube with holes and lid). Ensure that the bait can't be released from container.



LEGEND : * Attractant : (lure) + (small size bait hidden close to the ground in a bait container)
● Position of neck snares ⊗ Buried bait container - - - Hand made trail — Existing trail or dense vegetation edge

- Canid enclosure set: High risk trapping technique
- Solution :

Solution = Use of a adapted bait container (eg. Steel bucket with lid)



AND

Construction of open or inverse enclosure set



N.B. : the open surface must allow the birds of prey to easily land and take off close to the bait (if exposed to their sight)



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The Association

The Alberta Trappers Association is your advocate to government, the public and other industries in all matters concerning Alberta's fur resource. Join us and be part of the dynamic fur industry and have a voice in the future of wild fur in Alberta and abroad. For an annual fee of \$35, you will automatically receive the Alberta Trapper magazine (quarterly), which is full of trapping tips, stories and articles that speak to the issues of most concern to trappers. Membership also offers access to a host of events in the trapping community.

Services

Visit our Store in Westlock for a wide selection of traps, trapping tools, lures, snares, tanning, fur goods, shirts, T-shirts, manuals, knives, etc., plus our fur shipping depot with shipping service to auctions at NAFA and Fur Harvesters.

Trapper Education

We offer the most complete, up-to-date trapping manual in Canada and it is now available at the Alberta Trappers Association retail outlet in Westlock. We offer a full range of courses and workshops.

Obtaining Your Trappers Licence

Certified Trapper Education courses are available throughout the province during the course of the year, please see our website for an up-to-date list or contact us.

Trapper Compensation

The association administers the Trappers Compensation Program on behalf of all stakeholders, a system designed to be your backstop where conflicting interests need an independent voice.

For more information, call 780 349 6626 or www.albertatrappers.com

Box 6020 Stn Main Westlock AB T7P 2P7

Serving Alberta's Wild Fur Industry

Trapping in Protected Areas

In certain cases trapping is allowed within specific protected areas where this activity is not normally allowed. This may involve a Provincial Park or Recreation Area (or portions of such areas) that fall within an RFMA. If trapping is allowed in such an area individuals who wish to trap on those portions of the RFMA may be required to obtain a Firearms Carry and Discharge Permit from Alberta Parks. Please contact your local Alberta Parks Office to confirm if trapping is allowed in a protected area and if this permit is required.

Accidental Trapping

Trappers who accidentally take a fur-bearing animal during a closed season, after a quota has been filled or a species they are not licensed to trap, are required to deliver it to the nearest Fish and Wildlife office as soon as possible (see page 6). The trapper will be required to complete a statutory declaration and the pelt will be registered and tagged. Circumstances will determine whether the animal may be returned to the trapper for sale purposes. The animal does not have to be skinned.

Swift Fox has been reintroduced into Fur Management Zone 8,

and trappers are encouraged to take all reasonable care to prevent accidental capture, and to report any contact with this species. Injured swift fox should be immediately delivered to the nearest Fish and Wildlife office, or a qualified veterinarian for care.

Trappers who accidentally capture any wildlife that are not fur-bearing animals are reminded to report the incident as soon as practical to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Office. In addition, permission must first be obtained from an officer to use such an animal as bait.

Diseases

Diseases and parasites are normal parts of the life of a furbearer. Usually, they are not a problem either for the furbearer or for the person trapping an infected animal. Indeed, most parasites and diseases go completely unnoticed by trappers. However, there are situations where an animal may be infected with a disease that can be transferred to people. Such diseases are most often caused by bacteria and can be recognized readily by the presence of small white spots in the liver and spleen of an infected furbearer. Such

animals should be handled carefully (preferably with gloves on). Any person who handles wildlife and then has persistent "flu-like" symptoms or redness, swelling, heat or pain in hands or arms should contact a medical doctor. Remember to tell the doctor the person has handled wildlife. Carcasses from all furbearers suspected of being diseased should be submitted for examination to the nearest district Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6).

Community Relations

To foster and maintain good relations within their communities and to gain public support, trappers should:

- respect the rights and property of others;
- protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- help farmers and other landowners who are having problems with nuisance animals;

- encourage and support trapper education and public awareness programs;
- support trappers and other wildlife conservation organizations;
- support and cooperate with government wildlife agencies; and
- report illegal activities.



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Alberta Trappers Compensation Program

The Alberta Trappers' Compensation Program provides a framework to compensate operators (trappers) of Registered Fur Management Areas for trapping business losses related to industrial activity on Crown lands, and cabins lost to naturally caused forest fires.

A seven-member Board manages the program with members appointed from:

- Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA)
- Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA)
- Alberta Treaty Indian Trapping Community
- Alberta Métis Trapping Community
- ATCO Electric
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)
- Independent Chairman selected by the stakeholders

In 1997, stakeholders in the program agreed that the Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA) would administer the program that was established by the Alberta government in 1981. Industry and government jointly share funding. The role of the Board is to:

- review program specifications and make recommendations to program participants for adjustments to compensation rates, payment schedules, etc.,
- review, adjust and settle trapper claims,
- mediate and resolve claim-related disputes,
- document undisputed claim settlements, and
- review fund status, financial statements, submit annual reports and make recommendations for disbursement of funds to settle claims.

