

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
ALABAMA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Qualified individuals may apply for a permit to possess wild mammals for purposes of public exhibition. This requirement does not apply to a municipal, county, state or other publicly owned zoo or wildlife exhibit, privately owned traveling zoo or circus or pet shop. Other than accredited educational facilities, research facilities, and permitted rehabilitation facilities that have obtained the appropriate written permission, no person shall possess a live mountain lion or bobcat from any area outside of the state.	ALA. CODE § 9-11-320 <i>et seq.</i> (2008); ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 220-2.26 (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Alabama Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources (CNR). CNR regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Bobcat pelts or fur must be sealed/tagged by CNR within 14 days of taking before the pelt or fur is sold or otherwise disposed. There is no open season in the state to hunt mountain lion. Hunting of non-indigenous animals is prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to hunt, kill, or offer the opportunity to hunt or kill any species of animal non-indigenous to the state including, but not limited to any species of the African or Asian lion or tiger for a fee or other valuable consideration or for recreation. Authorized fur dealers must keep detailed records on the receipt and sale of fur and pelts which are open to inspection. Game breeder licenses are issued annually to engage in raising protected game animals or fur bearing animals. Any game breeder may then sell the animals to any purchaser as long as it is reported before the sale or shipment.	ALABAMA CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM). ALA. CODE § 9-11-04-503. (2008); ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 220-2.01-.148 (2007).
ALASKA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person may possess live game, including any species of mammal found or introduced in the state, except non-feral domestic mammals, unless the person holds a possession permit issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). ADFG may not issue a permit for the possession of any game animal, including certain hybrids of game animals, for use as a pet. The ADFG may, however, issue a permit for the possession of game animals for scientific, educational, propagative or public safety purposes. Temporary permits may also be issued for the possession and use of live game animals for a circus, traveling animal show, or for film production. Such commercial use permits may only be issued for a non-indigenous game species or for an animal that belongs to a species indigenous to the state, but originated outside the state.	ALASKA STAT. § 16.05.940 (2008); ALASKA ADMIN. CODE tit. 5, §§ 92.029, 92.033, 92.035, 92.990 (2008).

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ALASKA	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Canada lynx hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). ADFG regulates the means and methods in which lynx may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. More restrictive seasons have been established in some parts of the state which limits harvesting when lynx productivity and survival is low. Lynx pelts or fur must be sealed/tagged by ADFG within 30 days after the season is closed in the unit in which the pelt/fur was taken. The pelt/fur must be sealed/tagged before it is bought or sold. There are no private hunting preserves within the state. ADFG may issue a permit for the capture, but not export, of an indigenous fur bearer for fur farming. ADFG may limit the number, sex, and species of the animal to be taken and the area from which the animal is taken. A fur dealer license is required to buy or barter animal skins for the purpose of reselling. A permit is required to export the pelt or fur out of the state. A federal permit is required to ship the pelt or fur out of the United States. <i>(Alaska is the only state in the U.S. that is permitted under federal law to hunt/trap Canada lynx. Canada lynx are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Hunting or trapping of Canada lynx in all other states is prohibited.)</i></p>	<p>ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (WWW.ADFG.STATE.AK.US). ALASKA STAT. § 16 (2008); ALASKA ADMIN. CODE tit. 5, §§ 78- 92 (2008).</p>
ARIZONA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>All species of the order <i>Carnivora</i>, including wild cats (<i>Felidae</i>) constitute restricted live wildlife and cannot be possessed without a special license or lawful exemption. A special license for a private game farm may be obtained for restricted wild mammals only if the same species does not exist in the wild in the state; the applicant possesses a license issued by the USDA; and other requirements are met. A wildlife holding license for restricted live wildlife may be issued if it is determined that the license is in the best interest of the wildlife; it will not adversely impact other wildlife in the state; it does not pose a threat to public health or safety; and the license is for one of the following purposes: advancement of science, wildlife management, or promotion of public health or welfare; education; commercial photography; or when necessary to provide humane treatment to an abandoned or permanently disabled animal; or to lawfully possess wildlife that was previously possessed under another special license. Qualified applicants may also possess restricted live wildlife pursuant to a scientific collecting permit or a zoo license. An individual who lawfully possessed restricted wildlife prior to April 28, 1989, may continue to possess the wildlife and use it for any lawful purpose without a special license if, including but not limited to, compliance with notice requirements.</p>	<p>ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE §§ R12-4-401 <i>et seq.</i> (2007).</p>

