

Laws

mation, contact your local game warden or phone the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) toll free at 800-792-1112.

***UNLAWFUL:** To take, attempt to take, or possess wildlife resources within a protected length limit, in greater numbers, by other means, or at any time or place, other than as indicated.

***Available for inspection:** A person who is hunting, fishing, or trapping must carry on their person and have available for inspection a valid license and any applicable stamps or permits unless the person is exempt such.

***NEW LAW:** A game warden who observes a person engaged in

an activity governed by the TPW Code or reasonably believes that a person is or has been engaged in such an activity may inspect: (1) any license, permit, tag, or other document issued by the department and required by the TPW Code of a person hunting or catching wildlife resources; (2) any device that may be used to hunt or catch a wildlife resource; (3) any wildlife resource in the person's possession; and (4) the contents of any container or receptacle that is commonly used to store or conceal a wildlife resource. The full text of this law may be found in the TPW Code, §12.102 (TPW Codes at www.capitol.state.tx.us).

***NEW LAW:** Effective Jan. 1, 2004, it is a crime to drive a motor vehicle in the bed of a navigable freshwater stream, unless approved by a local river access plan established by a city, county, or river authority. This law does not apply to the Red and Canadian Rivers. There are other exemptions as well. The full text may be found in TPW Code, Chapter 90.

***Personal identification:** While hunting, fishing or trapping, persons 17 or older must carry on their person a driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Non-residents must carry similar documents issued by the agency in their state or country of residence that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.

***Possession limit:** For all wildlife resources taken for personal consumption and for which there is a possession limit, the possession limit shall not apply after the wildlife resource has reached the possessor's permanent residence and is finally processed.

***Special regulations and documents** are required for the transfer and importation of wildlife resources.

***Waste of Game:** A reasonable effort must be made to re-

trieve all wounded game birds and game animals and they must be killed immediately and become a part of the legal bag limit. It is a violation to fail to keep all edible portions of a game bird, animal or fish in an edible condition. For whitetail and mule deer, pronghorn antelope and desert bighorn sheep, the violation is a Class A misdemeanor.

***Retrieval of game:** No person may pursue a wounded wildlife resource across a property line without the consent of landowner of the property where the wildlife resource has fled. Under the trespass provisions of the Penal Code, a person on a property without permission is subject to arrest.

***It is against the law** to hunt or fish on privately owned lands or waters without the permission of the owner or the owner's agent. Under Texas Penal Code (§30.05) it is an offense for any person to enter property that is fenced, posted with a sign(s), or marked (purple paint) without the express permission of the owner.

You are not required to have a fishing license to fish in private waters in Texas; but, if you are on private property while fishing in public water, a fishing license is required.

***It is against the law** to dis-

charge a firearm on or across a public road.

***Harassment of Hunters, Trappers or Anglers** (Sportsmen's Rights Act) is punishable by a fine of \$200 to \$2000 and/or 180 days in jail.

***Inspection:** A game warden may search a game bag, vehicle, vessel or other receptacle if the game warden has reason to believe that the game bag, vehicle, vessel or other receptacle contains a wildlife resource that has been unlawfully killed or taken. See TPWD Code, Section 12.104.

Hunter Education

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course.

If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and you are:

***age 17 and over,** you must successfully complete a hunter education course.

***age 12 through 16,** you must successfully complete a hunter education course or be accompanied by a person 17 years of age or older licensed to hunt in Texas.

***under 12 years of age,** you must be accompanied by a person 17 years of age or older licensed to hunt in Texas.

Minimum age of certification is 12; cost of certification is \$10.

Proof of certification is required to be on your person while hunting.

Note: Certification is not required to purchase a hunting license.

For information, exemptions or course information, please consult the TPWD Web site (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/) or call toll-free 800-792-1112 (menu 6) or call 512-389-4999.

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