

Nationwide Trapping Dispatch and Release Regulations

	Has Dispatch Regulations?	If yes, what are the dispatch requirements?	Has Release Regulations?	If yes, what release requirements?
Alabama	Yes	Standard .22 caliber	No	
Alaska	No		No	
Arizona	No		Yes	Release, without injury, all animals that cannot lawfully be taken by trap.
Arkansas	No		No	
California	Yes	Immediately, on site, with a firearm where local ordinances, landowners, and safety permit. No intentional drowning, injection with any chemical not sold for euthanizing animals, or thoracic compression.	Yes	Immediate dispatch or release.
Colorado	No		Yes	Any person accidentally trapping any wildlife for which the season is closed or for which trapping is not a legal method of take, shall be released immediately. If mortality occurs from accidental capture, the carcass shall be delivered to the Division.
Connecticut	No		No	
Delaware	No		No	
Florida	No		No	
Georgia	Yes	Standard .22 caliber	Yes	Must carry a choke stick or similar device in the field to release nontarget animals.
Hawaii	NA	Trapping not allowed.	NA	

Idaho	Yes	Use dispatch methods that are quick and humane.	Yes	All nontarget species caught alive shall be released immediately. All non-target mortalities must be reported on the harvest report form.
Illinois	Yes	Beaver, river otter, weasel, mink, and muskrat can be shot with a firearm, pistol, or airgun of a caliber not larger than a .22 long rifle to remove animal from the trap.	No	
Indiana	No		Yes	Except for raccoons, foxes, and coyotes (which can be retained alive), all trapped furbearers must either be released into the same county for which they were captured within 24 hours, or euthanized immediately after removal from the trap.
Iowa	No		Yes	Animals must be removed from a trap or snare immediately upon discovery.
Kansas	No		No	
Kentucky	No		No	
Louisiana	No		No	
Maine	Yes	In a humane manner	Yes	Any animal found in a trap must be removed. If alive, it must be released or humanely dispatched. If found dead, must be reported to a game warden as soon as possible.
Maryland	No		Yes	Nontarget animals must be released on site and may not be transported.
Massachusetts	Yes	"In a humane manner"	No	
Michigan	Yes	Immediately and in a humane manner	Yes	Dispatched or released immediately. For incidental death, tag with incidental seal and deliver to DNR.

Minnesota	No		Yes	Animals must be killed before being removed from a site. Nontarget and protected species must be released.
Mississippi	No		No	
Missouri	No		No	
Montana	Yes	Furbearers must be dispatched immediately, using dispatch methods that are quick and humane. Wolves must be dispatched immediately by gunshot.	Yes	Nontarget species trapped that are uninjured must be released immediately on site. If found dead, must be reported to the agency as soon as possible. Furbearers captured alive must be immediately killed or released.
Nebraska	No	Recommends AVMA methods	No	
Nevada	No		No	
New Hampshire	No		No	
New Jersey	Yes	Air gun (not smaller than .177 caliber nor larger than .22 caliber) or a center or rim fire rifle (not larger than .22 caliber).	Yes	If accidental bobcat trapping occurs, it is mandatory to immediately call the Division (they want to collect genetic samples).
New Mexico	Yes	Means of harvest defined as firearms, bows and arrows, crossbow, traps and snares.	Yes	A release device or catch pole must be carried. It is also illegal to possess live furbearers, except for raccoons with a permit.
New York	No		Yes	Must attempt to release any animals that are accidentally captured. If seriously injured, the animal may be humanely dispatched, but may not be legally possessed.
North Carolina	No		Yes	Possession of any live animals, except coyotes and foxes, is prohibited. Upon discovery, animals must be removed immediately from traps.
North Dakota	No		Yes	Any protected species incidentally taken, or any furbearer taken for which the season is closed, shall be reported to the Division within 12 hours and the carcass turned over. No live possession.

Ohio	No		Yes	All furbearers shall be killed immediately or released at the capture site.
Oklahoma	No		Yes	Illegal to possess live animals.
Oregon	No	Recommends humane methods	No	
Pennsylvania	Yes	During the deer season, trappers are limited to semi-automatic or manually operated .22 rimfire or smaller rifles or handguns, air or gas-operated rifles, or manually operated handguns (177- to .22 caliber). Carbon monoxide is prohibited.	Yes	Unlawful to possess live, wild furbearers, except foxes with a permit.
Rhode Island	No		No	
South Carolina	No		Yes	Licensed trappers may only possess live foxes or coyotes during the commercial fur harvest season. Otherwise, no live furbearers may be possessed. A trapper must immediately release any live animal found in a trap or snare when a season is closed. Mortalities must be reported to the agency. One live furbearer (either a raccoon, jackrabbit, skunk, red or gray fox or coyote) may be kept as a pet, per household. Except when kept as a pet, a furbearer taken from the wild must either be released immediately or humanely killed.
South Dakota	No	Suggest humanely killed	Yes	
Tennessee	No		Yes	No possession of live animals.
Texas	No		No	
Utah	Yes	By shooting at any time of day.	Yes	Killed or released immediately. Ferrets, lynx, wolf and other protected species must be reported.
Vermont	No		No	
Virginia	Yes	By shooting at any time or using any humane method not specifically prohibited by law.	No	

Washington	Yes	Euthanasia must be consistent with American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) Standards. A firearm may be used to dispatch trapped animals.	Yes	Any wildlife trapped for which the season is not open shall be released unharmed. If the wildlife cannot be released unharmed, the wildlife should be left in the trap and the agency contacted immediately. Lawfully trapped animals must be lethally dispatched or immediately released.
West Virginia	No		No	
Wisconsin	Yes	AVMA approved dispatched techniques are recommended. Semi-aquatic species cannot be dispatched with a firearm.	Yes	All live trapped furbearing animals must be released unharmed or dispatched immediately. It is unlawful to keep any such animals alive after their capture unless authorized by a separate permit.
Wyoming	No		Yes	Must be dispatched or released immediately unless trapper has a permit for live possession.