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ARIZONA	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). AZGFD regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Unskinned carcass or pelt of a bobcat must have a validated transportation or a permit (export) tag. Mountain lion hunting is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by AZGFD. AZGFD regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. In all areas where mountain lions may be hunted, no spotted kittens or females with spotted kittens may be taken. All hunters must report to AZGFD within 48 hours of taking a mountain lion. Hunting of jaguars, jaguarundi, and ocelots is prohibited. Hunting of wildlife (mammals) captive or wild on private game farms is prohibited. Possessing, transporting, importing, exporting and selling of carcasses or parts of wildlife is permitted with evidence of legality.</p>	<p>ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT (WWW.AZGFD.GOV). ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE §§ R12-4-101-802 (2007).</p>
ARKANSAS	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>Large carnivores, defined to include: tigers, African lions, or any hybrid thereof, and mountain lions, may only be kept in captivity in compliance with certain provisions of the Arkansas Code and Regulations promulgated by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The Arkansas Code permits a person to possess a large carnivore only if the person was the legal possessor of the animal on or before August 12, 2005 and has obtained a permit for personal possession within 180 days after August 12, 2005. State commission regulations permit a person legally possessing a large carnivore or mountain lion on or before December 31, 2005, to apply for a wildlife breeder/dealer permit up until June 30, 2006. These restrictions do not apply to organizations that are accredited members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, municipal zoos or aquariums, or individuals or organizations involved in <i>bona fide</i> scientific research, education or conservation efforts of significant benefit to wildlife or wildlife habitat in the state. In addition, individuals or organizations with a USDA wildlife exhibition permit may possess wildlife, other than mountain lions, as allowed by that permit. Each household may also possess as personal pets up to six bobcats hand-caught from the wild and up to six commercially-obtained, captive-born bobcats or other native wildlife species.</p>	<p>ARK. CODE ANN. §§ 20-19-501 <i>et seq.</i> (2008). ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION CODE OF REGULATIONS §15 CAPTIVE WILDLIFE/HUNTING RESORTS (WWW.AGFC.COM).</p>

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ARKANSAS	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat trapping is permitted with the proper fur takers license issued by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. AGFC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Importing or exporting of bobcat pelts must have a CITES tag affixed to them. A fur dealer’s license is required to buy or resell pelts or furbearer carcasses. Fur dealers must keep detailed records on the receipt and sale of fur and pelts which are open to inspection. Hunting of non-native game animals within enclosures is prohibited.	ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION CODE OF REGULATIONS, §10.01-.13 (WWW.AGFC.COM).
CALIFORNIA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	It is unlawful to possess live restricted animals, including all species of the <i>Felidae</i> family, except <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> (cheetahs) and domestic cats and hybrids of domestic cats, except pursuant to a permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Game. Animal care permits may be issued to qualified persons who legally possessed a restricted animal in the state prior to January 1992. Qualified persons may obtain permits for exhibition, breeding or <i>bona fide</i> scientific or public health research involving restricted animals.	CAL. NATURAL RESOURCES CODE, tit. 14 §§ 671 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) and tag issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). CDFG regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Bobcats must be tagged upon harvesting and a portion of tag must be submitted to CDFG. Pelts used for commercial purposes must have a CDFG shipping tag. Importing or exporting of bobcat pelts must have the proper shipping or export tags from the state of origin and import declarations. Mountain lions are specially protected. It is unlawful to take, injure, possess, transport, import or sell any mountain lion or any part of product thereof. It is unlawful for any person to possess, transport, import, export, propagate, purchase, sell, or transfer any live mammal for purposes of maiming, injuring, or killing the mammal for gain, amusement or sport.	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (WWW.DFG.CA.GOV). CA FISH & G §§ 478-479 ; §§ 4800- 4809 ; §§ 2124.

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COLORADO	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Live possession of regulated wildlife, both native and exotic, is prohibited, absent possession of a proper license. Licenses may be issued to qualifying persons for purposes of scientific collecting or the operation of wildlife sanctuaries or commercial wildlife parks, including big game hunting parks (big game is defined to include mountain lions), wildlife exhibitor parks, wildlife producer parks, and zoological parks. Non-commercial wildlife park licenses may be issued to persons lawfully possessing exotic mammals prior to January 1, 1983, for non-commercial purposes, and their progeny born after January 1, 1982. Possession of non-game species, including Canada lynx, is prohibited except pursuant to a scientific collecting license, a wildlife rehabilitation license, or a license for zoological, educational, propagation, or other special purposes.	COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 33-1-102, 33-1-106, 33-6-109 (2007); 2 COLO. CODE REGS. § 406-8 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW). CDOW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/ trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Bobcats or their pelts must be sealed with a tag from CDOW within 30 days after harvest. CDOW has released Canada lynx in southwest Colorado. Hunters are advised of the differences between lynx and bobcat and are asked to report any sightings. Additionally, if hunters are in a lynx recovery area, traps must be checked every 24 hours. If a lynx is captured and not injured it must be released immediately and reported to CDOW within 24 hours. Injured lynx must be reported to CDOW and taken to the CDOW or licensed veterinarian and reported within 24 hours. If a lynx is killed it must be reported to CDOW within 24 hours and the carcass taken to CDOW within 3 days. Mountain lions may be hunted with a valid mountain lion license and a mountain lion education certificate. CDOW regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. In certain areas, mountain lion hunting is prohibited from November 11, 2004 through March 31, 2009. In other areas, hunting collared lions or lions with orange or yellow ear tags is also prohibited from November 11, 2004 through March 31, 2009. In all areas where mountain lions may be hunted, no spotted kittens or females with spotted kittens may be taken. The taking of mountain lions by licensed hunters shall be reported to CDOW within 48 hours of taking. Mountain lions shall not be transported, shipped or otherwise taken out of Colorado until the hide and skull are inspected and sealed. A Big Game Hunting Park license is required for hunting privately owned big game animals on private property. A Wildlife Producers Park license is required for trading, selling, propagation, bartering, shooting, brokering, and transporting, live wildlife (no birds) and wildlife parts.	COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE (WWW.WILDLIFE.STATE.CO.US). 2 COLO. CODE REGS. § 406-2; § 406-3; 406-8 (2008); COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 33-1-102, 33-1-106, 33-6-109 (2007).

