

Proposed Changes to Coyote Hunting and Trapping in Ohio

A proposal was presented to the Ohio Wildlife Council on Jan. 15, 2020 to require a fur taker permit for coyote hunting and trapping, and adding coyote to the furbearer trapping season. This proposal was made to better align with other furbearer hunting and trapping regulations, and will ensure proper training is completed prior to trapping coyote by requiring the fulfillment of a trapper education course.

If approved by the Ohio Wildlife Council, the proposed changes to coyote hunting and trapping will take effect on July 1, 2020.

- Coyotes are defined as a fur-bearing animal in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 1531.01(W). As such, a fur taker permit is required to hunt or trap coyotes in ORC 1533.111. However, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 1501:31-15-09 (O) provides an exemption for coyotes, and this is a direct conflict with ORC. The proposal aligns OAC and ORC.
- If approved, the proposal will establish a coyote trapping season of November 10 – January 31 annually to coincide with fox, raccoon, opossum, skunk, and weasel trapping seasons. Establishing a coyote trapping season will eliminate non-target catch of other furbearers outside of the regular trapping season.
- The proposal does not limit the coyote hunting season, which has no closed dates and no bag limit. The proposal also does not change the special regulations for coyote hunting during the deer-gun hunting seasons.
- If approved, the proposal requires coyote hunters and trappers to obtain a fur taker permit (\$15 for an adult, \$8 for youth and seniors), which is already required for raccoon, fox, skunk, opossum, and weasel hunters and trappers. The Ohio Division of Wildlife asks all furbearer hunters and trappers to complete a survey which aids in wildlife management research.
- Ohio resident landowners are not required to have a hunting license or fur taker permit when hunting or trapping on land they own. This includes hunting or trapping coyotes.
- A trapper education course is only required of people trapping furbearers (which, if approved, will include coyotes). The course is not required for people who hunt furbearers (which, if approved, will include coyotes). Requiring a trapper education course before pursuing coyotes ensures that those using traps and snares have been trained in the proper and legal use of equipment to be safe, effective, and ethical trappers.
- Nuisance wild animal control laws as provided in ORC 1531.40 and OAC 1501:31-15-03 will not change. This allows the control of sick, nuisance, or injured coyotes.

- Research from wildlife management staff shows that Ohio’s coyote population has leveled off during the past 10 years and remains stable.
- Coyotes are one of Ohio’s most valuable furbearing animals. Pelts often sell higher than other furbearers and demand is high.

2019-2020 Coyote Seasons and Regulations in States Adjacent to Ohio			
	<u>Trapping</u>	<u>Hunting</u>	<u>Permitting and other info</u>
Kentucky	Nov. 11, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	Permitted year-round	Trapping license required for all trappers.
Pennsylvania	Oct. 27, 2019 - Feb. 23, 2020	Permitted year-round	Fur taker license required for trapping. Hunting permitted with hunting license OR fur taker license. Use of cable restraints limited to Dec. 26 to Feb. 23.
Michigan	Oct. 15, 2019 - Mar. 1, 2020	Permitted year-round	Residents trapping coyotes must have a fur harvester license. Non-residents must have a fur harvester license to hunt or trap coyotes. Use of cable restraints limited to Jan. 1 to March 1.
Indiana	Oct. 15, 2019 - Mar. 15, 2020	Oct. 15 - March 15	Trapping license required for all trappers.
West Virginia	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	Permitted year-round	Hunting and trapping (combined license) required.