

Tan, Treat or Preserve Wild Animal Pelts

Pelts are the untanned skins of furbearing mammals. You may wish to have a pelt treated for long-term preservation by a tanner or a taxidermist, or choose to treat the pelt yourself. Some people may want to keep a pelt for personal use, while others, such as licensed trappers, may choose to have it tanned for sale.

You do not need to obtain a licence from the Ministry of Natural Resources to send pelts to a tanner or taxidermist, provided the pelts were lawfully obtained.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Effective July 1, 2013, if you wish to send pelts to a tanner or taxidermist, you do not require a special licence or other authorization from MNR, and you do not need to pay a royalty fee on the pelts. You must, however, provide proof that you have obtained the pelt lawfully:

- *For pelts from harvested animals*, you must provide your trapping licence or a small game licence number to the tanner or taxidermist. In some cases, you may also require a Licence to Possess a Pelt (for example, for over-quota harvest) from MNR.
- *For pelts from animals found dead*, such as roadkill, you must register for a Notice of Possession at the Ministry of Natural Resources registry and provide that registration number to the tanner or taxidermist.
- *For pelts purchased for personal use*, you must register for a Notice of Possession at the Ministry of Natural Resources registry and provide that registration number to the tanner or taxidermist.

Note: A taxidermist or tanner must possess a Fur Dealer's Licence (Tanning) in order to accept pelts. You can ask the taxidermist or tanner if they have the licence, or contact their local MNR District Office to enquire ontario.ca/mnroffices.

Licensed trappers are not required to obtain a Fur Dealer's Licence to tan or treat pelts that they harvested under their licence or otherwise legally acquired. Licensed trappers are permitted to sell pelts that they have tanned themselves.

IMPORTANT LINKS

To review the regulations associated with the tanning and taxidermy of furbearing mammals, please visit www.elaws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_980666_e.htm.

To view a list of Ontario's furbearing mammals, please visit the Definitions section of Ontario's Hunting Regulations Summary at ontario.ca/hunting.

To find your local District Office, please go to visit ontario.ca/mnroffices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1-855-613-4256

Email: mnr.rasc@ontario.ca

Keep, Buy or Sell a Pelt

A pelt is the untanned skin of a furbearing mammal. You are allowed to possess a pelt, provided that you comply with rules under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. In most cases, you will either need to register a Notice of Possession or obtain a Licence to Possess a Pelt.

Special rules apply to furbearing mammals that are protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. To see if a species is on the Species at Risk in Ontario list, please visit ontario.ca/speciesatrisk. Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) District Office for further information about possessing the pelt of a species at risk.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

You are allowed to possess the pelt of a furbearing mammal, but in most cases you will either need to obtain a Licence to Possess a Pelt or register the possession with a Notice of Possession (see table).

You DO NOT need to register possession if you are	You need a LICENCE TO POSSESS A PELT if you are	You need to register a NOTICE OF POSSESSION if
A licensed trapper who harvested the animal during the open season. You may possess the pelt for the remainder of the open season and during the closed season if you complete the season-end harvest report.	A small game hunter who harvested a furbearing mammal during the open season but wishes to keep it during the closed season.	You purchased a pelt for personal use.
A farmer who holds a Farmer's Licence to Sell Pelts and Carcasses and who harvested the animal during the open season for the species. You may possess the pelt for the remainder of the open season and during the closed season if you complete the season-end harvest report.	A licensed trapper or farmer who, despite the exercise of all due diligence, killed a furbearing mammal during the closed season or contrary to the conditions of your trapping licence.	You imported a pelt to Ontario for personal use.
A farmer who does not hold a Farmer's Licence to Sell Pelts and Carcasses and who harvested the animal during the open season. You may keep the pelt only during the open season.	A farmer who does not possess a Farmer's Licence to Sell Pelts and Carcasses who harvested the animal during the open season but wishes to possess a pelt outside of the open season.	You find a furbearing mammal carcass or pelt and wish to keep it for personal use.
A licensed small game hunter who harvested the animal during the open season. You may keep the pelt only during the open season.		
A licensed fur dealer in the course of your business.		

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Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) District Office to obtain a **Licence to Possess a Pelt**. You may sell a pelt that you are licensed to possess.

To obtain a **Notice of Possession**, complete the online registry form available at the Ministry of Natural Resources registry. You may give a pelt that you have registered to another person as a gift but **may not sell** it. The person receiving the pelt would then have to register the possession of the pelt.