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CONNECTICUT	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person shall possess a potentially dangerous animal, defined to include the following wildlife, or any hybrid thereof: the <i>Felidae</i> , including, but not limited to, the lion, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, ocelot, jaguarundi cat, puma, lynx and bobcat. This prohibition does not apply to municipal parks, zoos and nature centers, or museums, laboratories and research facilities maintained by scientific or educational institutions; to certain captive-bred Bengal cats registered on or before October 1, 1996, or to persons lawfully possessing such animals on or before May 23, 1983.	CONN. GEN. STAT. § 26-40a (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection reclassified the bobcat as a protected furbearer, with no hunting or trapping seasons. No person shall purchase, sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess the raw skin, raw pelt, or carcass of any bobcat, Canada lynx or mountain lion unless such skin or pelt or carcass was legally acquired in Connecticut or any other state or country. Skins, pelts or carcasses must be tagged by the state or country of origin and a separate tag attached with the name and address of person from whom acquired, trapping/hunting license number, and or state or country from which it was acquired. No person shall engage in the business of buying raw furs without a license. Sales of raw furs to unlicensed nonresident dealers may result in fines, imprisonment and forfeiture of license. Private shooting preserves of game birds only are regulated and require a permit.	CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WILDLIFE DIVISION “WILDLIFE IN CONNECTICUT: BOBCAT.” (WWW.CT.GOV/DEP/CWP) CONN. GEN. STAT. § 26-78-1; 26-42; 26-43; 26-48 (2008).
DELAWARE	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Individuals are permitted to possess live wild mammals or hybrids of wild mammals not native to or generally found in the state as pets, pursuant to an individual permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife. If wild animals are kept for medical or psychological research, the individual or entity must apply for a class permit for each class of animals (<i>e.g.</i> , reptiles, herbivores, carnivores).	DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 3, § 7201 <i>et seq.</i> (2008); DEL. CODE REGS. § 13-100-012 (2008).

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DELAWARE	HUNTING AND TRADE	Sale of skins, bodies or animals of certain species is prohibited. No part of the skin or body, whether raw or manufactured, or the animal itself may be sold or offered for sale by any individual, firm, corporation, association or partnership within the state, that includes all endangered species designated by the U.S. Department of Interior (leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, tiger, and cheetah). Permits may be issued for zoological, educational, and scientific purposes and for the propagation of wildlife for the preservation of a species, unless importation is prohibited by any federal law or regulation. Delaware does not have enclosed private hunting or shooting preserves in which mammals (captive or wild) may be hunted.	DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 7, § 601 <i>et seq.</i> ; 7, § 704 (2008).
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person shall import, possess, display, offer for sale, trade, barter, exchange, adopt or give as a household pet any living member of the animal kingdom including those born or raised in captivity, except, (including but not limited to) domesticated cats, excluding hybrids with ocelots or margays.	D.C. CODE § 8-1808 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Council of the District of Columbia is authorized to restrict, prohibit, regulate, and control hunting and the taking, possession, and sale of wild animals in the District.	D.C. CODE § 22-4328 (2008).
FLORIDA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person shall possess any wildlife, including mammals, whether or not indigenous to the state, without having first secured a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, based upon the wildlife classification. Class I wildlife includes: snow leopards, leopards, jaguars, tigers, and lions. Persons in possession of these animals for personal use on August 1, 1980, were eligible for a permit in accordance with the provisions for Class II wildlife. No other Class I wildlife may be kept for personal use. Class II wildlife includes: servals, Eurasian and Canada lynx, cougars, panthers, bobcats, cheetahs, caracals, African golden cats, Asiatic golden cats, fishing cats, ocelots, and clouded leopards, and may be possessed for personal use in accordance with the provisions of a Class II permit. These requirements do not apply to any municipal, county, state or other publicly owned wildlife exhibit, any traveling zoo, circus, or exhibit that is otherwise licensed.	FLA. STAT. §§ 372.921, 372.922, 372.935 (2008); FLA. ADMIN. CODE 68A-6.0011 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
FLORIDA	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). FFWCC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be	FLA. ADMIN. CODE 68A-24.002-.004; 68A-27.003; 68A-12.01 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).

