

General Hunting

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal documents.

No person shall hunt except as prescribed by law. See section Permits for Hunters with Disabling Conditions, page 12, for special rules.

Persons required by law to wear corrective lenses to operate a motor vehicle (as noted on a valid driver's license) must wear corrective lenses when hunting with a bow or firearm of any kind.

.22 Rifles

A valid rifle permit must be possessed while hunting with a .22 caliber rifle.

It is unlawful to possess and use .22 caliber rifle except while hunting woodchuck, [no rifle hunting on wildlife management areas (WMAs)] hunting raccoon and opossum with hounds, and dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat.

A .22 caliber rifle must be loaded with short cartridges only, except when hunting woodchuck.

A .22 caliber rifle need not be plugged, but may be loaded with no more than three shells. No 10-17 year-olds may hunt with any rimfire or centerfire rifle.

See chart on page 63 for details on small caliber rifle ammunition legal for hunting woodchucks.

Bow and Arrow

"Bow" means any long bow, recurve bow or compound bow that is hand held and hand drawn, with no mechanical device built into it or attached to it that will enable the archer to lock the bow at a full or partial draw. All draw locking and draw holding devices are prohibited. Hand held release devices are permitted.

All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds at the archer's draw length, except compounds, which must have a minimum peak draw weight of 35 pounds. All arrows used for hunting deer, turkey, coyote or woodchuck must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal head with a minimum width of 3/4 inches.

Arrows fitted with heads other than specified for deer, turkey, coyote or woodchuck may be carried in the woods and fields during the small game season or other seasons which overlap with the bow and arrow deer season.

It is unlawful to:

- use a crossbow or variation

- use or possess a poison arrow or one with an explosive tip
- use a bow one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise during any season
- use a bow and arrow from any vehicle, moving or stationary
- have both a firearm and bow in possession or under control while hunting

Dogs-Hunting and Training

Allowing dogs to run at large is prohibited. Persons may train dogs without firearms in daylight at any time except during any open firearm deer season.

No person shall train a raccoon or opossum hunting dog on WMAs other than during the periods of Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 and from Mar. 1 to May 1 each year. Training hours shall be one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

It is illegal to use dogs to pursue or run deer or black bear or to track wounded deer or bear.

Note: Regulations for dog training on Wildlife Management Areas Regulations are on page 70.

Falconry

No person shall use a raptor for hunting without a falconry permit and a valid hunting license. No person under 14 years of age may hunt by means of a raptor. Hunting migratory birds with raptors on Sunday is prohibited.

Falconry permits will be issued only to persons who pass a comprehensive examination and who can provide proper facilities for housing a raptor.

Beginning falconers must be sponsored by an experienced falconer.

No person shall possess a firearm while hunting with raptors.

For additional information, write to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 or call (908) 735-8793.

Farmer Regulations

The occupant of a farm may allow his or her dog to run at large on land he or she occupies, except during the firearm deer seasons.

For farmer hunting opportunities, see *Farmer License Exemption*, page 6; see also *Permits for Farmers*, page 10.

Farmers and their lessees occupying or farming their land, members of their immediate

Specifically Prohibited:

- Carrying a loaded firearm or nocked arrow within 450 feet of an occupied building or any school playground is prohibited, except the owner or lessee of a building and persons specifically authorized by him in writing may hunt within 450 feet of the building. Note: persons authorized to hunt within 450 feet of a building must be in the possession of the written permission when hunting.
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow on or across highways or roads. Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow from a motor vehicle.
- Sights which project a spot or light onto the game animal.
- Hunting for or shooting any wildlife by aid of a light, except when hunting raccoon, opossum while on foot or when hunting coyote/fox during the special coyote/fox season.
- Hunting or shooting with the aid of a light attached to or carried in a vehicle.
- On national wildlife refuges, the distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait.
- Hunting with arrows, darts or any other device propelled by any means that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any type of drug into an animal.
- Using electronic calling devices except when hunting for fox, raccoon, crow and coyote.
- Loaded firearms in a motor vehicle. Possession of a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle is considered proof of pursuing or taking of wildlife.
- Transporting an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- Shooting into a squirrel's nest.

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the following apply:

- Baiting is prohibited.
- No permanent tree stands or screw-in steps are permitted.
- You cannot possess a loaded firearm while on any publicly traveled roadway within the area.

General Hunting

REGULATIONS

(continued from page 25)

families, or their farming employees may kill crows, woodchuck and fox on farm property at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. However, they must use legal firearms, ammunition and other lawful procedures. See also *Wildlife Damage Control*, page 27.

Farmers may trap foxes destroying poultry, crops or property at any time, subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may shoot or trap coyotes by lawful procedures at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. **A regional Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office must be notified within 24 hours of killing a coyote. See telephone directory page 88.** 

Firearms and Missiles

- A person may not go into the woods or fields with a firearm except during prescribed seasons.
- Airguns are not legal hunting firearms.
- It is unlawful to possess in the woods and fields shot larger than #4 fine shot except for hunting deer, bear, waterfowl, woodchuck (farmers only) and coyote/fox during the Special Permit Coyote and Fox Season.
- Rimfire and centerfire rifles are not legal to hunt deer.
- See sections on specific game animals for permitted firearms and ammunition.
- No person shall use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading.

