

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

THOMAS BARNARD
COLONEL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commercial Fox Hunting Preserve License Applicants
FROM: Special Permit Unit rev7/2023/jrh
SUBJECT: Instructions for Completing Application

This memo is in reference to meeting requirements for a Commercial Fox Hunting Preserve License as provided for by Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 27-2-22.1. Attached is a copy of the law's provisions and requirements and an application form which you must complete and return to the Law Enforcement Section, Special Permit Unit, in Social Circle. The following information must be provided fully for each item on the form:

1. Give your complete name, mailing address, email and home telephone number.
2. Provide name, address (including county), and phone number of the fox pen (if different from above).
3. Provide the specific location of the pen, such as "dirt drive with red gate to the left of Georgia Hwy. 15, 6 miles southeast of Watkinsville, Oconee County, Georgia."
4. Describe proposed method of operation of fox pen, including introduction of new foxes, type of fee system, etc.
5. List species (ex: red fox, gray fox, coyote) and number (by species) of animals to be penned.
6. Provide size of running pen (in acres), size of any smaller holding pen, and brief general description of pen construction (height, materials, etc.). Use attachments if more space is needed. Drawings and photographs are helpful, but not required.
7. List all sources and/or suppliers of animals. Legal sources include trapping foxes or coyotes yourself (with a valid Georgia Resident Trapping license) or purchasing them from licensed trappers or breeders. Applicants should not be in possession of animals prior to issuance of a license, unless special arrangements have been made with the Special Permits office.
8. Give means of transporting animals, by whom (yourself, trapper, breeder), and destination.
9. Enclose a check, money order, or credit card/Debt information (Preferred method) in the amount of \$80.00, make payable to Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Preserve operators wishing to sell nonresident shooting preserve licenses should contact Georgia Department of Natural Resources Licensing Unit, at 2065 U.S. Highway 278 S.E., Social Circle, Georgia, 30025, 1-800-366-2661

Fox Hunting Preserve facilities are subject to inspection by Department of Natural Resources personnel prior to approval of a license for any activity involving wildlife and at any reasonable time thereafter.

Rev/7/2023

Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
Special Permit Unit
2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.
Social Circle, Georgia 30025
(770) 918-6408

**COMMERCIAL FOX HUNTING PRESERVE
LICENSE (FOX PEN) APPLICATION**
(Use attachments if more space is needed)
\$ 80.00

1. Applicant name: _____
Address: _____
(Nonresidents must meet one of the conditions listed at bottom for service of legal process):
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____
Email: _____
Date of Birth (required) _____ Social Security Number (required) _____ Drivers License # _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell# _____ Business # _____

2. Business (if any) or name of pen to be covered by license (Include name and type):

3. Address or location where proposed activity is to be conducted:

County _____

4. Describe proposed method of operation of fox pen, including introduction of new foxes, type of fee system, etc.:

5. Species (red fox, gray fox, coyote) and number (by species) of animals to be penned or current inventory if renewing:

6. Provide size of running pen (in acres), size of any smaller holding pen, and brief general description of pen construction (height, materials, etc.). Use attachments if more space is needed. Drawings and photographs are helpful, but not required:

7. List all sources and/or suppliers of animal(s):

8. Give means of transporting animals, by whom, and final destination:

O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20: "A person who knowingly and willingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement...in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of state government...shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000 or by imprisonment for not less than one or more than five years, or both."

Date Signature (in ink)

If paying by Credit card, enter card # here: _____/_____/_____/_____ Amount \$ **80.00**

Type of card: Visa: MasterCard: Discover Expiration Date: ____/____/ Security Code # _____

Credit Card Signature: _____

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FOX HUNTING PRESERVES, COMMERCIAL FOX BREEDERS, AND TRAPPERS/SELLERS OF RED FOX, GRAY FOX, AND COYOTE

Anyone with a Georgia Resident Commercial Trapping License may sell legally taken foxes and coyotes to licensed fox preserve operators in compliance with laws pertaining to trapping and selling of live fox (see attached copy of the law). Live foxes may be taken from the wild only during trapping season, December 1 through February 15. Live coyotes may be taken from the wild at any time of year by a commercial trapper.

Licensed preserve operators and breeders may purchase in Georgia live trapped coyotes year-round and foxes during the period December 1 through February 20. Licensed preserve operators may purchase pen-raised foxes from licensed breeders year-round. **Importation of live foxes or coyotes from outside Georgia is prohibited.**

Records of foxes or coyotes purchased must be kept by preserve operators and breeders, including number of animals, date of purchase, name and address of seller, and any known losses thereafter. Fox breeders must maintain records of foxes propagated in captivity. All records are subject to inspection by the Department.

Boundary lines of preserve must be marked and posted against trespassing with signs indicating such boundary lines in letters not less than two (2) inches in height.

Running pens less than one hundred (100) acres must be limited to one (1) dog per five (5) acres.

Density of foxes and coyotes in running pens may not exceed one (1) fox or coyote per ten (10) acres.

Preserve operators may hold foxes and coyotes in a holding pen of no less than four (4) acres. Animals may be held in smaller facilities for treatment of injury, disease or when very young.

All foxes and coyotes must be vaccinated against all canine diseases prior to release into running pens.

