



WILD ANIMAL COLLECTING PERMITS

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING, EDUCATION, BANDING, AND WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITS

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE'S MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to conserving and improving the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, promoting their use and appreciation by the people so that these resources continue to enhance the quality of life for all Ohioans.

The Division of Wildlife offers permits for the purpose of scientific study, educational programs, bird banding, and wildlife rehabilitation activities involving Ohio native wildlife or Aquatic Nuisance Species. This publication is meant as a summary only, and is not intended to address all laws and regulations. See the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) for details. All permits issued must comply with the mission statement of the Division of Wildlife. Wild animal permits expire at midnight on March fifteenth annually. The Chief of the Division of Wildlife will not issue permits for Dangerous Wild Animal (DWA) species (ORC 935.01) except native DWA, required for specific projects. The permit issued by the Chief does not relieve the permittee of any responsibility to obtain a permit pursuant to R.C. Chapter 935 except as specified for the animals and purposes permitted herein. The permittee must adhere to all additional requirements under R.C. Chapter 935.

BANDING PERMITS

Persons desiring to conduct bird banding activities must apply for a free Wild Animal Banding Permit (Form 8952). Wild Animal Banding Permits are for the purpose of banding activities only. Permit holders agree to not hold any species longer than the period of time necessary for banding. Animals killed or injured during banding shall be turned over to the Division of Wildlife. Because banding birds requires capturing the birds and handling them before the banding takes place, the banding of birds in the United States is also controlled under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and requires a federal banding permit. Only official federal bands may be legally placed on birds that are released to the wild within the United States. Bird banding permits, supplies of bird bands, and bird banding data are administered by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Bird Banding Laboratory. Persons desiring to band migratory birds must first obtain their USGS bird-banding permit or work under the supervision of a USGS master banding permit holder.

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING

A Scientific Collecting Permit allows the collection of wild animals, in Ohio, that would otherwise be prohibited. Scientific Collecting Permits are primarily for survey and inventory of wildlife species that are protected, being collected during the closed hunting or trapping season, collected in excess of daily bag limits or collected with devices or techniques otherwise prohibited.

A Scientific Collecting Permit is required under ORC 1533.08 which states in part that "any person desiring to collect wild animals that are protected by law or their nest or eggs for scientific study shall make application to the chief of the Division of Wildlife for a wild animal collecting permit." Wild animals are defined in ORC 1531.01 as including mollusk, crustaceans, aquatic insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, wild birds, wild quadrupeds and all other wild mammals excluding domestic deer. A permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) may be required in addition to the state permit for collection of migratory birds or protected species.

Persons wishing to obtain a Scientific Collecting Permit must complete the application in its entirety (Form 8954). It is often necessary to supplement the application with attachments or a cover letter detailing the specifics of a project request. The following criteria have been established to provide guidelines for determining qualifications for the issuance of a Scientific Collecting Permit:

1. The applicant for a Scientific Collecting Permit must submit a completed application (Form 8954) to the Division of Wildlife thirty (30) days prior to the start of the activity. The application must outline in detail the species, locations, quantity and collection methods to be used. For sub-permittees, include their name and last four digits of their social security number or their driver's license number. Sub-permittees only need to be identified if they will be using the permit without the direct, on-site supervision of the primary permit holder.
2. Scientific Collection Permits are issued to the qualifying entities listed below. The applicant for a Scientific Collecting Permit is considered the responsible party for activities conducted under the permit and must be directly affiliated with or an authorized representative from one of the following institutions:
 - A college, university, high school, junior high or elementary school as an educator, researcher, student, masters or doctoral candidate.

- A public agency, such as federal, state, city or county unit of government, engaged in a wildlife or scientific area of study or research.
 - A non-profit educational or conservation organization that is associated with wildlife or scientific area of study or research.
 - A scientific research organization or bona fide environmental consulting firm performing wildlife related work for a third party.
3. Applicants who are not directly affiliated with an institution listed must provide the following information to verify qualification for a permit:
- Personal qualifications to perform this activity.
 - Specific purpose necessary for you to perform this activity.
 - The location(s) where collected specimens will be maintained. Name and address of the facility to be used as a repository for voucher specimens.

