

License needed for small game hunting

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
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Among the small game hunting available in Kansas are prairie chicken, quail, cottontail and jackrabbits, squirrels and crows, and then there is nongame hunting of prairie dogs and other rodents.

A hunting license is required to take nongame species such as prairie dog, ground squirrel, woodchuck, kangaroo rat, starling and house sparrows. The season is open year around, and there is no possession limit on these animals.

Some landowners allow hunting of prairie dogs on their land as part of an effort to control the rodents.

In Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties, the officer is Mike Hopper and he can be reached at (785) 899-5199. In Decatur and Rawlins County and the west half of Norton County, officer is Dick Kelly at (785) 475-2950. The officer for the east half of Norton County and Phillips County is Larry Stones at (785) 543-5820, and in Thomas, Sheridan and Logan counties, the officer is Benny Young at (785) 462-7602.

Rabbit season is open year round for cottontail and jackrabbits. Daily bag limit on rabbits is 10 with 30 in possession. Squirrel (gray or fox) season is from June 1 to Feb. 29. Daily bag limit for squirrel is five with a possession limit of 20. Crow season is from Nov. 10 to March 10. There

is no bag limit for crows.

Prairie chicken season runs from Nov. 17 to Jan. 31 except in the southwest, where the season is from Nov. 17 to Dec. 31. The bag limit in the northwest is two per day, and in the southwest one per day.

Small game in Kansas can be hunted with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge with shot only; center fire and rimfire rifles and handguns; muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and pistols; cap-and-ball pistols; pellet guns; BB guns; bow and arrow; sling shot; and falconry.

Residents 16 to 64 must have a hunting license, and nonresident hunters, regardless of age, must have a nonresident license. Anyone who has not lived in Kansas for 60 days is considered a nonresident.

Lifetime licenses for residents only are available from the state. Lifetime hunting, furharvest or fishing licenses cost \$442.15 (add \$40 if paying quarterly); lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses cost \$882.15 (add \$80 if paying quarterly).

Nonresidents who are full-time students at state colleges or vocational schools may obtain resident licenses and permits, but must carry evidence of their status.

There are exemptions from the license requirement for landowners or tenants of land leased for farming and their immediate families living with them, while hunting or fur harvesting on their own land.



A squirrel sat on a post in Goodland. A license is required to hunt this small fur bearing animal.
— Photo by Tom Betz/Goodland Star-News

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