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FLORIDA		<p>hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Skins of bobcats must be tagged with a FFWCC tag before it is transported, shipped, carried, exported, or otherwise removed from the state. A license is required for taking or possessing any fur-bearing animal or part thereof for commercial purposes. Fur and hide dealers must keep detailed records on the receipt and sale of skins which are open to inspection. The Florida panther (<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>) is designated as an endangered species. As such, no person shall pursue, molest, harm, harass, capture, possess, or sell a Florida panther or parts thereof. A specific permit may be issued only when the permitted activity will clearly enhance the survival of the species. A license may be issued by FFWCC for the establishment and operation of a private hunting preserve to allow the release of captive-raised native and non-native game animals. Hunting of <i>carnivorous animals (which includes all cat species)</i> is prohibited on hunting preserves.</p>	
GEORGIA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>It is unlawful for any person to possess any species of the order <i>Carnivora</i>, including the <i>Felidae</i> family, without first obtaining a wild animal license or a wild animal permit. Liability insurance is also required for the possession of any of the following “inherently dangerous” wild cats: all species of the genus <i>Leo</i> or <i>Panthera</i> or <i>Neofelis</i> (lions, tigers, jaguars, and leopards); <i>Uncia uncia</i> (snow leopard); <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> (cheetah); and all subspecies of <i>Puma concolor</i> (cougar). Wild animal licenses are issued only to persons engaged in the wholesale or retail wild animal business or persons exhibiting wild animals to the public. Wild animal permits are issued only to persons for scientific or educational purposes or for other limited circumstances. Any person on July 1, 1994, that possessed a wild animal for which a license or permit was not required, had until January 1, 1995, to apply for a permit.</p>	GA. CODE ANN. §§ 27-5-4 <i>et seq.</i> (2007).

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GEORGIA	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division. (GWD). GWD regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. All bobcats trapped in the state and exported must be tagged with a federal export tag. The tag must be attached by state personnel no later than ten days after the close of the trapping season. All trappers must report in writing the number of furs, hides or pelts which were taken during the open season and to whom sold. Exportation reports of furs, hides, and pelts are also required within three days prior to shipping. Fur dealers must also report in writing within 60 days of the close of the trapping season, complete records of purchasing activities. Private game/commercial shooting preserves are permitted but must be licensed. All exotic animals and certain game animals such as bobcats and cougars are prohibited from possession or release on a shooting preserve.	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WILDLIFE DIVISION (WWW.GEORGIAWILDLIFE.COM). GA. COMP. R. & REGS. r. 27 § 391-4-2.12 (2007); GA. CODE ANN. §§ 27-1-2 <i>et seq.</i> ; 27-3-113 ; 27-5-12 (2007).
HAWAII	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Hybrid crosses of a domestic cat with a lynx, ocelot, margay, puma, jaguarandi, bobcat, leopard cat, or other wild cats, are prohibited from entering the state. A person may, however, lawfully possess a prohibited animal upon a determination by the Board of Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture that the species was initially permitted entry and later prohibited entry into the state. The introduction and subsequent possession of the following restricted species, requires a permit and must be held only for the purposes of research by universities or government agencies, exhibition in municipal zoos or government-affiliated aquariums, or for medical or scientific purposes as determined by the Board: cheetah, caracal, ocelot, serval, margay, lion, clouded leopard, jaguar, leopard, tiger, and puma (cougar, mountain lion, panther).	HAW. REV. STAT. §§ 150A-6.2, 150A-6.5 (2008); HAW. CODE §§ 4-71 (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Hunting on private and commercial shooting game preserves is permitted. A license is required and only game birds may be hunted.	HAW. REV. STAT. §§ 183D-34, 183D-51 (2008).

