

Delaware Hunting and Trapping Laws and Regulations



Additional Hunting and Trapping information may also be viewed in the
online version of the Hunting/Trapping Guide:

<http://www.eregulations.com/delaware/hunting/>

Resident License and Permit Requirements

Age	License Exempt Number (LEN)	Junior Hunting License	Adult Hunting License	Federal Waterfowl Stamp	State Waterfowl Stamp	HIP #	State Wildlife Permits
12 and Under	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (except Youth day)
13 thru 15	No	Yes	No (unless turning 16 during season)	No	No	Yes	Yes (except Youth day)
16 thru 64	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
65 and over	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

*** License requirements related to Delaware landowners of 20 acres or more, DE Military personnel and DE Disabled Veterans please call 302-739-9918 for qualifications.**

Hunters must carry their hunting license and ID with them whenever hunting.

Non- Resident License and Permit Requirements

Non-Resident/ Age	License Exempt Number (LEN)	Junior Hunting License	Adult Hunting License	Federal Waterfowl Stamp	State Waterfowl Stamp	HIP #	State Wildlife Permits
12 and Under	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (except Youth day)
13 thru 15	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (except Youth day)
16 thru 64	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
65 and over	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

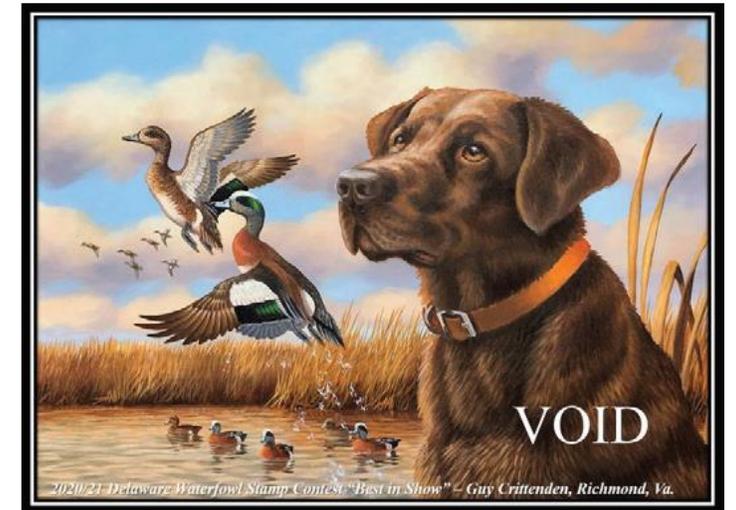
*** License requirements related to Delaware landowners of 20 acres or more, DE Military personnel and DE Disabled Veterans please call 302-739-9918 for qualifications.**

Hunters must carry their hunting license and ID with them whenever hunting.

Waterfowl Stamps

State Waterfowl Stamp:

- Persons 16 years or over and under 65 (16-64 years) must purchase a state waterfowl (duck) stamp to hunt waterfowl in Delaware.
- When purchasing your waterfowl (duck) stamp on the electronic systems, the stamp image is printed on your license if you purchase your hunting license at the same time. If you purchase the stamp separately you will receive the stamp image. The Division no longer mails original waterfowl (duck) stamps automatically at the end of the season (June 30th of each year). If you would like an original stamp sent to you please call (302) 739-9918 and provide your name, address and order ID number after you purchase the electronic stamp



Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp:

- A Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required for any person 16 years or older to hunt waterfowl. Stamps are sold at Post Offices. No exemptions are made for persons 65 years or older for purchasing Federal Stamps.

Prohibited Methods of Take

It Is Unlawful To:

GENERAL

- Hunt out-of-season, without a license, take more than the daily limit, or possess unlawfully killed game.
- Hunt within 100 yards of an occupied structure (unless hunter is the owner or occupant or has permission from the owner or occupant) or drop shot on buildings or people. When hunting deer with archery equipment, a hunter must be at least 50 yards from a structure. In New Castle County, north of I-295 and I-95 the distance is 200 yards when hunting with a firearm.
- Discharge any firearm from or within 15 yards of public road or shoot across a public road or right-of-way.
- Trespass with gun or dog or trap on private

property without prior permission of the landowner whether or not the land is "posted."

