



Wild Fur Farm Regulations

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This publication provides a summary of Wisconsin's laws, which pertain to individuals that possess a wild fur farm license. It is not a complete set of the laws.

A WILD FUR FARM LICENSE AUTHORIZES:

1. The possession and propagating live beaver, coyote, muskrat, mink, opossum, otter, raccoon, skunk and weasel on the licensed lands.
2. The holder of the license and other persons authorized by the holder to take alive, or kill by trapping the above listed wild animals.
3. The holder of the license to sell the live fur-bearing animals listed above to persons authorized to possess the live fur-bearing wild animals.

A WILD FUR FARM LICENSE DOES NOT ALLOW:

1. The propagation of wild animals in cages.
2. The keeping of live animals in pens for more than 48 hours. To keep fur-bearing animals in pens longer than 48 hours you must apply for and receive a captive wild animal farm license **before** you place the animal in a pen.
3. The killing or capturing of bobcat, badger, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, rabbit and wolf from the licensed property.
4. The sale of live skunks. All skunks taken shall be immediately killed in a humane manner.

WILD FUR FARM SIZE RESTRICTION

1. A wild fur farm must be at least 40 acres in size and cannot exceed 640 acres.
2. All acres under one license must be contiguous (adjoining). This rule does not apply to fur farms licensed prior to January 1, 2003.
3. You may apply for and receive more than one license for non-contiguous parcels of land that are at least 40 acres in size.

Single Parcel: To qualify as a single parcel your land must meet the following conditions:

- ❖ The ownership of all parcels of land must be the same.
- ❖ All parcels of land must be contiguous (adjoining).
- ❖ Parcels of land that are separated only by a town, county or state highway are still considered a single parcel.
- ❖ To calculate acreage you must include any acreage covered by a body of water which you license or which is surrounded by property you license.
- ❖ You may lease additional contiguous land but you may not license over 640 acres under one license.
- ❖ All of these conditions also apply to leased lands.

SPECIAL OTTER RESTRICTIONS

The Harvest of Otter is Limited:

- ❖ You must be in possession of department issued wild fur farm otter tags before you can take an otter.
- ❖ The number of tags you can receive will vary each year but will not be greater than the number of tags issued to a licensed trapper in the same otter management zone.
- ❖ You **MAY NOT** take or kill more otter each year than the number of tags you receive.
- ❖ Otter tags will be issued upon request each year. If you plan to harvest otter, contact Customer Service and Licensing in Madison to request your tag(s).
- ❖ The number of tags issued each year is determined by otter population estimates, number of otter harvested the previous year, aerial surveys, overall population trends and the number of people applying for a harvest permit.

Otter Tagging Requirements:

- ❖ **Dead Otter:** Immediately upon killing an otter you must validate the pelt tag and attach it to the otter by following the instructions on the back of the tag.
- ❖ **Live Otter:** Immediately upon harvesting a live otter you must validate the pelt tag by slitting the month and date of harvest.
 - The validated tag must stay with the otter.
 - Live otter may only be held in pens for 48 hours to allow for sale.
 - Further possession requires a captive wild animal farm license.
- ❖ Otter registration tags, commonly known as CITES tags may be obtained by contacting your local conservation warden.
- ❖ You may also allow individuals with a valid trapping license and valid otter tags to trap otter on your licensed acreage, but only under the normal state otter trapping seasons and under all rules and regulations that apply to trapping under such seasons.
- ❖ Animal damage or nuisance permits may also be available. If needed, contact your local wildlife manager for additional information.



Otter Zone Management Map

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

1. Except for otter, a person trapping the animals listed on the wild fur farm license does not need to have a trapping license and closed season restrictions and bag limits do not apply.
2. You may allow non-residents to trap on your wild fur farm.
3. You may trap other fur bearing animals not listed on the license during the open season for those animals but must follow all other licensing, tagging and method restrictions.
4. A wild fur farm license does not authorize dog training or trialing using captive wild animals. A dog training or trialing license is required.
5. If you authorize someone to take live fur bearing animals on the licensed property they may not possess them off the property unless they possess a captive wild animal farm license that lists that animal species.
6. When you sell the carcass of any trapped animal you need to supply the purchaser with a receipt. The purchaser must keep that receipt during the time the carcass is possessed.
7. Signs that identify your property as a wild fur farm are not required or provided by the department. You may post your property as you feel necessary to inform others that it is a licensed wild fur farm.
8. Animal damage or nuisance permits may also be available if needed. Contact your local wildlife manager for additional information.

HUMANE CARE AND HOUSING, PEN STANDARDS

1. Temporary holding pens must hold the animal securely and comfortably and provide shelter from the elements.
2. Keep food clean and dry and supply water at least twice each day.
3. You need to dispose of animal waste regularly.
4. When transporting animals the container must be strong enough to handle the hardships of transportation and hold the animal comfortably.
5. Adequate ventilation is required.

RECORD-KEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

You must keep a record by date of all animals harvested live, killed, sold or transferred. The record must include:

1. The date the animal(s) were harvested.
2. Complete name and address of the person who harvested the animal(s).
3. Number and species of animals harvested.
4. Date of sale or transfer and name, address and license number of person to whom the animals were sold or transferred.

These records must be kept at the wild fur farm and made available for inspection by DNR personnel upon request.

Quarterly reports

You must submit a quarterly report by April 30, July 31, October 31 and January 31 each year for the previous 3 months. You only need to report transactions involving otter, coyote, mink, skunk and weasel on your quarterly report.

Annual report

You must report transactions for all animal species in your annual report that is due January 31 each year for the previous year. The report must include the total number and species of animals that were killed by trapping; number and species of animals that were taken alive and number and species of dead and live animals sold, shipped or otherwise transferred.

The department will send you quarterly and annual report forms every year. An initial activity report form will be mailed to you with your license. You may copy this form as needed. If you have your own record-keeping system, forms or computer program you may use that system provided the records contain all the information required above.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Wild Fur Farm License application can be found on the DNR website, keyword search "captive", or contact Customer and Outreach Services at 1-888-936-7463.

Applications must be filled out completely. If you lease the property where you have your captive wild animal farm, a written lease is required. Requirements for a written lease appear on the application.

FEES

The fee for a wild fur farm license is \$50.00.

EFFECTIVE PERIOD

The license is valid from the day it is issued to the 3rd December 31 following that date.
Example: a license issued in June 2013 is valid until December 31, 2015.