The program recognizes claims in five (5) categories:

- Damage to trapper assets;
- Theft, vandalism, and arson;
- Temporary disruptions to normal trapping operations;
- Long-term loss of income caused by industrial disturbances;

- Cabins lost to naturally caused forest fires (funded by trappers).

For claims related to the damaged asset and temporary disruption categories, the trapper must first negotiate directly with the company responsible. Should this action fail, the claim must be submitted through a district Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6) to the Alberta Trappers' Compensation Board to receive consideration. All theft and vandalism must be promptly reported to the RCMP. A corresponding file number must then be provided to a Fish and Wildlife Officer who, in turn, forwards the claim to the Board. Requests for compensation must be made on the approved ATA Claim Form (ATA #02-01), available at district Fish and Wildlife offices, and include any attachments relevant to the claim. This may include:

- Photographs — especially for theft, vandalism, and arson, or trail disruptions, etc.;
- Description of equipment stolen and estimated value of items;
- Dates of disturbance and/or when discovered;
- Names of companies involved or others that can verify loss.

The Stakeholders; Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA), Alberta Forests Products Association (AFPA), Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Atco Electric, and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP); meet annually to review the compensation program and to make the required changes to the memorandum of understanding (Policy and Procedures).

Trappers must cooperate with industry to ensure the success of the program. If you have any questions about this program, please contact a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6) or the Alberta Trappers' Association, Box 6020, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2P7 (phone 780-349-6626 or fax 780-349-6634).

Fur Institute of Canada



The Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) is a non-profit organization, established in 1983 on the initiative of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Ministers, to pursue the work of the Federal-Provincial Committee For Humane Trapping. The Institute is an umbrella organization for the Canadian fur industry and its mandate ensures that all sectors are represented, particularly on the Board of Directors.

The overall mission of the FIC is to promote the sustainable and wise use of Canada's fur resources. The Institute supports the following values:

- The sustainable use and conservation of renewable resources;
- The continued improvement of animal welfare through ongoing research and the development of national and international trapping standards;
- The conservation and management of natural resources based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge;

- Professionalism through continued education, licensing and research;
- Respect for people, animals and the environment;
- Respect for tradition, heritage and culture;
- Respect for the right of Aboriginal people to pursue their aboriginal and treaty rights.

Five operational committees develop programs and deliver project activities within the structure of the Institute. These programs are trap research and development, communications, sealing, aboriginal communications and international relations and conservation.

The Fur Institute of Canada is committed to delivering information to the media, the general public and governments pertaining to the economic, social, cultural and environmental contributions made by today's fur trade.

For further information, contact the Fur Institute of Canada

- by mail: Suite 701, 331 Cooper Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0G5
- by telephone: 613-231-7099
- by fax: 613-231-7940
- by e-mail: info@fur.ca or
- visit website: www.fur.ca

Campfires Summer or Winter Make Sure Your Fire Is Out!

Nearly half of the forest fires in Alberta are caused by people. Nobody means to start a forest fire and most never know the blaze was a result of their carelessness. Campfires built in a poor location, left unattended or not completely extinguished can cause forest fires. Even when there's water nearby or snow on the ground!

Make sure your fire is out and if you see smoke or fire in a forested area, call the hot line:

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TRAPPER BULLETIN

RELEASE OF NON-TARGET SPECIES

Trapping has been a part of Alberta's heritage for over a century. People across the province are involved in trapping as licenced Registered or Resident trappers and harvest over \$2 million in fur each year. All trappers in Alberta must meet mandatory requirements to obtain a licence including either having passed a test which deals with humane trapping and fur management, or have completed a Trapper Education course.

A Code for Responsible Trapping

During trapping operations, trappers should:

- show compassion for the animals they capture;
- develop skills so that furs are properly prepared for market;
- record all trap-set locations and captures of fur bearers;
- carefully select trap-set locations to reduce capture of non-target species;
- report the presence of diseased animals to a Fish and Wildlife office; and
- know and practice proper killing and releasing methods.

Trappers should be prepared to release non-target animals that are not seriously injured. Carefully assess the risk factors involved in releasing an animal or bird to ensure personal safety and the welfare of the animal or bird.

Methods of releasing animals include:



Using a forked stick

- position the stick around the animal's neck and apply only enough pressure to immobilize the animal.
- the capture device can then be released from the animal.



Using a snare pole

- the noose of the snare pole is slipped over the animal's jaws or neck and tightened to immobilize the animal.
- the capture device can then be released from the animal.

Using a tarp, coat or blanket

- this method is especially useful for releasing small animals or birds, particularly Birds of Prey.
- the material should be large and strong enough only to immobilize the animal or bird without harm.
- once immobilized, the animal or bird can be released from the capture device.

Trappers who accidentally capture any wildlife that are not furbearing animals are reminded to report the incident as soon as practical to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Office. Accidental captures of Birds of Prey, i.e. Eagles, or Endangered Species such as Swift Fox that cannot be readily released due to injury should be delivered to the nearest Fish and Wildlife office or a qualified veterinarian for care.

A photograph of two people riding ATVs on a dirt trail through a forest. The person in the foreground is wearing a yellow shirt and a white helmet. The person in the background is wearing a red shirt and an orange helmet. The ATVs are kicking up dust. The text is overlaid on the image.

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