A project that will include the collection or possession of migratory birds, eggs, nest, parts, or the collection of protected species, may require a permit from the USFWS in addition to a state permit. Contact information is provided on back page.

EDUCATION PERMITS

Education permits are a mechanism designed to permit qualified educators to possess Ohio native wild animals. Activities covered by an Education Permit include: possession of dead wild animal parts, nests, eggs, mounts or study skins and live wild animals for educational programming or display. Possession of wild animals that are not being used for educational purposes is covered under a Propagation Permit. For more information on Propagation Permits, contact your local Division of Wildlife District Office. *Special regulations apply to the possession of live reptiles. Snakes with a snout to vent length of greater than eighteen inches, and turtles with a carapace four inches or larger must be permanently marked with a unique passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag. All snakes and turtles held in captivity must be implanted with a unique PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tag prior to sale, barter, trade or gift. Any brand of PIT tags may be used that have a frequency of 125kHz, 134.2kHz or 400kHz. Collection of reptiles and amphibians from the wild is limited to those listed as "Collectible" according to OAC 1501:31-1-02.*

Persons desiring to obtain an Education Permit must complete the application in its entirety (Form 8953). It is often necessary to supplement the application with attachments or a cover letter detailing the specifics of a project request. The following criteria provide guidelines for determining qualifications for the issuance of Education Permits:

1. The applicant for an Education Permit must submit a completed application (Form 8953) to the Division of Wildlife thirty (30) days prior to the start of the activity. The application must outline in detail the species, locations to be collected or held, quantity and collection methods to be used. For sub-permittees, include their name and last four digits of their social security number or their driver's license number.
2. Education Permits are issued to the qualifying entities listed below. The applicant for an Education Permit is considered the responsible party for activities conducted under the permit and must be directly affiliated with or an authorized representative from one of the following institutions:
 - A college, university, high school, junior high or elementary school as an educator.
 - A public agency, such as federal, state, city or county unit of government, performing wildlife education.
 - An educational or conservation organization, museum or zoological garden that displays or performs wildlife education.
 - A licensed Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitator who has permanent resident wildlife used for educational activities.
3. Applicants who are not directly affiliated with an institution listed must provide the following information to verify qualification for a permit:
 - Personal qualifications to perform this activity.
 - Specific purpose necessary for you to perform this activity.
 - The location(s) where collected specimens be maintained. Name and address of the facility to be used as a repository for voucher specimens.

A project that will include the collection or possession of migratory birds, eggs, nest, parts, or the collection of protected species, may require a permit from the USFWS in addition to a state permit. Contact information is provided on back page.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Persons desiring to rehabilitate orphaned or injured wild animals may apply for a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit (DNR 8987). Applicants must meet the requirements set forth in the OAC 1501:32-25-03 and must have completed the Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation Training offered by the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (OWRA) or equivalent training.

Rehabilitation Permits are divided into two categories and one special permission permit. A Category I Permit allows individuals to rehabilitate healthy, orphaned, non-rabies vector mammals such as squirrels, Eastern cottontail rabbits, and woodchucks. A Category II Permit allows individuals with at least three years of rehabilitation experience as a Category I Rehabilitator or equivalent to rehabilitate all species of wild animals except rabies-vector species, deer, coyote, bobcat, mute swans, and state or federal endangered species unless otherwise approved by the Chief of the Division of Wildlife. Category II rehabilitators must provide documentation that they have veterinarian assistance and have the ability to properly care for wild animals that are diseased, injured, or need rehabilitative care. A limited number of Endangered Species permits are issued at the Chief's discretion based on training, geographical location and agency need.

Interested persons are encouraged to first volunteer with a permitted rehabilitator to gain the valuable experience necessary to receive their own permit. Permits are issued at the discretion of the Division of Wildlife and may be denied in geographic areas without a viable need for additional rehabilitators or if the applicant does not meet the minimum qualifications.

Rehabilitation of migratory birds and federally threatened or endangered wildlife requires a USFWS Special Purpose Rehabilitation Permit in addition to a state permit. Individuals rehabilitating migratory birds may be a sub-permittee of a federal license holder but must also have their own state rehabilitation permit or be a sub-permittee of an Ohio licensed rehabilitator.

