



## **WILD ANIMAL HUNTING PRESERVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **DEFINITION**

“Wild animal hunting preserve” means an area of land that is enclosed by fence where propagated wild animals and nonnative wildlife are released and hunted as authorized by the wild animal hunting preserve license obtained under 1533.721 of the Ohio Revised Code.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS**

1. Annual wild animal hunting preserve license cost: \$300.00
2. The license will expire on the thirtieth (30) day of April each year.
3. New permits will only be approved from January 1-March 31 of each year.
4. Licensee must own or lease preserve land.
5. The preserve shall be one contiguous block of land.
6. Minimum preserve size 80 acres.
7. Wild animal hunting preserves shall not be located within 3000 feet of another such preserve.
8. Preserve must be surrounded by an approved fence of certain height and type as currently specified in 1533.731 of the Ohio Revised Code.
9. The boundaries of the preserve must be posted with signs prescribed by the Division of Wildlife. Signs must be posted at intervals of no more than 200 feet.
10. Licensee is responsible to drive all existing white-tail deer from the preserve enclosure before license will be issued.
11. No propagated wild animals or non native wildlife shall be released into the enclosure before the hunting preserve license is issued.
12. All wild animals and non native wildlife must be tagged with an approved identifying marker before being released into the preserve.
13. A propagation permit is also required when legally acquired or propagated native wild animals are released or kept in the preserve.
14. Propagated wild animals and non native wildlife, approved by the Chief of the Division of Wildlife may be hunted between sunrise and sunset without regard to sex, bag limit, or open season. Other wild animals can be hunted on the preserve only during the open seasons for that species.
15. Game birds may not be hunted on the preserve unless the preserve is also licensed as a commercial bird shooting preserve.
16. No game or nonnative wildlife on the federal or state endangered species list, no bears native to North America, and no large carnivores of the family Felidae shall be released for hunting or hunted in any wild animal hunting preserve in this state.

17. No animals can be hunted immediately after being released into the shooting preserve.
18. A hunting license is required for all Ohio residents. Non residents are not required to have a hunting license.
19. A list of all wild animal hunting preserves may be obtained from the Division of Wildlife by contacting any district office.
20. For additional information contact the wildlife district office in your area or the wildlife officer assigned to the county where you live.

### **SIGN REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Lettering and layout as shown here:



2. Dimensions: 10" X 14" minimum
3. Material: minimum of 5-ply cardboard, metal, plastic, or wood.
4. Color: black letters on white sign
5. Posting: place signs no more than 200' apart.

### **Sections of the Ohio Revised Code dealing with Wild Animal Hunting Preserves**

#### **1533.71 License to raise or keep game birds and animals.**

Unless otherwise provided by division rule, any person desiring to engage in the business of raising and selling game birds, game quadrupeds, reptiles, amphibians, or fur-bearing animals in a wholly enclosed preserve of which the person is the owner or lessee, or to have game birds, game quadrupeds, reptiles, amphibians, or fur-bearing animals in captivity, shall apply in writing to the division of wildlife for a license to do so.

The division, when it appears that the application is made in good faith and upon the payment of the fee for each license, may issue to the applicant any of the following licenses that may be applied for:

- (A) “Commercial propagating license” permitting the licensee to propagate game birds, game quadrupeds, reptiles, amphibians, or fur-bearing animals in the wholly

enclosed preserve the location of which is stated in the license and the application therefor, and to sell the propagated game birds, game quadrupeds, reptiles, amphibians, or fur-bearing animals and ship them from the state alive at any time, and permitting the licensee and the licensee's employees to kill the propagated game birds, game quadrupeds, or fur-bearing animals and sell the carcasses for food subject to sections 1533.70 to 1533.80 of the Revised Code. The fee for such a license is forty dollars per annum.

(B) "Noncommercial propagating license" permitting the licensee to propagate game birds, game quadrupeds, reptiles, amphibians, or fur-bearing animals and to hold the animals in captivity. Game birds, game quadrupeds, reptiles, amphibians, and fur-bearing animals propagated or held in captivity by authority of a noncommercial propagating license are for the licensee's own use and shall not be sold. The fee for such a license is twenty-five dollars per annum.

(C) A free "raise to release license" permitting duly organized clubs, associations, or individuals approved by the division to engage in the raising of game birds, game quadrupeds, or fur-bearing animals for release only and not for sale or personal use.

Except as provided by law, no person shall possess game birds, game quadrupeds, or fur-bearing animals in closed season, provided that municipal or governmental zoological parks are not required to obtain the licenses provided for in this section.

All licenses issued under this section shall expire on the fifteenth day of March of each year.

The chief of the division of wildlife shall pay all moneys received as fees for the issuance of licenses under this section into the state treasury to the credit of the fund created by section 1533.15 of the Revised Code for the use of the division in the purchase, preservation, and protection of wild animals and for the necessary clerical help and forms required by sections 1533.70 to 1533.80 of the Revised Code.