- Damage any nest, den, or lair of game animals or birds.
- Use an artificial light to illuminate wildlife from a motor vehicle for the purpose of hunting or observation.
- Use night vision or infrared devices while hunting.
- For specifics on waterfowl and other migratory birds, see Federal Regulations at www.fws.gov/le/hunting.html

Prohibited Methods of Take: Firearms and Archery Equipment

- Have a loaded firearm, or a cocked crossbow, in or on a motorboat while underway, or in, against, or on a motor vehicle or farm machinery.
- Transport a muzzleloader with a charge in the barrel unless the cap or primer is removed and the gun is enclosed in a case or the striking mechanism is removed.
- Hunt at night (1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise) except that frogs, raccoons and opossum may be hunted at night using a handheld light.
- Take game using a shotgun larger than 10 gauge, a fully automatic loading gun (machine gun), or use a centerfire rifle, except groundhogs, foxes and coyotes may be hunted with a centerfire rifle.
- Use a shot larger than No. 2, except when hunting deer. Waterfowl hunters may use non-toxic shot up to size T.
- Use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in total except for snow geese during the Conservation Order.
- Use poison or explosive tip arrows.
- Use a punt or swivel gun or any gun not normally fired from the shoulder.

Local ordinances may be more restrictive than state laws. Check before hunting within incorporated areas.

Legal Methods of Take

MISCELLANEOUS

- Sell, trade, or barter any game or any parts thereof, except as permitted by law. Hunters shipping lawfully taken game shall first obtain a notarized affidavit stating the game was lawfully killed, and include the name of the sender and the number of animals enclosed.
- Shoot hawks, owls, or other wild birds, except lawfully hunted game birds, house sparrows or starlings.
- Possess live protected game animals.
- Obtain live rabbits from out-of-state without a health certificate.
- Permit dogs to run at large at any time. (Except landowners of 20 acres or more may permit their dogs to run from October 1 through February 28 on their own land.)
- Allow dogs to run at large between the hours of sunset and sunrise by any person on any day. All dogs must be licensed.
- Use bait to hunt game, except bait may be used to hunt deer on privately-owned lands.

- It shall be unlawful to release swine (pigs) into the wild, charge a fee for the purpose of killing swine, or shoot swine without first obtaining a permit from the Division.

- It shall be unlawful to use antler traps, or any device intended to remove or collect shed antlers from deer.

Squirrel, Rabbit, Pheasant, Quail: Longbow or shotgun using no larger than No. 2 shot. Shotguns must be plugged to hold only 3 shells (in chamber and magazine combined). Additionally, squirrels only may be hunted with .17 through .22 caliber rimfire or pellet firearm with a rifled barrel or a muzzleloader rifle of not larger than .36 caliber firing a round projectile.

Snapping Turtles: May be taken with gig, trap, net or spear.

Frogs: May be taken with spear, gig, or hook.

Deer: Compound, recurve, longbow, and Crossbow using sharpened broadhead arrows (min. width 7/8").

Shotgun no smaller than 20 gauge for deer hunting using rifle slug, pumpkin ball or buckshot and must be plugged to hold only 3

shells (in chamber and magazine combined). It is unlawful to carry buckshot, rifle slug or pumpkin ball except while hunting for deer, and conversely, it is also unlawful to carry shot smaller than buckshot while deer hunting.

Muzzleloader no smaller than .42 caliber with a barrel length of at least 20 inches.

Handguns are limited to revolvers and single shot pistols with a barrel length of at least 5.75 inches and no longer than 12.5 inches and chambered for and using straight-wall handgun ammunition in .357 to .38 caliber with a cartridge case length of no less than 1.25 inches and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches, or in .41 caliber to a maximum of .50 caliber and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches.

Straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles are limited to manually-operated rifles, consisting of lever action, bolt action, pump action, single shot, and revolver rifles. These rifles may only be used to harvest deer. For more information on these firearms, as well as restrictions on allowable cartridges, see page 19 of the Delaware Hunting Guide.

Natural Resources Police



WHAT DO I DO TO REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS?

Contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife Operation Game Theft Hotline Toll-Free at 1-800-292-3030 anytime, 24 hours a day. You will be given an OGT Case Number. You do not need to give your name at this time. From this phone call, a Fish and Wildlife Natural Resources Police Officer will be dispatched or will return your call. Wildlife offenses need to be investigated immediately by an officer if there is to be a chance of making an arrest. The longer the delay in getting information to the agent, the smaller the chances of obtaining an arrest and conviction.



