

## Ohio Administrative Code

### 1501:31-15-09 Hunting and trapping regulations for furbearing animals.

(A) Throughout the state, it shall be unlawful for a person to hunt, trap, take, or possess furbearing animals except according to this rule and other rules in the Administrative Code or the Revised Code.

(B) There is no bag or possession limit on fox, skunk, weasel, raccoon, opossum, mink, coyotes, beaver or muskrat. All furbearing animals shall be immediately killed and reduced to the person's possession.

(C) It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in trapping to fail to visit and remove all wild animals from their traps once every twenty-four hours.

(D) It shall be unlawful for any person to set, use, or maintain a foot hold trap, on land for the purpose of taking a wild animal, that has an inside diameter jaw spread larger than five and five-eighths inches, or a body gripping trap having a jaw spread larger than five inches in diameter, except as provided in paragraph (BB) of this rule.

(E) It shall be unlawful for any person at any time to set, use, or maintain a body gripping trap, in the water for the purpose of taking a wild animal, that has a jaw spread larger than seven inches in diameter except while completely submerged.

(F) It shall be unlawful for any person to use traps, for the purpose of taking a wild animal, having teeth on the jaws.

(G) It shall be unlawful for any person to set, use or maintain a 330 conibear, a twelve-inch bigelow or similar sized body gripping trap for the purpose of taking a wild animal, at any time except when set completely submerged in water and then only during the beaver season.

(H) It shall be unlawful for any person to trap, trap for or take beaver or river otter on state public hunting areas except, AMC-Hollow Rock, AMC- McIntyre creek, and B & N coal public hunting area unless such person has a special beaver or river otter trapping permit for a specific public hunting area issued by the wildlife chief or his representative.

(I) It shall be unlawful to trap beaver or river otter on American electric power lands without written permission from the company or its authorized representative.

(J) It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, disturb, or destroy a beaver dam located on any division owned, administered or controlled area without permission from the chief of the division of wildlife or on any private land without permission of the landowner.

(K) It shall be unlawful for any person to place, set, or maintain any type of trap other than a live trap, body gripping trap, snare, or foot hold trap, for the purpose of taking a wild animal. Provided further, it shall be unlawful to set a body gripping trap with a diameter greater than five inches or a foot hold trap having a jaw spread of greater than five and five-eighths inches in diameter in a tile, den, or burrow on land.

- (L) It shall be unlawful for any person to set, use, or maintain on land or in water, for the purpose of taking a wild animal, any foot hold trap that is not covered. Provided further, it shall be unlawful to use any flesh bait that is not totally covered.
- (M) It shall be unlawful for any person at any time to shoot a mink, muskrat, river otter or beaver unless a permit has been issued by the chief of the division of wildlife or his representative.
- (N) It shall be unlawful for any person to disturb or molest a legally set trap, or remove a furbearing animal from a trap of another without permission from the trap owner or user.
- (O) It shall be unlawful for any person to set, use, or maintain any type of a trap on land, except a live trap, for the purpose of taking a wild animal within one hundred fifty feet of an occupied residence without advising a person residing therein. Persons trapping on land that they own or where they reside are exempt from the provisions in this paragraph.
- (P) It shall be unlawful for any person to pursue, hunt, or trap furbearing animals between the hours of six p.m. and six a.m., without carrying a continuous white light visible for a distance of at least one-quarter of a mile. However, persons hunting fox, raccoon or coyote with a call from a stationary position may use a continuous single beam light of any color. When two or more persons are hunting or trapping together for such animals, one light only is required and may be carried by any member of the party.
- (Q) It shall be unlawful for any person to use or possess climbers, or any other device that may be used for climbing trees while hunting, trapping or pursuing furbearing animals. Provided further, it shall be unlawful for any person to train dogs pursuing furbearing animals during the closed season except from six p.m. to six a.m. daily.
- (R) It shall be unlawful for any person to set, use, or maintain a trap or snare to take a wild animal, unless such trap or snare has attached thereto a durable waterproof tag bearing the name and mailing address of the user in English letters legible at all times, or which has the name and mailing address of the user stamped into such trap in English letters legible at all times.
- (S) It shall be unlawful for any person to set, maintain, or use a trap or snare in or upon any cart or wagon road, in or upon any path ordinarily used by domestic animals or human beings.
- (T) It shall be lawful for persons to take coyotes without a fur taker permit. Provided further, any person hunting coyotes shall have a valid hunting license.
- (U) It shall be unlawful for a person to set, use, and maintain snares for the purpose of taking furbearing animals that does not have a relaxing lock and a stop to prevent the opening of the snare from closing to a diameter of less than two and one half inches in diameter, or a relaxing lock system with a breaking point of not greater than three hundred fifty pounds.
- (V) It shall be unlawful to use a snare attached to a drag. Provided further, snares may be affixed to immovable objects, or staked.
- (W) It shall be unlawful to set, use, or maintain any snare on any area designated as a public hunting area except on those areas listed in paragraph (H) of this rule and then only when beaver or river otter trapping. The minimum diameter snare loop shall be at least ten inches and the

bottom of the snare must be covered with not less than one inch of water at all times while set on public hunting areas.

(X) It shall be unlawful to use any snare that is constructed of any material other than multi or single strand steel cable.

(Y) It shall be unlawful to set a snare with a loop diameter of greater than fifteen inches.

(Z) It shall be unlawful to have attached to a snare any spring loaded or mechanical device to assist the snare in closing.

(AA) It shall be unlawful for any persons to set, use, or maintain any snare that does not comply with the requirements set forth in this rule.

(BB) It shall be lawful to set, use, and maintain a body gripping trap to take groundhogs from March first through September thirtieth each year. Provided further, it shall be unlawful to use a body gripping trap with a jaw spread greater than seven inches by seven inches to take groundhogs.

(CC) It shall be unlawful to set, use, or maintain a body gripping trap to take groundhogs which is set more than three feet from the hole, or structure the groundhog is inhabiting.

(DD) It shall be unlawful to set, use, or maintain a body gripping trap to take groundhogs that does not have an enclosure or structure around the trap which prohibits other animals from getting into the trap from the outside.

(EE) Every river otter pelt taken or possessed during the river otter trapping season must be delivered to a division of wildlife representative, during normal business hours, for mandatory checking and tagging within seventy-two hours of harvest.

(FF) It shall be unlawful for any person other than the person who trapped a river otter to present the river otter to a division of wildlife representative for mandatory checking and tagging.

(GG) Each person delivering a river otter for mandatory checking and tagging must report the date, time, location and any other information requested by the division of wildlife.

(HH) All definitions set forth in rule 1501:31-1-02 of the Administrative Code shall apply to this rule.

(II) For the purposes of this rule, traps shall be measured in the open set position, from the inside of the main trap jaws as produced by the manufacturer and shall not include jaw modifications or add-ons.

(1) Measurement of foot hold traps shall be made perpendicular to the frame at the widest location parallel with the dog.

(2) Measurement of foot hold traps without dogs shall be made perpendicular to the frame at the widest location parallel with the pan shank.

(3) Body gripping traps shall be measured from the inside of the main jaw at the trigger assembly to the inside of the opposing jaw across the entrance window.

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