The following criteria have been established to determine qualifications for the issuance of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit:

1. The applicant for a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit must submit a completed application (DNR 8987) to the Division of Wildlife thirty (30) days prior to the start of the activity. The applicant must be eighteen years of age or older and must show proof of completion of Wildlife Rehabilitation Training offered by the OWRA or equivalent training.
2. Applicants must provide proof that proper facilities for all animals they wish to rehabilitate are available that includes cage and holding requirements as specified in the "Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Ohio" Publication 5475.
3. Applicants for Category I and II rehabilitation permits must meet qualifications stated above to have their application considered.
4. Persons holding a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit shall comply with all provisions and conditions set forth in the permit and any of the Ohio Division of Wildlife minimum standards for the care and welfare of animals.
5. Wild animals that are being improperly cared for may be removed by any Wildlife Officer. Written notice to the holder of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit may be given that his or her permit is being revoked until the conditions of the facility or the care and handling deficiencies are corrected.

RABIES-VECTOR SPECIES

Persons wishing to rehabilitate rabies-vector species (raccoons, bats, fox, and skunks) are required to have 1) taken a training course (or equivalent certification) for handling rabies-vector species offered by the OWRA or other approved organization, 2) provide proof of rabies pre-exposure vaccination or antibody titer, and 3) sign a document stating their knowledge of the risks associated with handling these species and their acceptance of all responsibility for injury or illness they, their sub-permittees, or volunteers may be exposed to while caring for rabies-vector species.

Raccoon that originate or are from the following counties cannot be rehabilitated and must be euthanized: Ashtabula, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning, Monroe, Portage, Summit, and Trumbull. In the remaining 74 counties, raccoons must be euthanized or held for 65 days with no sign of disease before being released. If held for 65 days, the wildlife must be released in the same county and township in which they were originally obtained. In addition to raccoons, other rabies-vector species, including but not limited to, bats and fox must be euthanized or held for 65 days with no sign of disease before being released. If held for 65 days, the wildlife must be released in the same county and township in which they were originally obtained.

RECORD KEEPING AND ANNUAL REPORTS

All persons holding Scientific Collecting, Education or Banding Permits must maintain accurate daily records of specimens collected under the authority of the permit, and the disposition of the specimens. These records shall be exhibited to any official of the Division of Wildlife upon request. All Scientific Collecting and Education Permit holders must submit an annual report of operations and the disposition of specimens prior to March fifteenth annually. The report must be submitted in a format provided by the Division of Wildlife or on accepted media. Failure to report may result in the forfeiture of the permit involved and affect the eligibility to apply for a new permit. Bird banders must submit their annual report to USGS as required.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit holders must keep an accurate daily record of all animals by species which are held for rehabilitation. Records shall include the location the animal was found, the date the wild animal was received, the purpose for treatment, the date and location where the wild animal was released, or its final disposition. Records must be held on file for a period of two years and must be open for inspections by any Division of Wildlife personnel. Annual reports for Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits should be submitted on DNR 9019 (Annual Year End Report).

ENDANGERED SPECIES, AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) AND WILDLIFE AREAS

There are specific rules and regulations governing the collection or possession of endangered species, Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) as well as the collection of wildlife and plants from an area owned or controlled by the Division of Wildlife.

The ORC states that no person shall take or possess any native endangered species without the permission of the Chief of the Division of Wildlife. Laws pertaining to ANS are similar. Permission to collect or work with endangered or ANS is handled by a special letter permit in addition to the requirements that exist for obtaining a scientific collecting permit, and must be requested in writing.

Possession of a scientific collecting permit does not constitute permission to collect on Division of Wildlife owned or controlled properties. Special regulations prohibit collection of wild animals and plants from wildlife areas without the permission of the Chief of the Division of Wildlife. Those wishing to conduct activities on wildlife areas must first request to do so in writing to the Division of Wildlife. In your request, you must list the specific information as to what benefit your activity has to wildlife.

HOW TO OBTAIN A PERMIT APPLICATION:

Permit applications may be downloaded from wildohio.gov, requested by email at wildlife.permits@dnr.state.oh.us, or you may contact the Division of Wildlife, Permit Coordinator, 2045 Morse Rd. Bldg G. Columbus, OH 43229-6693.