This section does not authorize the taking or the release for taking of the following:

(1) Game birds, without first obtaining a commercial bird shooting preserve license issued under section 1533.72 of the Revised Code;

(2) Game or nonnative wildlife, without first obtaining a wild animal hunting preserve license issued under section 1533.721 of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: 09-26-2003

### **1533.721 Wild animal hunting preserve license - conditions.**

(A) Except as otherwise provided by division rule, no person shall offer for hunting or hunt any nonnative wildlife except in a licensed wild animal hunting preserve. No person shall operate a wild animal hunting preserve without first obtaining a wild animal hunting preserve license issued by the chief of the division of wildlife under this section.

(B) Application for a wild animal hunting preserve license shall be made on a form prescribed by the chief and shall be accompanied by an annual license fee of three hundred dollars. The application shall contain a list of which species of game and nonnative wildlife are to be released for hunting in the preserve, a description of the lands that are to constitute the preserve, a description of the tag and symbol identifying the preserve required under division (C) of section 1533.731 of the Revised Code, and any other information required by the chief.

(C) The chief, upon payment of the license fee, may issue to the applicant a wild animal hunting preserve license if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The operation of the wild animal hunting preserve does not conflict with a prior reasonable public interest;

(2) The proposed wild animal hunting preserve meets the requirements established in division (A) of section 1533.731 of the Revised Code;

(3) The applicant is the owner or lessee of the land described in the application and maintains his status as the owner or lessee of the land until the license expires.

(D) All licenses issued under this section shall expire on the thirtieth day of April of each year. Any license holder wishing to own or operate a wild animal hunting preserve in the year following the expiration of his license shall apply for a new license under division (B) of this section.

(E) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the chief may suspend or revoke a wild animal hunting preserve license if he finds that the license holder has violated or is violating this chapter or Chapter 1531. of the Revised Code or any division rule.

(F) This section does not authorize the hunting of game birds in a licensed wild animal hunting preserve.

Effective Date: 10-20-1994

**1533.731 Wild animal hunting preserves - regulations.**

(A) No wild animal hunting preserve shall be less than eighty acres in area. Each such preserve shall be in one continuous block of land, except that the block of land may be intersected by highways or roads. No wild animal hunting preserve shall be located within three thousand feet of another such preserve or of a commercial bird shooting preserve licensed under section 1533.72 of the Revised Code.

The boundaries of each wild animal hunting preserve shall be clearly defined by posting, at intervals of not more than two hundred feet, with signs prescribed by the division of wildlife. Each wild animal hunting preserve shall be surrounded by a fence at least six feet in height that is constructed of a woven wire mesh, or such other enclosure approved by the chief of the division of wildlife.

(B)(1) Except as provided in divisions (B)(2) and (3) of this section, game and nonnative wildlife that have been approved by the chief for such use, that have been legally acquired or propagated under the authority of a propagating license issued under section 1533.71 of the Revised Code, and that are marked and tagged as provided in division (C) of this section may be released and hunted within the confines of the licensed wild animal hunting preserve between sunrise and sunset, without regard to sex, bag limit, or open season, by licensed hunters authorized by the holder of the wild animal hunting preserve license to hunt on those lands. The chief shall establish, by rule, the allowable methods of taking game and nonnative wildlife in a wild animal hunting preserve.

(2) No game or nonnative wildlife on the federal endangered species list established in accordance with the "Endangered Species Act of 1973," 87 Stat. 884, 16 U.S.C.A. 1531, as amended, or the state endangered species list established in rules adopted under section 1531.25 of the Revised Code, no bears native to North America, and no large carnivores of the family Felidae shall be released for hunting or hunted in any wild animal hunting preserve in this state.

(3) No person shall release for hunting or hunt within a wild animal hunting preserve any game or nonnative wildlife not listed in the application for a license for that preserve.

(C) All game and nonnative wildlife released on a wild animal hunting preserve shall be identified with a tag that shall bear upon it a symbol identifying the preserve.

(D) For the purposes of division (B) of section 1533.02 of the Revised Code, the owner or operator of a wild animal hunting preserve shall furnish each person who takes any game or nonnative wildlife from the preserve a certificate bearing a description of the animal, the date the animal was taken, and the name of the preserve.

(E) The chief shall adopt rules under section 1531.10 of the Revised Code that provide for the safety of the public and for the protection of the game and nonnative wildlife to be hunted in a wild animal hunting preserve prior to their release in the preserve.

(F) No holder of a wild animal hunting preserve license shall violate Chapter 1531. or this chapter of the Revised Code or any division rule.

(G) This section does not authorize the hunting of game birds in a licensed wild animal hunting preserve.