**To report game law violations call:
1-800-292-3030**

What is "Operation Game Theft"?

The Operation Game Theft Fund was established by the 130th General Assembly to assist in the apprehension and conviction of game law violators. The fund is comprised of all the fines levied for violation of game laws in this state and donations. The Legislature delegated the authority to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to designate offenses for which rewards will be paid and the amount of the reward.

What types of offenses are covered under the O.G.T. Program?

Up to \$1,000.00 can be rewarded for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person(s) involved in:

Class 1 – Reward up to \$1,000.00

1. Commercialization of Wildlife.
2. Killing of an endangered/threatened species.

Class 2 – Reward up to \$500.00

1. Over limit of black ducks, canvasbacks, turkeys or Canada geese.
2. Poisoning wildlife.
3. Interstate transportation of illegally taken wildlife.
4. Gross over limits of wildlife.
5. Illegally hunting or trapping on a state game refuge.

6. Hunting/Trapping out of season.

7. Possessing, tending or setting killer traps with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches.

8. Illegally hunting at night.

Class 3 – Reward: up to \$100.00

1. Hunting with an illegal type of weapon.
2. Hunting from a motor vehicle.

NOTE: An additional \$100 reward will be given by the Delaware Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally killing a wild turkey in Delaware.

How do I get paid?

You will be paid in cash by the agent to whom you gave your name.

Will my identity be confidential?

YES

Will I get paid for any information that I provide?

No. Only information which leads to the arrest and conviction of a violator. (Specific offenses covered)

SUNDAY DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HUNT ON SUNDAY, except to chase red fox in season, on commercial shooting preserves, and to hunt deer on private land and designated publicly-owned lands.

Sunday deer hunting for established deer seasons is legal on private land at the discretion of the landowner and on designated publicly owned lands. Deer seasons to include all statewide Sunday deer hunting dates are indicated on page 16.

More information on statewide Sunday deer hunting dates and public lands open to Sunday deer hunting is available at the Sunday deer hunting website: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/> or by calling the Wildlife Section office 302-739-9912.

Deer Tags

Resident

- DE Hunting License comes with 4 antlerless deer tags
- A Quality buck tag is available for \$20.00 and comes with a free Hunter Choice Tag
- Additional antlerless deer tags available for \$20.00 each
- Only two Antlered Bucks may be taken legally.

Non-Resident

- License will come with 4 antlerless deer tags
- An antlered deer tag and a Quality Buck Tag may be purchased for \$50.00 each.
- Only two Antlered Bucks may be taken legally.

License Exempt Hunters

- 4 antlerless deer tags and a Hunter's Choice tag are provided free
- A Quality Buck Tag may be purchased for \$20.00
- Only two Antlered Bucks may be taken legally.

Deer Tags

Resident/ Non-Resident/ LEN

RESIDENT LICENSED HUNTERS

Delaware hunting licenses come with a Deer Harvest Report Card that contains 4 antlerless deer tags. Quality Buck Tags are available for \$20 and come with a free Hunter's Choice Tag and will be included on a hunter's Deer Harvest Report Card if purchased. The Hunter's Choice Tag can be used on an antlerless or antlered deer. The Quality Buck Tag can only be used on an antlered deer with a minimum outside spread of 15". Hunters will only be allowed to harvest a maximum of 2 antlered bucks (all seasons combined) by using the Hunter's Choice Tag and the Quality Buck Tag. All other deer taken must be antlerless. Additional antlerless deer tags are available for \$20 each. This deer tag system has been implemented to encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer and to promote quality bucks.

NON-RESIDENT DEER TAGS

Non-resident hunting licenses will come with a Deer Harvest Report Card that contains 4 antlerless deer tags. The cost of an Antlered Deer Tag and a Quality Buck Tag will be \$50 each for non-resident hunters. Hunters may purchase only one of each tag. If purchased, these "tags" will be added to the hunter's Deer Harvest Report Card. An antlered deer tag may only be used on a deer with one or more antlers measuring 3 inches or more.