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IDAHO	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>No person may possess the following “deleterious exotic animals,” or any hybrid thereof, without a possession permit signed by the Administrator of the Division of Animal Industries, State Department of Agriculture, or his designee: lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar, cheetah, serval, caracal, ocelot, margay, and Geoffroy’s Cat. The Administrator may authorize, by permit, the importation and possession of deleterious exotic animals by public or private zoos accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; or to public or private institutions of higher education. Permits may also be authorized for persons conducting research determined by the Administrator to be beneficial to agriculture, the environment, or wildlife; zoos and exhibitors open to the public that are licensed by USDA and approved by the Administrator; or on a temporary basis for circuses and other traveling exhibitions licensed by the USDA. The Administrator may authorize possession permits for deleterious exotic animals owned on July 1, 2004, on a case-by-case basis. No person may hold in captivity any species of big game animal, including mountain lions found wild in the state, unless the person has been issued a license or permit. No person shall possess wildlife classified as threatened or endangered, including Canada lynx.</p>	<p>IDAHO CODE §§ 25-3901 <i>et seq.</i>, 36-701 <i>et seq.</i> (2008); IDAHO ADMIN. CODE §§ 02.04.21.720, 02.04.27.000 <i>et seq.</i>, 13.01.06.100 <i>et seq.</i>, 13.01.10.100 (2007).</p>

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IDAHO	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Idaho Fish and Game Department (IFGD). IFGD regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Bobcat pelts must be presented to a regional office to obtain a pelt tag and complete a harvest report. Ten days after the close of the season, no person shall possess any raw bobcat pelt that does not have an official state export tag or another state's tag. A bobcat pelt that does not have an official state export tag shall not be sold, offered for sale, purchased or offered for purchase. No person shall possess a live furbearer taken from the wild. There is no open season to hunt or trap lynx. Hunters are advised of the differences between lynx and bobcat and are asked to report any sightings or captures. Mountain lions may be hunted with a valid mountain lion license and a mountain lion education certificate. IFGD regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. In all areas where mountain lions may be hunted, no spotted kittens or females with spotted kittens may be taken. The taking of mountain lions by licensed hunters shall be reported to IFGD ten days by presenting the skull and hide with evidence of sex attached to hide to obtain an official state export tag. In areas where there is a female quota, hunters must report within five days. Ten days after the close of the season, no person shall possess any raw mountain lion hide that does not have an official state export tag or another state's tag. No person may trap, snare or otherwise capture or hold any mountain lion. Private shooting preserves of game birds only are regulated and require a license.</p>	<p>IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT (HTTP://FISHANDGAME.IDAHO.GOV) IDAHO ADMIN. CODE §§ 13.01.16.000 <i>et seq.</i>, 13.01.08.000 <i>et seq.</i> (2007). IDAHO CODE §§36-2201 <i>et seq.</i> (2008)</p>
ILLINOIS	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>No person may possess any dangerous animal, defined to include a lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, margay, mountain lion, lynx, bobcat, or jaguarundi, except at a properly maintained zoological park, federally licensed exhibit, circus, scientific or educational institution, research laboratory, veterinary hospital, hound running area, or animal refuge.</p>	<p>720 ILL. COMP. STAT. 585/0.1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).</p>
	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcats are not listed or included as a species that may be hunted or trapped in the 2007-2008 hunting and trapping regulations.</p>	<p>ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.DNR.STATE.IL.US).</p>