Hunter Orange

Firearm hunters must wear a cap made of solid daylight fluorescent orange or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while engaged in hunting. A camo-orange hat alone is not adequate.

This applies to all persons while hunting with a firearm for deer, bear, rabbit, hare, squirrel, fox, railbirds, and game birds including while in a tree stand.

Exceptions: this law does not apply to waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, coyote, woodchuck nor bowhunters except that a bow hunter using a deer decoy must wear hunter orange, as described above, while transporting the decoy into and out of the woods and fields.

Muzzleloading Rifles

It is unlawful to use smokeless powder in a muzzleloader while hunting in New Jersey.

Properly licensed and permitted hunters 10 years and older may hunt with a muzzleloading rifle. A valid rifle permit must be possessed while hunting with a muzzleloading rifle.

It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle on WMAs, except for deer, bear, coyote/fox and squirrel hunting during the special season in certain zones. For muzzleloader rifle squirrel hunting, see page 61. For muzzleloader deer hunting, see page 30. For rifle permit information, see page 10. For muzzleloader coyote/fox hunting, see page 60.

Non-Resident Game Removal

A non-resident licensee may remove from the state each day a daily bag limit of game. However, a non-resident may not take more than two day's bag limit from the state after one week's stay (Sunday to Saturday inclusive). This does not apply to game raised or killed at a licensed commercial preserve and legally tagged.

Possession Of Certain Wildlife By Persons, Taxidermists & Butchers

No person shall have in possession a deer, bear or turkey that he himself or she herself did not kill unless it has a tag bearing the name, address, telephone number, license and permit numbers of the person who killed the deer, bear or turkey. Those in the business of processing deer, bear or turkey, that is butchers, taxidermists, etc., shall keep a ledger of all of their customers. Each customer's name, current address, day and evening telephone numbers, hunting license number, and possession seal number of any black bear, deer or turkey being processed shall be included in the ledger. The ledger shall be made available for inspection upon request during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by any law enforcement officer or employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Taxidermists note: The sale of wild birds and game animals or parts thereof is prohibited in New Jersey. Legally trapped furbearers may be sold. Questions should be directed to a regional Fish and Wildlife law enforcement office.

Shotguns

Shotguns larger than 10-gauge are prohibited. Shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shells. For information on legal shot sizes, see regulations for each game

species to be hunted.

Sunday Hunting

No person may hunt with firearms or any other weapon or carry a gun in the woods or fields or on the waters on Sunday: except on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserve lands for the purpose of shooting stocked game; and when using a .22 rifle for dispatching trapped animals.

Persons are allowed to hunt raccoon or opossum between midnight on Saturday and one hour before sunrise on Sunday during the prescribed season.

Trespass Law

Hunters and trappers must have permission (oral or written) from the landowner or lessee prior to entering either posted lands or agricultural lands (which are not required to be posted). Hunters also must obtain permission to enter posted land and agricultural land to recover deer. Hunters and trappers may not enter unposted land after having been forbidden to trespass by the owner, lessee or occupant.

If a hunter or trapper is charged with trespass, they must provide documentation of written permission in court for their defense. See page 71 for the Hunt SMART Courtesy Card.

Property Damage

Hunters must not hunt in unharvested crops without first obtaining permission from the owner. Anyone causing damage to cultivated crops, orchards, fences, buildings or livestock may be arrested without warrant by the owner, occupant, lessee, or any officer of the law. Violators are liable for a fine of up to \$2,000 and restitution to the property owner in addition to the loss of hunting privileges for a period of two years.

Wildlife

It is illegal to capture, kill, injure or have in possession any wild bird other than a game bird.

No one may rob a bird's nest.

The removal of the skin or feathers or mutilation of any wild bird or mammal in the woods or fields for the purpose of concealing sex or identity is illegal.

All nongame mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians are protected. Penalties for taking

these species range from \$250-\$5,000.

There is no open season on bobcat. It is illegal to kill, attempt to kill or possess bobcats except parts of bobcats legally taken in other states may be possessed but not sold in New Jersey.

The sale of wild birds or game animals or parts thereof is prohibited except as described in N.J.S.A. 23:4-27. For more specific information, refer to our website, www.NJFishandWildlife.com

Wildlife Damage Control

Property owners and occupants of dwellings, or their agents designated in writing, suffering damage from squirrel, raccoon, opossum, skunk, weasel, woodchuck, gray fox, red fox and coyote may control these animals by lawful procedures at any time subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may also control the above species by lawful procedures when found destroying livestock, crops or poultry at any time subject to state and local ordinances. **Note: Persons who kill a coyote must notify a Fish and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement Offices within 24 hours.**



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