LICENSED EXEMPT HUNTERS

License exempt hunters will receive a Deer Harvest Report Card that contains 4 antlerless deer "tags" and 1 Hunter's Choice deer "tag" at no charge. For a Quality Buck Tag, license exempt hunters will have to purchase the Quality Buck Tag using their annual mandatory License Exempt Number (LEN). This tag will be added to their Deer Harvest Report Card. Persons not required to purchase a hunting license in Delaware must obtain a LEN and associated Deer Harvest Report Card. License exempt hunters may no longer make their own deer tags.

For more information about LENs, please refer to pages 8 and 9 in the Delaware Hunting Guide. License exempt hunters are only allowed two antlered bucks during any license year by all methods and seasons combined. One free Hunter's Choice Tag and one purchased Quality Buck Tag.

Quality Buck Tags and Deer Registration

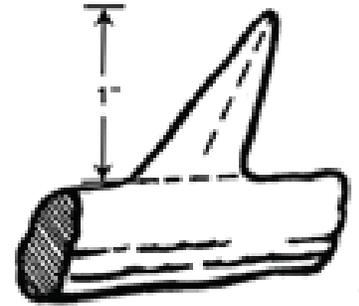
QUALITY BUCK TAGS

Quality Buck Tags may only be used on an antlered deer with an outside antler spread of at least 15 inches. The distance between the tips of a deer's ears when both ears are held straight out from the head in the "alert" position is approximately 15 inches so a deer in which this tag would be applicable would generally need to have antlers that are at least as wide as the space between his ear tips.



AUTOMATED DEER CHECKING

All successful deer hunters must register their deer within 24 hours of harvest. Prior to registering a deer, hunters may not cut the meat or remove any part of the deer except the internal organs (known as the viscera). Hunters can register their deer by visiting <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or by calling the toll free number 1-855-DEL-HUNT (1-855-335-4868). Hunters will answer a series of questions by using the computer or telephone.



THIS YEAR: Hunters who harvest an antlered deer will be asked to report the antler spread and number of points.

A ruler can be found on the bottom edge of the center pages of the Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide. Spread will be reported as "15 inches or greater" or "less than 15 inches" as measured across the outside of the mainbeams at their widest point; this measurement's path must be perpendicular to the center line of the skull and parallel to the top of the skull plate. When reporting the number of points, hunters shall report the number of points that are equal to or greater than one inch in length. If a point is broken off and less than one inch or a point is shorter than one inch than it should NOT be counted. At the end of the questions, hunters will be given a deer harvest registration number. This number will serve as proof the animal was checked and should be kept for your records and written in ink in the appropriate section on a hunter's Deer Harvest Report Card. If you have problems with this system call (302) 735-3600. Hunters that take their deer to a butcher shop or taxidermist will need to supply their registration number to the shop owner as proof the deer was registered.

DEER HARVEST REPORT CARDS AND TAGS

Hunters will no longer receive tags that must be attached to a deer before the animal is moved from the place of kill. Instead, all hunters legally allowed to hunt deer, will receive a Deer Harvest Report Card which will show all of the “tags” available to the hunter based on what they are eligible for and/or have purchased.

Both the Deer Harvest Report Card and Delaware Hunting License or LEN card must be in a hunter’s possession while a hunter is hunting deer. If a hunter purchases additional tags, they will receive an updated Deer Harvest Report Card that will reflect their original tag(s). Additionally, if a hunter had already harvested deer and recorded their harvest information on their card the harvest information will automatically be printed on the newly issued card. The most recently issued Deer Harvest Report Card is the version that the hunter must keep in their possession moving forward and all

Upon successfully harvesting a deer, and before the animal is moved from the place of kill or field dressed, the hunter must complete the appropriate section of their Deer Harvest Report Card that represents the type of deer they harvested. This section must be punched and the date of harvest must be recorded. Once the deer is registered (no more than 24 hours following harvest) the deer registration number is to be recorded in permanent ink on the card.

IMPORTANT: Hunters shall not remove the “tags” from their Deer Harvest Report Card for any reason, including being attached to a deer and the card should be kept as a complete document. If a harvested deer is no longer in a hunter’s immediate possession, a Deer Carcass Tag must be affixed to the deer. See the Deer Carcass Tags section on this page for more information.

Deer Harvest Report Card



2020-21 Delaware Deer Damage Harvest Report Card

This card must remain in your possession at all times while hunting deer on a property enrolled in a deer damage program. All licenses, permits, passes, and tags expire on June 30, 2021.