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INDIANA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A permit is required for all species of wild cats (except feral cats). A wild animal that is possessed under any of the following licenses is exempt from this rule: a game breeder license; a scientific collector permit; or a mammal rehabilitation permit. This rule also does not apply to the lawful possession of a wild animal during the first six months from the date of birth, if the animal is the offspring of a wild animal lawfully possessed under this rule; by a zoo, carnival, animal dealer, pet shop, circus, or licensed nature center; or as authorized by a permit issued by the U.S. Department of Interior.	IND. CODE ANN. § 14-22-26-1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008); IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 312, r. 9-11-1 <i>et seq.</i> (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	The Wildlife Diversity Section of the Indiana Natural Resource Commission has classified the bobcat as a species of special concern. As such, hunting or trapping of bobcats is prohibited.	INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION WILDLIFE DIVERSITY SECTION (ENDANGEREDWILDLIFE.IN.GOV). IND. CODE 14-22-34-12 (2007).
IOWA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A person shall not own or possess a dangerous wild animal, defined to include a member of the family <i>Felidae</i> of the order <i>Carnivora</i> , including but not limited to lions, tigers, cougars, leopards, cheetahs, ocelots, and servals (but not domestic cats). A person who possessed a dangerous wild cat on July 1, 2007, may continue to possess that animal, subject to certain qualifying requirements and the filing of a registration form with the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship by December 31, 2007. Various entities are exempt from these requirements, including institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; wildlife sanctuaries; circuses that obtain temporary permits from those cities in which they will be operating; cities; non-profit corporations; the state fair; research facilities; animal shelters or pounds, or persons licensed by the USDA.	IOWA CODE §§ 717F.1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008); IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 21-77.1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
IOWA	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper fur harvester license issued by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). IDNR regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Bobcat fur harvesters must call and report the harvesting of a bobcat within 24 hours and must meet with a conservation officer within 48 hours of reporting to receive and apply a CITES tag. The CITES tag must be applied before the bobcat is skinned and remain with the animal until it is sold. Animals used for display or educational purposes or taxidermy must have the CITES tag retained with the pelt at all times. Any bobcats accidentally taken after the closed season grace period or in an area not open for harvesting, must be turned over to the IDNR. <u>Mountain Lions in Iowa – Myth or Reality:</u> “Mountain lions have no legal wildlife status in Iowa. They can be taken and possessed by anyone at anytime as long as legal methods and means are used to take the animal. Mountain lions are not listed in the Iowa Code as designated wildlife species because they were extirpated before fish and game legislation became prominent. The future of mountain lions in Iowa is questionable since Iowa may not have suitable mountain lion habitat and the intolerance of humans may dictate whether they will ever be able to get a foot hold in the state. Some sort of legal status in the Iowa Code will be necessary.” Iowa regulations permit hunting preserves for the purpose of holding propagating and releasing game birds and ungulates for hunting purposes with the proper seasonal license.</p>	<p>IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.IOWADNR.COM). IOWA ADMIN. CODE §571-112.1 (2008).</p>
KANSAS	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>On and after September 1, 2006, persons who possess a dangerous regulated animal which is defined to include lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and mountain lions, or any hybrid thereof, shall notify, in writing, and register the dangerous regulated animal with the local animal control authority. This requirement does not apply to institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; registered wildlife sanctuaries; the state Department of Wildlife and Parks; persons issued a scientific, educational or exhibition permit; licensed research or medical institutions; or USDA licensed exhibitors of dangerous regulated animals while transporting or as part of a carnival, rodeo or fair. Any person possessing a mountain lion is required to obtain a possession permit. This requirement does not apply to zoos; licensed veterinarians; transportation of such wildlife through the state; possession of such wildlife when the possession shall not exceed five days; or such wildlife possessed for scientific, educational or display purposes by a school or university; or a circus or other similar business enterprise offering public viewing opportunity.</p>	<p>KAN. STAT. ANN. §§ 32-1301 <i>et seq.</i> (2006); KAN. ADMIN. REGS. § 115-20-4 (2008).</p>

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
KANSAS	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). KDWP regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. The pelt of any bobcat taken in Kansas shall be presented to KDWP for tagging within seven days following the closure of the season. Any bobcat pelt legally taken in Kansas may be sold to any fur dealer or shipped from the state for the purpose of selling if an export tag provided by the KDWP has been attached to the pelt. Licensed fur dealers must keep detailed records on the receipt and sale of fur and pelts which are open to inspection. “No hunting season for mountain lion has been established in Kansas, and they may not be killed for mere presence. Landowners are permitted to destroy wildlife, including mountain lions, found in or near buildings on their premises or when destroying property, but may not possess such animals with intent to use unless authorized.” A license is required for the operation of controlled shooting areas that are to be used only for the propagation and shooting of game birds.</p>	<p>KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS (WWW.KDWP.STATE.KS.US). KAN. ADMIN. REGS. §§115-5-1; 115-5-2; 115-25-11; 115-6-1 (2008); KAN. STAT. ANN. § 32-944 (2006).</p>
KENTUCKY	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>A person shall not possess a cougar or mountain lion provided, however, that the Commissioner may authorize possession by circuses or for legitimate scientific or educational purposes by a zoo or facility accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association or designated as the official zoo of a municipality; a government agency; a college or university; or a similar educational or research institution. No person shall possess the following inherently-dangerous wild cats or hybrids thereof: cheetahs, clouded leopards, lions, jaguars, leopards, tigers, or snow leopards. However, a person who legally possessed a prohibited wild cat prior to July 13, 2005, may continue to possess the animal. The Commissioner may authorize, upon written request, possession of these inherently-dangerous wild cats by circuses or for legitimate scientific or educational purposes by an accredited or designated zoo or facility; a government agency; a college or university; a licensed or accredited educational or research institution; or a lawfully operated circus or rodeo. A person may temporarily transport through or display in the state a prohibited animal for less than ninety-six hours, subject to certain conditions. Unless protected by state or federal law, exotic wildlife shall not be classified as protected wildlife or require a permit for possession.</p>	<p>301 KY. ADMIN. REGS. 2:081 TO 2:082 (2007); KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 65.877 (2008).</p>

