

## Small Game Regulations

**Licence information and fees can be found on page 13.**

### Firearms

If you are hunting small game in an area where there is an open season for deer, moose, elk, or black bear, you may not possess or use a rifle of greater muzzle energy than 400 foot-pounds or shells loaded with ball or with shot larger than No. 2 shot (or if using non-toxic shot, you may not use steel shot larger than triple BBB steel shot, or bismuth shot that is larger than double BB bismuth shot), unless you possess a valid licence to hunt deer, moose, elk or black bear as the case may be.

A person hunting small game may not carry or use a rifle of greater calibre than a .275-calibre rifle, except a muzzle-loading gun, in the geographic areas of of Brant, Chatham-Kent, Durham, Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, Halton, Hamilton, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Norfolk, Northumberland, Oxford, Peel, Perth, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington or York.

### Export and Shipping

See General Regulations, page 28, for information on import, export and shipping.

### Game Birds

You may hunt and possess wild turkey, pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, spruce grouse, ptarmigan and gray (Hungarian) partridge. Check the tables (page 80) for bag and possession limits. **You require a special licence to hunt wild turkey in addition to a small game licence** (see pages 29-31).

You may only hunt game birds identified in the tables. In addition, Ontario residents may hunt American crow, brown-headed cowbird, red-winged blackbird, common grackle, starling and house sparrows. Chukar is not included in the tables but may be hunted in some circumstances. Call your local MNR office for more information.

### Specially Protected Birds

You must not shoot specially protected birds or interfere with the eggs and nests of game birds and specially protected birds. (See Definitions, page 87 for a list of Specially Protected Wildlife).

### Game Bird Hunting Preserves

You may hunt pheasant, northern bobwhite and wild turkey throughout the year on game bird hunting preserves. You must arrange with the owner as to when you can hunt. Ontario residents need a licence to hunt small game when hunting on a preserve.

A non-resident hunter needs either a non-resident's licence to hunt game birds on a game bird hunting preserve or a non-resident's small game licence.

### Migratory Game Birds

(See Definitions on page 86.)

Migratory game bird seasons are the responsibility of the federal government.

*The Migratory Birds Convention Act* and its regulations govern hunting of migratory game birds. **It is illegal to hunt migratory birds within 400 m (437 yd.) of where bait has been deposited unless that place has been free of bait for at least seven days.**

When transporting migratory game birds, a fully feathered wing must remain attached until the bird is prepared for immediate consumption.

### Migratory Game Bird Licensing

You must have a federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, as well as an Ontario licence to hunt small game, in order to hunt migratory game birds. This includes hunting with falconry birds and non-indigenous falconry birds. You may buy a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp at most post offices. See page 81 for more information regarding falconry.

Season dates and bag limits are announced mid-summer at which point the Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations Summary is published. More information on migratory birds is available from the Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Division website at [www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe](http://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe) or at any of the following Environment Canada enforcement offices:

1. EC Regional Headquarters – Burlington, (905) 336-6410;
2. EC Southern District – Burlington, (905) 319-6968;
3. EC Southern District – Windsor, (519) 257-6374;
4. EC Central District – Toronto, (905) 612-5542;
5. EC Eastern and Northern District – Ottawa, (613) 990-5406;
6. EC Eastern and Northern District - Sault Ste. Marie, (705) 941-5469.

Information on wild ducks and avian influenza, including information for hunters handling waterfowl, is available from the Canadian Wildlife Service at [www.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf](http://www.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf) by following the avian influenza link or by calling 1-800-668-6767.

### Pheasant Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

TOWNSHIP / MUNICIPALITY LICENCES – A township licence is required in addition to a provincial licence for hunting pheasant in regulated townships (see maps, pp. 6-11). Contact the municipal clerk for issuance of township licences and information on firearm restrictions. Hunting of pheasants with a rifle is prohibited.

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Hours
2-41, 45	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
42-44, 46-50, 53-59, 61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	
60, 68, 69A, 70-77, 81-86	Sept. 24 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	
78	Oct. 12 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	8 a.m. to 1/2 hour after sunset
88	Oct. 26 to Nov. 5	3 cocks	
79, 80, 87	Oct. 19 to Dec. 15	3, one hen limit	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
89, 90, 91, 92	Oct. 19 to Dec. 15	3 of either sex	
93	Oct. 26 to Dec. 15	3, one hen limit	
94	Oct. 26 to Oct. 30	2 cocks	
95	Oct. 20, 21, 27, 28, Nov. 3,4	Daily & Possession Limit 10 of either sex	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	Nov. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 Dec. 1, 2, 3	Daily & Possession Limit 5 of either sex	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	Jan. 1 to the last day of February, in any year	Daily & Possession Limit 5 of either sex	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset

### Sharp-Tailed Grouse and Ptarmigan Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
1A, 1C, 1D	Sept. 5 to Mar. 31 of the next year	For All WMUs: 5 Sharp-tailed Grouse and 5 Ptarmigan	For All WMUs: 15 Sharp-tailed Grouse and 15 Ptarmigan
2-9, 11-16, 19, 20, 21	Sept. 15 to Dec. 31		
10, 32-39, 41, 45	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15		
17, 18, 22-31, 40	Sept. 15 to Mar. 31 of the next year		
42-44, 46-50, 53-59	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15		
61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 31		
60, 68, 69A, 70, 71	Sept. 24 to Dec. 31		

### Ruffed Grouse and Spruce Grouse Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
1A, 1C, 1D	Sept. 5 to Dec. 31	For all WMUs: Combined total of 5	For all WMUs: Combined total of 15
2-31	Sept. 15 to Dec. 31		
32-41, 45	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15		
42-44, 46-50, 53-59	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15		
61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 31		
60, 68, 69A, 70, 71	Sept. 24 to Dec. 31		
72-92	Sept. 24 to Jan. 15 of the next year		
93	Oct. 26 to Jan. 15 of the next year		

### Gray (Hungarian) Partridge Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
13	Sept. 15 to Nov. 12	8	16
55-59, 61-67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Nov. 12	8	16
60, 68, 69A, 70-75, 88, 89	Sept. 24 to Nov. 12	8	16
76	Oct. 15 to Oct. 21	8	16
87, 90	Oct. 19 to Dec. 15	8	16

### Northern Bobwhite for Residents and Non-Residents

**CLOSED SEASON IN ALL WMUs**

## Falconry

Falconry involves the use of trained raptors (birds of prey, such as red-tailed hawk) to hunt small game. The rules for falconry in Ontario are set out in the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, and associated regulations.

A falconry licence is required to hunt with most raptors, and you must also have a valid small game hunting licence. For more information, please contact your local ministry office.

## Small Mammals

### Squirrel Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

Gray (Black), Fox

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
36 - 41, 45	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15	10	10
42 - 44, 46 - 50, 53 - 59, 61 - 67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Dec. 15	10	10
60, 68, 69A, 70 - 92	Sept. 24 to Dec. 15	5	10
93, 94	Oct. 26 to Nov. 7	5	10

### Rabbit and Hare Seasons for Residents and Non-Residents

Cottontail Rabbit, European Hare, Varying (Snowshoe) Hare

**TOWNSHIP / MUNICIPALITY LICENCES:** A township or municipality licence is required in addition to a provincial licence for hunting rabbits in a regulated township (see maps, pp. 6-11). Contact the municipal clerk for issuance of township licences and information on firearm restrictions.

**NON-RESIDENTS NOTE:** A non-resident's small game licence is not valid for hunting rabbits in the county of Lambton, the Municipality of Chatham / Kent or the county of Essex, except in the Township of Pelee.

WMU(s)	Open Season	Daily Limit
1 - 50, 53 - 59	Sept. 1 to June 15 of the next year	1) Cottontail Rabbit: limit of 6 2) European Hare: limit of 6 3) Varying Hare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for WMUs 1-50 and 53-59: no limit</li> <li>• for WMUs 60-95: 6 maximum</li> </ul>
61 - 67, 69B	Sept. 20 to Mar. 31 of the next year	
60, 68, 69A, 70, 71, 74, 75	Sept. 24 to Mar. 31 of the next year	
72, 73, 76, 77, 81 - 86	Sept. 24 to the last day of February of the next year	
78, 79, 80, 87, 90, 91, 92	Oct. 19 to the last day of February of the next year	
88, 89	Oct. 26 to the last day of February of the next year	
93, 94	Oct. 26 to the last day of February of the next year	
95	Jan. 1 to the last day of February	

**BE FireSmart®**



[ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://ontario.ca/fireprevention)

## Build a safe campfire not a wildfire

### Safe Campfires are:

1. built on bare soil or exposed rock
2. sheltered from the wind
3. located at least three metres from the forest, overhanging branches or other flammable material.

### Safe Campfires have:

4. a pail of water and a shovel at hand to control the fire
5. someone tending them all the time.

### Safe Campfires are:

6. small. A small fire is best for cooking, and is easier to control and put out. The forest is no place for a bonfire.
7. put out as soon as possible. How? Douse with water then stir the ashes with a stick or shovel to uncover hot coals, and douse again.

For more information contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources Fire Office or visit us at [ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://ontario.ca/fireprevention).