<Hunter Name>	FARM ID: <Farm ID>	HUNTING LICENSE <EXEMPT> NUMBER: XXXXX
<p>Deer Damage Antlerless Deer - Valid only for female deer or male deer without antlers or with antlers that are both less than 3 inches long harvested from property enrolled under the Farm ID listed above</p> <p>Harvest Date: MM/DD/YYYY Registration Number: XXXX XXXX XXXX</p>	<p>Deer Damage Antlerless Deer - Valid only for female deer or male deer without antlers or with antlers that are both less than 3 inches long harvested from property enrolled under the Farm ID listed above</p> <p>Harvest Date: MM/DD/YYYY Registration Number: XXXX XXXX XXXX</p>	
<p>Deer Damage Antlerless Deer - Valid only for female deer or male deer without antlers or with antlers that are both less than 3 inches long harvested from property enrolled under the Farm ID listed above</p> <p>Harvest Date: MM/DD/YYYY Registration Number: XXXX XXXX XXXX</p>	<p>Deer Damage Antlerless Deer - Valid only for female deer or male deer without antlers or with antlers that are both less than 3 inches long harvested from property enrolled under the Farm ID listed above</p> <p>Harvest Date: MM/DD/YYYY Registration Number: XXXX XXXX XXXX</p>	
<p>Deer Damage Antlerless Deer - Valid only for female deer or male deer without antlers or with antlers that are both less than 3 inches long harvested from property enrolled under the Farm ID listed above</p> <p>Harvest Date: MM/DD/YYYY Registration Number: XXXX XXXX XXXX</p>	<p>Deer Damage Antlerless Deer - Valid only for female deer or male deer without antlers or with antlers that are both less than 3 inches long harvested from property enrolled under the Farm ID listed above</p> <p>Harvest Date: MM/DD/YYYY Registration Number: XXXX XXXX XXXX</p>	

-----VOID-----

Instructions

Before removing your deer or turkey from the place of kill:

- Punch-out the appropriate bull's-eye for the "tag" that corresponds to the type of deer you harvested.
- Record the date of harvest.
- Do not cut or punch crosshair symbol until you harvest a deer. Make sure you validate the correct record! Hunters are no longer required to place a tag on their harvested deer unless the deer leaves a hunter's immediate possession.

You must report your harvest within 24 hours of harvest or before the deer is skinned, dismembered for consumption, taken to a processor, or taxidermist. Register your deer online at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/delhunt or by calling 1-855-DEL-HUNT (1-855-335-4868). You will receive a registration number which must be recorded in the appropriate tag above.

Refer to the current Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide or visit us online at www.fw.delaware.gov for more information on validating and reporting deer harvests including where to find carcass tags which are required to be affixed to your deer if your harvest is no longer in your immediate possession. Carcass tags must contain the hunter's license number, date and time of harvest, and registration number if the deer has been registered.

Deer Carcass Tags

Hunters that successfully harvest a deer are no longer required to attach a tag to their deer at the place of kill before the deer is moved, however they must complete the appropriate section on the Deer Harvest Report Card.

The only time a physical tag is required to be affixed to a deer is if the deer is no longer in the hunter that harvested the deer's immediate possession, at which time the successful hunter must affix a Deer Carcass Tag. These tags can be found in the middle of this guide or a hunter can make their own Deer Carcass Tags provided the tags include the hunters' name, license number, harvest date and deer registration number if the deer has been registered.

Examples of what constitutes a deer leaving a hunter's immediate possession include dropping it off at a deer processor or taxidermist, donating it at one of the Division's maintained Sportsmen Against Hunger Coolers, or hanging the deer to cool and the hunter leaving the area to go somewhere else.

In essence, if a Natural Resource Police Officer encountered a hunter's deer and the hunter wasn't available to talk with the Officer, then the deer needs to have a Deer Carcass Tag affixed to the animal.