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SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
KENTUCKY	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (KDFW). KDFW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Immediately after taking a bobcat, the hunter/trapper must record in writing, the date, county, and sex. Notification of the take to KDFW is required to receive a confirmation number. A person that intends to sell a bobcat pelt to a licensed fur processor or buyer for export, needs to request a CITES tag that shall be attached to the skin or unskinned carcass and remain attached until processing. Bobcat pelts can only be sold to licensed fur buyers, processors or taxidermists. Fur buyers, processors and taxidermists must not accept a bobcat carcass or any part of the bobcat without the proper CITES tag and must keep detailed records on bobcats in their possession. KDFW has listed the cougar (mountain lion) as prohibited wildlife which the general public cannot import or possess.</p>	<p>KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WWW.KDFWR.STATE.KY.US) 301 KY. ADMIN. REGS. 2:251 (2007).</p>
LOUISIANA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>It is unlawful to possess all subspecies or hybrids of the following big exotic cats: tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, clouded leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, cougars or mountain lions. An individual who legally possessed one or more of these exotic cats on August 15, 2006, who can prove legal ownership, is authorized to keep their exotic cats under certain specified conditions. The following entities are exempt from this requirement: zoos accredited or certified by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; research facilities as defined in the Animal Welfare Act; licensed circuses operating temporarily in the state; and Louisiana colleges or universities possessing a big exotic cat of the species traditionally kept by that college or university as a school mascot. Any person transporting any listed animal through the state is exempt if the transit time is not more than 24 hours, subject to certain conditions.</p>	<p>LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 76, § 115 (2007); 33 LA. REG. 1152 (JUNE 20, 2007).</p>

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
LOUISIANA	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). LDWF regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. A blue tag for bobcat must be filled out by the trapper at the time the pelt is first sold. A federal approval is required to export bobcat outside the United States and must have a LDWF export tag. No bobcat pelt shall be shipped from Louisiana without an export tag attached. Fur trappers, hunters, and dealers shall not transport or ship raw furs out of the state without first obtaining an official out-of-state shipping tag from LDWF and may only transport or ship to a licensed non-resident fur dealer. LDWF reports that while the Florida Panther's historic range included parts of western Louisiana, it is unlikely that viable populations presently exist outside of Florida. Louisiana regulations state that only pen raised game birds can be released on hunting reserves. Sport killing of zoo or circus animals is prohibited.	LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES (WWW.WLF.LOUISIANA.GOV). LA. REV. STAT. 14:120.20.
MAINE	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A permit is required to possess any native or exotic wildlife, including wild cats, for the following purposes: exhibition; general wildlife possession, including personal use of wildlife; rehabilitation; importation or scientific collection.	ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 12, § 12152 (2007); CODE ME. R. 09-137-007 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW). MDIFW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Trapping: bobcat skins must be tagged within ten days after the end of the season. Hunting: bobcat skins must be tagged within 72 hours from the time they were taken. Bobcats must be tagged by MDIFW personnel. Tags must be attached to the skins before they can be sold, donated, or transported. A federal export permit is required to transport the skins out of the United States. There is no open season for trapping or hunting lynx. Hunters are advised of the differences between lynx and bobcat and are asked to report any sightings. Additionally, if a lynx is captured, trappers and hunters must contact MDIFW and release the lynx as soon as possible. There is no open season for trapping or hunting cougar. The last documented eastern cougar in northern Maine was killed in 1938.	MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE (WWW.MEFISHWILDLIFE.COM).

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SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
MARYLAND	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A person may not possess a member of the cat family other than the domestic cat, or a hybrid of a member of the cat family and a domestic cat, if the hybrid weighs over 30 pounds. This provision does not prohibit a person who had lawful possession of a prohibited animal on or before May 31, 2006, from continuing to possess that animal if the person provides written notification to the local animal control authority on or before August 1, 2006. This section does not apply to a research facility or federal research facility licensed under the federal Animal Welfare Act; an exhibitor licensed under the federal Animal Welfare Act; qualified animal sanctuaries, animal control officers; licensed veterinarians; or non-residents in the state for ten days or less for the purpose of traveling between locations outside the state.	MD. CODE ANN., CRIMINAL LAW § 10-621 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	There is no open season for bobcat trapping or hunting. Maryland Department of Natural Resources has designated the bobcat as a species of special concern. Eastern cougars “disappeared” in the late 1800s. The bobcat and eastern cougar are included on the list of “Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Animals of Maryland.”	MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.DNR.MARYLAND.GOV).
MASSACHUSETTS	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No license shall be granted to possess as a pet any undomesticated mammal that is not the product of hybridization with a domestic form. No person shall possess a wild felid hybrid which includes offspring of the cross between any species of wild felid or hybrid wild felid and a domestic cat or hybrid wild felid. This prohibition shall not apply to a person possessing any such animal as of January 1, 1994, as long as that person obtained the required permit by July 31, 1995.	MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 321, § 2.12, 9.01 (2008); MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. CH. 131, § 77A (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper fur harvester license issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MDFW). MDFW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Pelts of bobcats taken by trapping or hunting must be tagged with official seals within four working days from the date harvested. A fur buyer license is required for any person who deals in green or raw pelts. All bobcat pelts require a CITES tag to be lawfully exported for sale. Pelts of bobcat or lynx may not be sold in Massachusetts unless tagged by the state or province of origin. Mountain lions were extirpated from the state around 1858. Canada lynx were extirpated from the state around 1885.	THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE (WWW.MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE).