1533.08. COLLECTING PERMIT FOR SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL OR REHABILITATION USES.

Except as otherwise provided by division rule, any person desiring to collect wild animals that are protected by law or their nests or eggs for scientific study, school instruction, other educational uses, or rehabilitation shall make application to the chief of the division of wildlife for a wild animal collecting permit on a form furnished by the chief. Each applicant for a wild animal collecting permit, other than an applicant desiring to rehabilitate wild animals, shall pay an annual fee of twenty-five dollars for each permit. No fee shall be charged to an applicant desiring to rehabilitate wild animals. When it appears that the application is made in good faith, the Chief shall issue to the applicant a permit to take, possess, and transport at any time and in any manner specimens of wild animals protected by law or their nests and eggs for scientific study, school instruction, other educational uses, or rehabilitation and under any additional rules recommended by the wildlife council. Upon the receipt of a permit, the holder may take, possess, and transport those wild animals in accordance with the permit.

Each holder of a permit engaged in collecting such wild animals shall carry the permit at all times and shall exhibit it upon demand to any Wildlife Officer, constable, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or police officer, to the owner or person in lawful control of the land upon which the permit holder is collecting, or to any other person. Failure to so carry or exhibit the permit constitutes an offense under this section.

Each permit holder shall keep a daily record of all specimens collected under the permit and the disposition of the specimens and shall exhibit the daily record to any official of the division upon demand.

Each permit shall remain in effect for one year from the date of issuance unless it is revoked sooner by the Chief. All moneys received as fees for the issuance of a wild animal collecting permit shall be transmitted to the director of natural resources to be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the fund created by section 1533.15 of the Revised Code.

1533.09. DUTIES OF COLLECTING PERMIT HOLDER; REVOCATION AND FORFEITURE.

Before the fifteenth day of March of each year, each wild animal permit holder shall file with the division of wildlife a written report of the permit holder's operations under the permit and the disposition of the specimens collected or possessed during the preceding calendar year on report blanks furnished by the chief of the division. Failure to file a report shall cause the permit to be forfeited as of the fifteenth day of March. Permits are not transferable. No permit holder or person collecting or possessing wild animals under authority of such a permit shall take, possess, or transport the wild animals for any purpose not specified in the permit.

Conviction of a violation of this section, failure to carry a permit and exhibit it to any person requesting to see it as provided in section 1533.08 of the Revised Code, or the violation of any other law concerning wild animals constitutes a revocation and forfeiture of the permit involved. The former permit holder shall not be entitled to another permit for a period of one year from the date of the conviction.



United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Section
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111
(612) 713-5343



The ODNR Division of Wildlife's mission is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.

The Division of Wildlife is funded by annual hunting, trapping, and fishing license sales. It is the authority on Ohio's fish and wildlife resources, and uses no state or federal taxpayer dollars to fulfill its mission. Additional funds come in the form of federal aid reimbursement from an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment.

Money generated allows the Division of Wildlife to promote conservation efforts of game and non-game animals. Examples of these efforts include endangered and threatened species restoration, fish hatcheries, hunter and angler education, and law enforcement.

ODNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE DISTRICTS & OFFICES



WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS

2045 Morse Road • Columbus, OH 43229-6693
☎ (614) 265-6300 (Voice)
1-800-750-0750 (Ohio Relay-TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

1500 Dublin Road • Columbus, OH 43215
☎ (614) 644-3925

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

952 Lima Avenue • Findlay, OH 45840
☎ (419) 424-5000

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

912 Portage Lakes Drive • Akron, OH 44319
☎ (330) 644-2293

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

360 E. State Street • Athens, OH 45701
☎ (740) 589-9930

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

1076 Old Springfield Pike • Xenia, OH 45385
☎ (937) 372-9261

FAIRPORT FISHERIES UNIT

1190 High Street • Fairport Harbor, OH 44077
☎ (440) 352-4199

SANDUSKY FISHERIES & ENFORCEMENT UNITS

305 E. Shoreline Drive • Sandusky, OH 44870
☎ (419) 625-8062

INLAND FISHERIES RESEARCH UNIT

10517 Canal Road SE • Hebron, OH 43025
☎ (740) 928-7034