DEER CARCASS TAG

Hunter's Name: _____

License/LEN #: _____ Harvest Date: _____

Registration #: _____

*You must complete your Harvest Report Card before moving your deer from the place of kill.
This tag must be affixed to your deer if it leaves your immediate possession.*

METHOD OF TAKE

HANDGUN HUNTING

Handguns legal for deer hunting are limited to revolvers and single shot pistols with a barrel length of at least 5.75 inches and no longer than 12.5 inches that use straight-wall handgun ammunition in .357 to .38 caliber with a cartridge case length of no less than 1.25 inches and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches, or in .41 caliber to a maximum of .50 caliber and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches. When hunting with a handgun, youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. The handgun must be carried openly on a sling or in a holster and not concealed. Handgun hunting for deer is only permissible on privately owned lands situated south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and on many state-owned lands. Consult area maps for more details. In addition to the January Handgun Deer Season, it is legal to hunt deer with a handgun during the November and January Shotgun Deer Seasons. During these shotgun seasons, the handgun can be carried in place of a shotgun, but a handgun and a shotgun cannot both be carried at the same time. Hunting deer with a handgun is not legal on Sunday, January 3, 2021, based on state law.

STRAIGHT-WALLED PISTOL CALIBER RIFLE

Rifles chambered for straight-wall ammunition legal for deer hunting must be manually operated, consisting of: lever action, bolt action, pump action, single shot, and revolver rifles. Only straight-wall cartridges usable in handguns may be used that are of .357 to 38 caliber with a case length no less than 1.25 inches and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches, or .41 caliber to maximum of .50 caliber and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches. Case length excludes the bullet portion of the cartridge. Additionally, if there is not a commercially produced handgun available that is chambered for ammunition that meets the caliber and cartridge case length criteria then a rifle chambered for that same ammunition is not permissible for use. These rifles cannot be loaded with more than three cartridges in the chamber and magazine combined when hunting deer. Open, metallic/mechanical, optical and telescopic sights may be used. These rifles cannot be used for deer hunting north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

Throughout the rest of the state, these rifles may

only be used for deer hunting in place of a shotgun or handgun during the November and January Shotgun Deer Seasons or in place of a handgun during the January Handgun Deer Season. Furthermore, these rifles are not a legal method of take for any other species (except groundhogs), including red fox and coyotes.

SHARPS RIFLE

Hunters may use a single shot antique or authentic reproduction black powder Sharps rifle of .45 to .60 caliber using paper patched bullets for hunting deer during any shotgun deer season.

CROSSBOWS

Crossbows used must have a minimum pull weight of 125 pounds, be manufactured after 1980, and have a mechanical safety, and may be equipped with a scope. Crossbows shall not be transported in or on a vehicle while in the cocked position.

Method of Take and Hunter Orange

VERTICAL BOWS

No person shall use a compound, recurve, or longbow with a pull weight less than 35 pounds.

BAITING

It is lawful to distribute and hunt over bait while hunting deer.

DEER HUNTING HOURS

1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

SELLING DEER PARTS OR DEER MEAT

No person shall purchase, sell or expose for sale, or transport, ship or possess with the intent to sell, any deer or any part of such deer, except for the hides of lawfully killed deer, at any time." Therefore, taxidermists and deer butchers may only charge for a service and may only charge those to whom they are providing the service. It is illegal to sell deer

taxidermy items and deer meat in Delaware. This includes the "recouping" of processing fees for items or meat not picked up by the legal owner.

HUNTER ORANGE

During a time when it is lawful to take a deer with a firearm, any person hunting any wildlife except migratory game birds in this state shall display hunter orange on that person's head, chest, and back totaling no less than 400 square inches combined. If a hunter utilizes a ground blind to hunt deer during a time when it is lawful to take deer with a firearm and the hunter is completely concealed within a blind, then 400 square inches of hunter orange material shall be placed within 10 feet outside of the blind and at least 3 feet off of the ground.

DELAWARE SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER PROGRAM

ADVISORY: Availability of the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program may be impacted by COVID-19. Hunters are advised to monitor the Division's website, <http://de.gov/sah>, for information on the availability of coolers as well as participating deer processors. Some, or all, locations described below may not be available to accept donated deer. However, the Division will be working hard to try and make this important program available without any impacts. In addition to the contracted private deer processors, the Division of Fish and Wildlife maintains walk-in coolers where hunters can drop off deer for donation to the Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) Program. Only deer legally harvested in Delaware are eligible to be donated through this program. Deer harvested out of state will not be accepted.