Effective Date: 08-14-2002

**1533.74 Tag or seal required for animals sold for food.**

No game birds, game quadrupeds, or fur-bearing animals shall be sold for food unless the carcass of each game bird, game quadruped, or fur-bearing animal is tagged with a suitable tag or seal supplied by the division of wildlife. Game birds, game quadrupeds, and fur-bearing animals so killed and tagged may be possessed, bought, or sold at any time. Common carriers shall receive and transport game birds, game quadrupeds, and fur-bearing animals so tagged, but to every package containing them shall be affixed a tag or label upon which shall be plainly printed or written the name of the person to whom the license was issued, the name of the person to whom they are to be transported, the number of game birds, game quadrupeds, or fur-bearing animals contained in the package, and a statement to the effect that they were killed and tagged in accordance with sections 1533.70 to 1533.80 of the Revised Code.

The chief of the division of wildlife may adopt rules under section 1531.10 of the Revised Code necessary to administer this section.

This section and rules adopted pursuant to it do not apply to meat that has been inspected by the department of agriculture under Chapter 918. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it and that has been marked with an official inspection mark, stamp, or brand pursuant to that inspection.

Effective Date: 03-18-1999

**1533.75 Fee for tag or seal - removal.**

The division of wildlife shall receive and collect a nominal sum for each tag or seal affixed to the carcasses of game birds, game quadrupeds, fur-bearing animals, and nonnative wildlife as provided in sections 1533.73, 1533.731, and 1533.74 of the Revised Code. Each tag or seal shall remain affixed until the carcass of the game bird, game quadruped, fur-bearing animal, or nonnative wildlife is finally prepared for consumption, and the sale

of a portion of a game bird, game quadruped, fur-bearing animal, or nonnative wildlife that does not at the time have affixed thereto the tag or seal constitutes a violation of those sections. The keeper of a hotel, restaurant, or boarding house, a retail dealer in meat, or a club may sell a portion of a game bird, game quadruped, fur-bearing animal, or nonnative wildlife so tagged to a guest, customer, or member for consumption.

No person shall counterfeit a tag issued by the division in accordance with sections 1533.73, 1533.731, and 1533.74 of the Revised Code, and no tag issued by the division shall be affixed to the carcass of a game bird, game quadruped, fur-bearing animal, or nonnative wildlife not propagated or acquired in accordance with sections 1533.70 to 1533.80 of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: 10-20-1994

**1533.77 Records of holder of propagating license - inspection of records.**

Each holder of a propagating license shall keep such license prominently displayed at the place of business specified in his license, and shall keep accurate written records which shall include the total number of game birds, game quadrupeds or fur bearing animals possessed on the date of application for the license, the number subsequently propagated or acquired by purchase or gift, and the name and address of each person or corporation from whom or to whom game birds, game quadrupeds or fur bearing animals were purchased or sold alive or sold for food, and the date of each transaction. These records shall be kept permanently on the premises stated in the license, and shall be open for inspection by any authorized representative of the division of wildlife at all reasonable times.

Effective Date: 10-13-1967

**1533.79 Control or eradication of parasites and diseases.**

The chief of the division of wildlife may adopt, amend, and rescind such rules as he considers necessary to control or eradicate parasites and diseases of domesticated or semi-wild game birds, game quadrupeds, fur-bearing animals, or nonnative wildlife on the lands subject to sections 1533.70 to 1533.80 of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: 10-20-1994

**1533.80 Laws requiring license to hunt not altered or superseded.**

Sections 1533.70 to 1533.79 of the Revised Code do not alter or supersede the laws requiring a resident license to hunt. A nonresident may hunt on a commercial bird shooting preserve or wild animal hunting preserve without obtaining a nonresident hunting license otherwise required by section 1533.10 of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: 10-20-1994

**Ohio Administrative Code**

**1501:31-9-07 Wild animal hunting preserves.**

(A) It shall be unlawful to take any wild animal from a wild animal hunting preserve by any method other than hunting with a gun, with a gun and a dog, with a bow and arrow, or with a bow and arrow and dog. Provided further, no gun larger than a ten gauge shall be used in taking any wild animal.

(B) It shall be unlawful to place any type of wild animal in a wild animal hunting preserve which would not contain the animal and allow the animal to escape into the wild.

(C) It shall be unlawful to release any wild animal from a cage or holding pen and immediately shoot or attempt to take said wild animal.

(D) It shall be unlawful to release any wild animal on a wild animal hunting preserve which is untagged or improperly tagged.

(E) It shall be unlawful to transport or possess a wild animal taken from a wild animal hunting preserve without a tag as described in division (C) of section 1533.731 of the Revised Code.

(F) All holders of a wild animal hunting preserve license shall keep a record of the animals which are purchased or raised. Records shall also be maintained of persons taking any wild animal from the preserve. All information shall be recorded on forms supplied by the division of wildlife. Records shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open for inspection by division of wildlife employees during regular business hours.

(G) All definition set forth in rule 1501:31-1-02 of the Administrative Code shall apply to this rule.

# WILDLIFE DISTRICT OFFICES



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