Special rules apply to furbearing mammals that are protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. To see if a species is on the Species at Risk in Ontario list, please visit ontario.ca/speciesatrisk. Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) District Office for further information about possessing the pelt of a species at risk.

IMPORTANT LINKS

To locate a Ministry of Natural Resources in your area please visit ontario.ca/mnr/offices.

To view a list of Ontario's furbearing mammals, please visit the Definitions section of Ontario's Hunting Regulations Summary at ontario.ca/hunting.

For more information, please read about [Keeping a dead wild animal](#) on the ministry website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Keep a Dead Wild Animal

Occasionally, people wish to keep dead wildlife that was not obtained through recreational hunting or trapping, for example a rabbit that was found dead on the roadside, or a black bear that was killed in protection of property.

In most cases, you may keep these carcasses without approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Possession of certain species must however be registered online, at the Ministry of Natural Resources registry, by completing and submitting a Notice of Possession. Special rules apply to the possession of species that are listed as extirpated, endangered, or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In general, you are allowed to keep dead wildlife that you have found or been given. In some cases, described below, you must register your possession by completing and submitting a *Notice of Possession*. To register a Notice of Possession for dead wildlife, you have to register with the Ministry of Natural Resources registry. You will receive email confirmation of the registration, which should be printed and kept with the dead wildlife.

In most cases, you may not buy or sell game wildlife or specially protected wildlife, whether alive or dead, without approval from MNR. There are some exceptions, for example pelts sold by a licensed trapper. Please contact your local MNR District Office for more information.

LARGE MAMMALS: black bear, white-tailed deer, American elk or moose

You MUST REGISTER possession of a large mammal if:	You DO NOT need to register possession if:
You have found a dead bear, deer, elk, or moose and wish to keep it (for example, if you wish to keep roadkill).	You have lawfully killed the animal (for example, if you are a licensed recreational hunter).
You are a landowner or agent who has killed a black bear in protection of property, and wish to keep it.	You receive the dead wildlife as a gift from someone who lawfully killed it.
	You are a taxidermist or butcher in the course of your business
	You lawfully possessed the live wildlife before its death (for example, in a licensed zoo).

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RAPTORS: bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, gyrfalcon, northern harrier, certain hawks (broad-winged, Cooper’s, red-shouldered, red-tailed, rough-legged, and sharp-shinned), American kestrel, American swallow-tailed kite, merlin, osprey, certain owls (barred, boreal, burrowing, eastern screech, great gray, great horned, long-eared, northern hawk, northern saw-whet, short-eared, and snowy), and turkey vulture.

You MUST REGISTER POSSESSION OF A RAPTOR if:	You DO NOT need to register possession if:
You have found a dead raptor and wish to keep it (for example, if you wish to keep roadkill).	You receive the dead raptor as a gift.
You are a landowner or agent who has killed a raptor in protection of property, and wish to keep it.	You are a taxidermist in the course of your business.
	You lawfully possessed the live wildlife before its death (for example, a licensed zoo).

FURBEARING MAMMALS: beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, fox (Arctic, red), lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, raccoon, red squirrel, striped skunk, weasel, (least, long-tailed, short-tailed or ermine), and wolf or the pelts (untanned skin) of these animals.

A Notice of Possession gives you the right to possess the dead wildlife for personal use only (i.e., you may not sell it). For more information on possessing a pelt for other than personal use (for example, selling), please refer to the Important Links section below.

You MUST REGISTER possession of a furbearing mammal if:	You DO NOT need to register possession if:
You find a dead furbearing mammal and wish to keep it (for example, if you wish to keep roadkill).	You lawfully killed the animal (for example, if you are a licensed trapper or small game hunter).
You are a landowner or agent who has killed a furbearing mammal in protection of property, and wish to keep it.	You are a taxidermist or butcher in the course of your business.
You buy or otherwise acquire or import the pelt of a furbearing mammal, or the carcass including the pelt, for your own personal use.	You lawfully possessed the live wildlife before its death (for example, a licensed zoo).
	You have obtained a Licence to Possess a Pelt for the pelt of the furbearing mammal.

You may give a pelt that you have registered to another person as a gift but you **MAY NOT SELL** it.

Special rules apply to the possession of endangered or threatened species listed on the ontario.ca/speciesatrisk. Please contact your local MNR District Office for more information.

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IMPORTANT LINKS

To review the regulations related to the requirements for a Notice of Possession, go to www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_980666_e.htm.

To locate a Ministry of Natural Resources in your area please visit ontario.ca/mnroffices.

Please call ahead to make an appointment to meet with staff.

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