## Furbearing Mammal Regulations

### Furbearing Mammals

You may only hunt the furbearing mammals (see Definitions, page 86) listed in the table below under the authority of your small game licence. See special regulations for **Wolf and Coyote** on page 83. Note that a small game licence is not valid in northern Ontario and parts of central Ontario (as shown on Map 2, pages 8-9) from June 16 to August 31.

If you wish to hunt **raccoons at night**, you must carry your resident's licence to hunt raccoon at night and your Outdoors Card with a small game licence tag. You must also be accompanied by a dog licensed for raccoon hunting. You can only use a .22 calibre rim-fire rifle chambered for the following cartridges: .22 short, .22 long or .22 long rifle. Raccoon night hunters must have their guns encased while in the vehicle. A licensed night raccoon hunter may use a light if it is not shone from or attached to a vehicle or boat.

### Possession of Pelts During the Closed Season

Small game hunters who harvest furbearing mammals, including wolves and coyotes, during the open season and have not disposed of the pelts by the close of the season must obtain a Licence to Possess a Pelt in order to possess pelts during the closed season. Please contact a ministry office to make arrangements to obtain a Licence to Possess a Pelt (available free of charge).

### Royalty, Import, Export and Shipping

See General Regulations, page 28, for information on import, export and shipping.

A royalty is payable to the province at the time that the hunter/trapper obtains a licence to send pelts to a tanner (for tanning or treating, including taxidermy), or a licence to export a furbearing mammal.

### Selling and Spoilage

See General Regulations, page 27, Game Wildlife and Parts for information on selling and spoilage.

Furbearing Mammals which may be taken under the authority of a small game licence			
Species	Area	Resident Open Seasons	Non-Resident Open Seasons
Raccoon	All of Ontario*	Oct. 15 to Jan. 15 of the next year	Oct. 15 to Jan. 15 of the next year (No night hunting)
Red Fox	All of Ontario north of French and Mattawa Rivers*	Sept. 15 to the last day of Feb. of the next year	Sept. 15 to the last day of Feb. of the next year
	Remainder of Ontario*	All Year	All Year
Arctic Fox	All of Ontario*	Oct. 25 to Mar. 31 of the next year	No Season
Grey Fox	All of Ontario*	No Season	No Season
Skunk	All of Ontario*	All Year	No Season
Weasel	All of Ontario*	Oct. 25 to the last day of Feb. of the next year	No Season
Opossum	All of Ontario*	Oct. 25 to Jan. 15 of the next year	No Season
Wolf and Coyote	See table p. 84	See table p. 84	See table p. 84

\* Generally, furbearing mammals may not be hunted in Provincial Parks and Crown Game Preserves (See Hunting in Parks on page 26).



# Wolf and Coyote Regulations

## INFORMATION FOR ALL WOLF AND COYOTE HUNTERS

### Licence fees can be found on page 13.

You may only hunt wolves and coyotes under the authority of your small game licence. In WMUs 43-45 and 59-95, only your small game licence is required.

In WMUs 1A, 1C, 1D, 2-42, 46-50 and 53-58, the following regulations apply:

- The wolf/coyote hunting season is closed from April 1 to September 14.
- You may only hunt wolves and coyotes under the authority of your small game licence accompanied by a wolf/coyote game seal purchased from ServiceOntario. You can purchase a maximum of two wolf/coyote game seals per calendar year. The seals may be purchased separately or at the same time.
- Party hunting of these animals is not permitted.
- You are required to immediately attach your wolf/coyote game seal to the wolf/coyote you have killed.
- You must complete and mail a mandatory questionnaire on your wolf/coyote hunting activity and harvest by January 15 of the year following the hunt. You must submit the questionnaire even if you bought a seal but did not hunt. Mandatory questionnaires will be mailed to hunters by the ministry in December. Hunters should mail their completed questionnaire to: Ministry of Natural Resources, Big Game Harvest Assessment Program, 1350 High Falls Road, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1W9.

The above regulatory changes include coyotes within core wolf range (WMUs 1A, 1C, 1D, 2-42, 46-50 and 53-58) because coyotes are difficult to distinguish from wolves, especially eastern wolves, where their ranges overlap. The above regulations do not apply to wolves and coyotes in WMUs south of core wolf range (WMUs 43-45 and 59-95).

Generally wolves and coyotes cannot be hunted in Provincial Parks, including the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park.

### Firearms

See page 79, Small Game Regulations, for specifications on firearms.

