

## 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](http://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.

**Wolf**<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Coyotes**<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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 furbearing 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.

*Alberta* 

## Furbearer Harvest Statistics

### 2020-2025 annual fur production and 5-year average based on export permits

Species	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	5-year average
Badger	167	64	30	19	40	64
Beaver	6,222	6,094	6,025	8,264	8,067	6,934
Bobcat	31	23	5	16	19	19
Coyote	29,148	27,536	9,526	11,786	16,040	18,807
Fisher	625	613	665	870	1,111	777
Fox	1,748	1,205	443	931	694	1,004
Canada Lynx	1,618	918	1,175	1,213	1,925	1,370
Marten	3,828	3,887	4,584	6,054	7,190	5,109
Mink	277	203	182	215	1,381	452
Muskrat	10,328	8,335	2,172	2,633	2,190	5,132
River Otter	194	153	154	178	292	194
Raccoon	42	15	451	15	22	109
Skunk	203	66	99	168	200	147
Squirrel	3,829	2,042	4,486	5,003	3,365	3,745
Weasel (Ermine)	1,925	1,755	2,173	2,378	1,939	2,034
Wolf	507	318	513	632	831	560
Wolverine	115	46	51	64	126	80

### Fur production based on export permits

Species	2024/2025 Season			2023/2024 Season			% Change		
	# Pelts	Avg price	Economic value	# Pelts	Avg price	Economic value	# Pelts	Avg price	Economic value
Badger	40	\$33.49	\$1,340	19	40.02	\$760	33%	-16%	12%
Beaver	8,067	\$22.37	\$180,459	8,264	37.88	\$313,040	34%	-41%	-21%
Bobcat	19	\$871.48	\$16,558	16	528.00	\$8,448	280%	65%	527%
Coyote	16,040	\$18.24	\$292,570	11,786	24.76	\$291,821	68%	-26%	24%
Fisher	1,111	\$71.05	\$78,937	870	73.65	\$64,076	67%	-4%	61%
Fox	694	\$15.04	\$10,438	931	7.81	\$7,271	57%	93%	202%
Lynx	1,925	\$183.49	\$353,218	1,213	182.58	\$221,470	64%	0%	65%
Marten	7,190	\$91.68	\$659,179	6,054	73.02	\$442,063	57%	26%	97%
Mink	1,381	\$11.53	\$15,923	215	10.32	\$2,219	659%	12%	748%
Muskrat	2,190	\$2.62	\$5,738	2,633	2.89	\$7,609	1%	-9%	-9%
River otter	292	\$41.54	\$12,130	178	48.50	\$8,633	90%	-14%	62%
Raccoon	22	\$8.89	\$196	15	5.94	\$89	-95%	50%	-93%
Skunk	200	\$80.85	\$16,170	168	28.49	\$4,786	102%	184%	473%
Squirrel	3,365	\$1.80	\$6,057	5,003	0.80	\$4,002	-25%	125%	69%
Weasel	1,939	\$11.77	\$22,822	2,378	8.32	\$19,785	-11%	41%	26%
Wolf	831	\$338.13	\$280,986	632	361.66	\$228,569	62%	-7%	51%
Wolverine	126	\$549.79	\$69,274	64	517.73	\$33,135	147%	6%	162%
Total fur value			\$2,021,992			\$1,324,351			53%

#### Trapper statistics 2024/25

Registered Licences – Senior	1,535
Registered Licences – Partner	1,485
Resident Licences	1,151
Registered Fur Management Areas	1,632

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