

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: aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife.

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

Accurate harvest information helps in managing the furbearer resource, and ultimately benefits the trapping industry. Your cooperation is 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 Fish and Wildlife District 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.



Fur-bearer Harvest Statistics

2018-2023 Annual Fur Production and 5-Year Average Based on Export Permits

Species	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	5-Year Average
Badger	196	107	167	64	30	113
Beaver	6,988	6,712	6,222	6,094	6,025	6,408
Bobcat	19	21	31	23	5	20
Coyote	42,039	32,106	29,148	27,536	9,526	28,071
Fisher	958	784	625	613	665	729
Fox	1,675	1,263	1,748	1,205	443	1,267
Canada Lynx	1,819	1,700	1,618	918	1,175	1,446
Marten	7,648	4,419	3,828	3,887	4,584	4,873
Mink	623	399	277	203	182	337
Muskrat	7,219	10,048	10,328	8,335	2,172	7,620
River Otter	220	169	194	153	154	178
Raccoon	126	50	42	15	451	137
Skunk	119	71	203	66	99	112
Squirrel	4,135	1,927	3,829	2,042	4,486	3,284
Weasel (Ermine)	3,100	2,508	1,925	1,755	2,173	2,292
Wolf	722	544	507	318	513	521
Wolverine	60	53	115	46	51	65

Fur Production Based on Export Permits

Species	2022/2023 Season			2021/2022 Season			% Change		
	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value
Badger	30	22.39	\$672	64	\$26.42	\$1,691	-53%	-15%	-60%
Beaver	6,025	41.18	\$248,110	6,094	\$16.76	\$102,135	-1%	146%	143%
Bobcat	5	432.12	\$2,161	23	\$634.57	\$14,595	-78%	-32%	-85%
Coyote	9,526	35.58	\$338,935	27,536	\$31.37	\$863,804	-65%	13%	-61%
Fisher	665	51.54	\$34,274	613	\$31.04	\$19,028	8%	66%	80%
Fox	443	8.62	\$3,819	1,205	\$15.96	\$19,232	-63%	-46%	-80%
Lynx	1,175	149.13	\$175,228	918	\$103.79	\$95,279	28%	44%	84%
Marten	4,584	56.81	\$260,417	3,887	\$45.27	\$175,964	18%	25%	48%
Mink	182	4.02	\$732	203	\$6.21	\$1,261	-10%	-35%	-42%
Muskrat	2,172	2.69	\$5,843	8,335	\$8.75	\$72,931	-74%	-69%	-92%
River Otter	154	41.65	\$6,414	153	\$30.69	\$4,696	1%	36%	37%
Raccoon	451	9.09	\$4,100	15	\$4.90	\$74	2907%	86%	5478%
Skunk	99	17.78	\$1,760	66	\$18.87	\$1,245	50%	-6%	41%
Squirrel	4,486	1.34	\$6,011	2,042	\$0.96	\$1,960	120%	40%	207%
Weasel	2,173	5.40	\$11,734	1,755	\$3.25	\$5,704	24%	66%	106%
Wolf	513	315.65	\$161,928	318	\$256.75	\$81,647	61%	23%	98%
Wolverine	51	480.31	\$24,496	46	\$421.28	\$19,379	11%	14%	26%
Total Fur Value			\$1,286,632			\$1,480,625			-13%

Trapper Statistics 2022/23

Registered Licences – Senior	1,453
Registered Licences – Partner	1,309
Resident Licences	1,144
Registered Fur Management Areas	1,632

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