### Sealing and Transporting

**Party hunting for wolves and coyotes is not permitted in WMUs 1A, 1C, 1D, 2-42, 46-50 and 53 to 58.** This means that you may hunt co-operatively with several hunters; however, each hunter will have to be in possession of a wolf/coyote game seal to hunt wolves/coyotes in these WMUs, and the hunter that harvests the animal must personally seal it and may not continue to participate in the hunt unless in possession of an unfilled second wolf/coyote seal. It is illegal to transfer a wolf/coyote game seal from one hunter in order to seal a wolf or coyote taken by another hunter. **NOTE:** The specific rules around “party hunting” as summarized on page 23 apply only to moose, deer, elk or black bears.

Once you have killed a wolf or coyote under a wolf/coyote game seal, you must, **immediately** after the kill and at the kill site, securely **attach your game seal** to the animal in the manner prescribed on the seal. The game seal must remain attached while the pelt (on or off the carcass) is being transported.

**You must notch out the month, day and time of the kill on the wolf/coyote game seal, at the time of, and at the location of, the kill.**

**In WMUs 43-45 and 59-95 where a wolf/coyote seal is not required, you may hunt co-operatively in a group or party for wolves or coyotes without restrictions on the number of animals harvested or who can take them.**

### Possession of Pelts During the Closed Season

See page 82, Furbearing Mammals.

### Royalty, Import, Export and Shipping

See General Regulations, page 28, for information on import, export and shipping.

A royalty is payable to the province at the time that the hunter/trapper obtains a licence to send pelts to a tanner (for tanning or treating, including taxidermy), or a licence to export a furbearing mammal.

Please contact a ministry office to make arrangements to acquire CITES permits (available free of charge). **Please allow up to 10 days to obtain permit.** In some countries the importation of wolves is restricted; requirements for importation should be determined by the exporter prior to shipment.

More information on CITES is available at [www.cites.ca](http://www.cites.ca).



## Wolf and Coyote Seasons

Species	Area/WMUs	Open Season (Resident and Non-resident)
Wolf and Coyote*	1A, 1C, 1D, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11**, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 49, and 53B In 48, 50, 53A, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 58 <b>except</b> in the geographic townships listed below with no season.	From September 15, in any year, to March 31, in the next year following
Wolf and Coyote	In the geographic townships of Airy, Alice, Ballantyne, Boulter, Boyd, Bruton, Burns, Butt, Calvin, Cameron, Chisholm, Clancy, Clara, Clyde, Dickens, Dudley, Eyre, Finlayson, Franklin, Fraser, Hagarty, Harburn, Harcourt, Havelock, Head, Herschel, Lauder, Livingstone, Maria, McClintock, McClure, McCraney, McKay, Murchison, Papineau, Paxton, Petawawa, Richards, Rolph, Sabine, Sinclair, and Wylie	No season
Wolf and Coyote	43, 44, 45, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94 and 95	All year

\* Wolf/coyote game seal required in order to hunt wolves and coyotes in these WMUs.

\*\* Does not include WMU 11C, Quetico Provincial Park.

## Game Amphibians and Reptiles

### Frogs and Turtles

Snapping turtles and bullfrogs may be taken under the authority of a valid sport or conservation fishing licence. No commercial harvest of snapping turtles or bullfrogs is permitted. You may only take snapping turtles by box or funnel traps or by your bare hands. You may not remove the upper shell from any snapping turtle until immediately before it is prepared for consumption.

No firearm other than a bow (compound, recurve, long) or crossbow may be used to take bullfrogs. A person may take bullfrogs at night without a firearm and a person may shine a light for that purpose.

You may take bullfrogs from July 21 to October 15. You may not take more than 10 bullfrogs in one day nor possess more than 10. Bullfrogs may not be taken in the City of Ottawa (formerly the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton), the counties of Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Leeds and Grenville, Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward, Northumberland, Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes (formerly Victoria County) or in the townships in the County of Hastings south of and including the townships of Marmorata and Lake, Tudor and Cashel, and Elzevir and Grimsthorpe.



See the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for additional information about the capture and use of frogs for bait.

**NOTE: It is illegal to harvest bullfrogs or turtles in provincial parks or Crown Game Preserves.**

### Snapping Turtle as Special Concern Species

The snapping turtle is listed as special concern under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. This listing increases awareness of conservation concerns for the species and requires that a management plan be prepared for the species. To learn more on snapping turtles in Ontario, and what you can do to help, see Ontario's Species at Risk program website at [ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://ontario.ca/speciesatrisk) and click on the Species at Risk in Ontario list, or contact your local MNR office.

## Open Season for Snapping Turtles

WMU(s)	Residents	Non-residents	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
2 to 45	All year	All year	2	5
61, 62	All year	July 15 to Sept. 15	2	5
46-50, 53-60, 63-95	July 15 to Sept. 15	July 15 to Sept. 15	2	5