All fox hunting preserve and fox breeding facilities are required to hold animals in accordance with humane handling and care requirements. Animals held under any license may not be physically altered or mutilated in any way.

All fox and coyote holding facilities must be maintained in a sanitary condition with adequate food, water, and shelter (including escape cover or dens in running pens) available at all times.

Residents must have a hunting license to run dogs in a fox hunting preserve. Nonresidents must have either a nonresident hunting license or a nonresident shooting preserve hunting license. All participants are exempt from hunting licenses during permitted field trials.

27-2-22.1. Fox trapping and selling.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to trap and sell live fox without first procuring a commercial trapping license provided for in Code Section 27-2-23. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, live fox may be taken from the wild only during trapping season and may be sold only to licensed commercial fox hunting preserves or licensed commercial fox breeders. Foxes may be held during open trapping season for up to five days until sold but must be sold or dispatched within five days after the close of trapping season. Any person in possession of a live fox must comply with the provisions of Code Section 27-5-6.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase a live fox unless the person selling such game animal has a valid commercial trapping license and unless the person purchasing such animal has a valid license provided for in this Code section.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to own or operate an area utilized for the purpose of running, taking, or hunting penned fox for a fee or other manner of compensation to such owner or operator unless such person has a valid commercial fox hunting preserve license provided for in this subsection and in Code Section 27-2-23. For purposes of this Code section, the term 'penned fox' means a fox that has been trapped, purchased, or raised in captivity. The license required by this subsection shall be effective from April 1 through March 31 of the following year. An application for a commercial fox hunting preserve license shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the department. No license shall be issued pursuant to this subsection unless the following conditions are met, and each permit shall be conditioned upon the following:

- (1) Fox may be held in holding pens not less than four acres in size or in smaller facilities for the treatment of fox which are injured, diseased, or very young;
- (2) There shall be no restriction on the number of dogs which may be used concurrently in areas of at least 100 acres in size which are enclosed and used for the purpose of running, taking, or hunting penned fox. For enclosed areas of less than 100 acres only one dog may be used for each five acres of area to be utilized for running, taking, or hunting penned fox;
- (3) The density of fox in a running pen may not exceed one animal per ten acres;
- (4) The boundary lines of areas to be utilized for the purpose of running, taking, or hunting penned fox must be posted against trespassing and must be marked by signs indicating such boundary lines, and letters not less than two inches in height shall be used to indicate such boundary lines and that the area is posted against trespassing;
- (5) All facilities to be utilized by the fox hunting preserve shall be maintained in a sanitary condition with adequate food, water, and shelter available at all times for such animals. Fox shall also be vaccinated against canine disease prior to release into an area used for running, taking, or hunting; and
- (6) Records of fox located within the fox hunting preserve and of any known losses of fox shall be maintained and kept current by the owner or operator of such facility. Records shall also be maintained of all fox purchased, including the number of fox purchased, the date of purchase, and the name and address of the seller, for the purpose of inspection by the department.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of propagating or breeding fox for sale, restocking, propagation, or other commercial purposes unless that person has obtained a commercial fox breeder license provided for in this subsection and in Code Section 27-2-23. Such license shall be effective from April 1 through March 31 of the following year. An application for a commercial fox breeder license shall be submitted on a form as prescribed by the department. No license shall be issued pursuant to this subsection unless the following conditions are met and each permit shall be conditioned upon the following:

- (1) All facilities associated with the business of propagating or breeding fox shall be maintained in a sanitary condition with adequate food, water, and shelter available at all times for such animals;

(2) Records shall be kept of fox purchased by the commercial fox breeder, including the number of animals, the date of purchase, and the name and address of the seller, for the purpose of inspection by the department; and

(3) Persons engaged in the business of propagating or breeding fox shall be knowledgeable and competent in such business.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, take, or possess fox at a commercial fox hunting preserve without first procuring the licenses required under this title; provided, however, nonresidents of this state may procure a nonresident hunting preserve license which shall meet the requirements of this subsection and this title.

(f) It shall be unlawful to receive or possess any fox shipped, transported, or removed from outside of this state unless the jurisdiction from which such fox was transported is pursuant to a permit from the department.

27-1-28. Taking of nongame species.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, rule, or regulation, it shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, fish, take, possess or transport any nongame species of wildlife, except that the following species may be taken by any method except those specifically prohibited by law or regulation:

1. Rats;
2. Mice;
3. Coyotes;
4. Armadillos;
5. Groundhogs;
6. Beaver;
7. Fresh-water turtles;
8. Poisonous snakes;
9. Frogs;
10. Spring lizards;
11. Fiddler crabs;
12. Fresh-water crayfish;
13. Fresh-water mussels; and
14. Nutria.

(b) The nongame species enumerated in subsection (a) of this Code section may be taken by any method except those specifically prohibited by law or regulation.

(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to authorize the taking of any species which is protected under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, P.L. 93-205, as amended, or under any state law which has as its purpose the protection of endangered or threatened species. (Code 1933, § 45-202, enacted by Ga. L. 1977, p. 396, § 1; Ga. L. 1978, p. 816, § 15; Ga. L. 1981, p. 798, § 4; Ga. L. 1982, p. 1729, § 3; Ga. L. 1984, p. 537, § 1.)

U.S. Code. – The federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in this Code section, is codified at 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et. seq.