These locations include in Sussex County: the Assawoman Wildlife Area near Bethany Beach, the Mosquito Control Office in Milford, the headquarters

office at Redden State Forest near Georgetown, the Gumboro Community Center in Millsboro and Trap Pond State Park near Laurel; In Kent County: the Little Creek Wildlife Area main tract, east of Dover and the Main office on the Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area near Viola; and in New Castle County: the Augustine Wildlife Area, in Port Penn.

For more information about walk-in cooler locations and participating deer processors, visit the SAH website <http://de.gov/sah>.

If you own and operate a private deer processing facility and would like more information about potentially becoming involved with the SAH program, please contact the Division at (302) 739-9912.

FIRST TIME TURKEY HUNTERS

All first time Delaware turkey hunters must successfully complete a Division approved Turkey Hunting Safety Course. This includes both public and private hunters. Public land hunters must have completed the Turkey Hunting Safety Course before they can apply for a public land turkey permit.

To register for a classroom Turkey Hunting Safety Course, call the Hunter Education Office at (302) 735-3600 Ext. 1.

Delaware also accepts two online turkey courses:

WildTurkeyHuntingCourse.com
(Certification fee \$39.95)

todayshunter.com/turkey101/
(Certification Fee \$29.99)

Note: Upon completion of the online course, students must contact the Hunter Education office at huntereducation@delaware.gov or 302.735.3600 (Ext. 1) to update their account to reflect course completion.

Students will be required to submit a copy of their course completion certificate. Please include a phone number where the Hunter Education Office may call, in case there are any questions.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM H.I.P.

If you are a Delaware migratory bird hunter (ducks, geese, swans, doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, and coots), you MUST obtain a new H.I.P number each year.

H.I.P. is the "Harvest Information Program" which is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). It was started in 1992 when California, Missouri, and South Dakota participated in the pilot program. For many years, the USFWS has collected waterfowl harvest information through a post-season survey of hunters who purchased Federal duck stamps. This survey was fine for its time, but better information is now needed. Also, the previous survey did not provide harvest data on other migratory birds like doves and woodcock. H.I.P. will fulfill these needs.

Under the Harvest Information Program, migratory bird hunters need a special permit to hunt. To get the permit, hunters have to provide their name and address, and answer a few questions about their previous year's hunting effort and success. This information is collected by the state, remains totally confidential, and goes immediately to the USFWS which randomly selects

hunters to receive a survey form. This way, hunters have the forms to record harvest information during the season instead of after the fact like the old survey required. By surveying while hunting is going on, much better information should be available to the Service for evaluating bird harvests and the status of migratory bird species.

If you are going to hunt migratory birds in Delaware, you MUST have a H.I.P. number. To obtain your number please visit <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or call toll free 1-855-335-4868.

THIS PERMIT IS FREE. Hunters shall record their 6-digit H.I.P. number on their hunting license. If the H.I.P. number is obtained at the same time the license is acquired, or if a hunter reprints their license after receiving their number, it will automatically be printed on the license.

Non-Toxic Shot

Non-toxic shot, as approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is required for all waterfowl hunting within the State of Delaware. There are no exceptions. For a list of currently approved non-toxic shot types visit <http://flyways.us/faq/what-type-shot-approved-non-toxic-us>.

CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS

Effective July 1, 2017, a Conservation Access Pass is **required for any registered motor vehicle** used to access designated Delaware State Wildlife Areas for any allowable activity, including hunting, birdwatching, hiking and photography. The Conservation Access Pass will help the Division of Fish and Wildlife maintain and improve these areas for hunting, wildlife viewing and wildlife photography. These funds will also help support habitat improvements on State Wildlife Areas.

A **FREE annual Conservation Access Pass** will be provided with the purchase of a hunting license. In order to receive a free Conservation Access Pass the hunter must present a vehicle registration card at the time of the hunting license purchase. The Conservation Access Pass is assigned to a single specified registered motor vehicle and may be transferred to another registered motor vehicle of the same ownership for a fee of \$10.00 only through the Division of Fish and Wildlife Recreational Licensing Office 302-739-9918 or email: dfwrecl@delaware.gov.

If a free Conservation Access Pass is not selected during the purchase of the hunting license, one may be obtained by contacting the Division of Fish and Wildlife Recreational Licensing Office

and providing the hunter's driver's license, hunting license and a vehicle registration card. Requests are processed in the order they are received and **may take up to four weeks**.

The Conservation Access Pass must be displayed in the assigned vehicle as described on the Pass. The Pass is available annually July 1 - June 30 and is valid from the date of the hunting license purchase until June 30. The non-resident 3-day hunting license receives a free annual Pass. License exempt hunters not purchasing a hunting license who use a motor vehicle to access State Wildlife Areas must purchase the Pass. Hunters who are issued a free Pass may purchase additional Passes if they use multiple vehicles throughout the year to access State Wildlife Areas where the Pass is required.

The Conservation Access Pass may be purchased online, at authorized license agents throughout the state or at the Division's licensing desk in the Richardson and Robbins Building, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE. Remember to have your vehicle registration card available at the time of purchase. Visit <https://de.gov/digitaldnrec> to purchase the Pass online or to find a complete list of authorized license agents.

If you have questions about purchasing the Pass, please call the Division's Recreational Licensing Office at (302)739-9918.

Hunters using a motor vehicle to access a State Wildlife Area to hunt from a waterfowl blind or deer stand must also have the Pass displayed in the vehicle. See page 38 in the Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide for more information.

State Wildlife Areas exempt from the Conservation Access Pass include the C & D Canal Conservation Area, including the Michael N. Castle Trail, designated fishing and boating access areas, educational facilities and shooting ranges. Additional areas may also be exempt. For a complete list of areas where the Pass is required or areas where the Pass is exempt, please visit our website www.de.gov/fw or call the Division's Wildlife Section at (302)739-9912.

A Conservation Access Pass shall not be required to access applicable lands leased from the Department, provided access is for the purpose for which such lands are leased.

Boating Safety

Each year more hunters die from drowning and the effects of hypothermia than from gunshot wounds. Statistics show that the majority of capsizing and falls overboard occur with boats less than 20 feet in length. Some boat designs are not as stable as others. Hunters often use smaller, more easily transportable crafts like john boats, bass boats or canoes. These types of boats, because of their flat bottoms or narrow beams, are more prone to swamping or capsizing. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) are essential and should be worn at all times. Special wearable flotation vests and coats for hunting are available and are comfortable and warm for the coldest duck and goose hunting days.

HUNTING FROM BOATS

During the waterfowl season, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt from a boat of any kind that is within 1,500 feet of an established blind, unless they have permission from the blind owner, except that:

- Any person may retrieve crippled waterfowl by the use of a boat in accordance with federal Regulations;
- Any person may use a boat for transportation to and from an established blind lawfully used by such person;
- Any person may hunt from a boat that is firmly secured and enclosed in an established blind.

During the waterfowl season, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt from a boat, or a floating or fixed blind in the Little River in areas bounded on both sides by land administered by the Division.

During the waterfowl season, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt within 900 feet of the shoreline (high tide line) of the Delaware River and Bay, between the Appoquinimink River and the Smyrna River, without written permission of the closest adjoining landowner(s).

Furthermore, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt within 1,500 feet of the shoreline (high tide line) of the Delaware River and Bay, between the Smyrna River and the Murderkill River, without written permission of the closest adjoining landowner(s).

It shall be unlawful for tender boats servicing gunning (layout) rigs to be further than 1,500 feet

TAKE A BOATING EDUCATION COURSE

Those persons born on or after January 1, 1978 must take an approved boating education course before operating a boat. Contact the Office of Boating Safety & Education for more information on taking a classroom course: (302) 739-9915. OR Take an online course at <http://de.gov/boatsafety>.

Boating Safety Tips:

- Wear your PFD (life jacket)
- Never cross large bodies of water during rough weather in a boat that can't take the conditions due to size and/or overloading.
- Stay with your boat if you capsize and can't get to shore. Try to climb on it.
- Avoid standing up or moving around the boat.
- Never move about your boat with a loaded firearm.
- Read the capacity plate attached to the inside hull as a guide to keep from overloading your boat.
- Distribute your gear evenly.
- Don't drink alcohol. Alcohol lowers your body's core temperature and encourages individuals to take chances they wouldn't normally take. Guns, alcohol and/or drugs don't mix. It is illegal to be in possession of

Please contact the Delaware Hunter Education Office if you have any questions.

Huntereducation@delaware.gov or (302)735-3600 x1



***We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors
through Science and Service***