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SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
MICHIGAN	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>A person shall not possess any of the following cats of the <i>Felidae</i> family, whether wild or captive bred, including a hybrid cross with such a cat: lion, leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, jaguar, tiger, cougar, panther, or cheetah. This prohibition does not apply to persons who were in possession of such animal on July 7, 2000, and who otherwise qualifies for a large carnivore permit. The following entities are exempt from these requirements: an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter; persons licensed by the state or by the U.S. Department of Interior; an approved or accredited zoological park or animal sanctuary; authorized law enforcement officers; a veterinarian temporarily in possession of a large carnivore to provide veterinary services; a person who is not a resident of this state and who is in this state only for the purpose of travel between locations outside of this state; certain for-profit or non-profit businesses whose primary purpose is the presentation of animals including large carnivores to the public for education or exhibition purposes; and circuses.</p>	<p>MICH. COMP. LAWS § 287.1101 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).</p>
	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper fur harvester license issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). MDNR regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Furbearer kill tags are required for harvesting bobcat. A person who kills a bobcat shall immediately validate the tag and attach the tag to the hide from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw. MDNR also regulates fur dealers including licensing, shipping permits, labeling and reporting of pelts in possession on the last day of the hunting/trapping season. Cougars were once native to Michigan but were extirpated around the turn of the century.</p>	<p>MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV). MICH. COMP. LAWS §§ 324.42501-42507 (2008).</p>

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SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
MINNESOTA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>It is unlawful for a person to possess a regulated animal, which is defined as all members of the <i>Felidae</i> family including but not limited to: lions, tigers, cougars, leopards, cheetahs, ocelots, and servals, but not including domestic cats or cats recognized as a domestic breed, registered as a domestic breed, and shown as a domestic breed by a national or international multibreed cat registry association. A person who possesses a regulated animal on January 1, 2005, must register that animal with the local animal control authority. This section does not apply to institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; a wildlife sanctuary; fur-bearing animals (defined to include lynx, bobcat, and cougar) possessed by a licensed game farm; the Department of Natural Resources, or certain permittees authorized by the Commissioner of the Department; a licensed or accredited research or medical institution; or a USDA licensed exhibitor of regulated animals while transporting or as part of a circus, carnival, rodeo, or fair.</p>	MINN. STAT. §§ 97A.015, 346.155 (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). MDNR regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. The pelt of each bobcat must be removed from the carcass; the entire carcass of each bobcat must be presented and surrendered to a MDNR registration station for registration before the pelt is sold or is removed from the state, in no more than 48 hours after the season closes. Written information for each bobcat is required including: sex, method of take, date taken and county, township and range, along with MDNR license number. Cougars and lynx are listed as protected mammals in Minnesota by state or federal laws; there is no open season for cougars or lynx. Hunters and trappers are advised of the differences between lynx and bobcat and are asked to report any sightings. Additionally, if a lynx is captured trappers and hunters must release the lynx as soon as possible. If the lynx is dead or cannot be released MDNR conservation officer must be notified. No person may possess, transport or pelt a bobcat or lynx that was accidentally killed, except when authorized by a conservation officer. MDNR advises that “The Canada lynx is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Any taking or possession of lynx including the accidental taking, is a violation of federal law.”</p>	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.DNR.STATE.MN.US).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
MISSISSIPPI	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	It is unlawful for a person to possess the following members of the family <i>Felidae</i> : all species of lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs; and all subspecies of cougars, which are classified as inherently dangerous, unless that person holds a permit or is exempted. The following entities may be exempted upon approval by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks: public zoos, university research facilities, governmental agencies, transient circuses, rehabilitation and sanctuary facilities.	MISS. CODE ANN. § 49-8-1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP). MDWFP regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. A trapping license is required to sell the pelts or skins of furbearers and may be sold only during the trapping season and for ten days thereafter. MDWFP requires the tagging of bobcat to account for the harvest which is subject to federal export regulations. Bobcats harvested in Mississippi must be tagged by a MDWFP representative within 14 days of harvest and prior to shipping or transport out of Mississippi. Fur dealers are required to obtain a fur dealing license. All licensed fur dealers must keep permanent and detailed records on the receipt and sale of skins which are open to inspection.	MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS (WWW.MDWFP.COM).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
MISSOURI	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>No person may keep a lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, margay, mountain lion, Canada lynx, bobcat, or jaguarundi in any place other than a properly maintained zoological park, circus, scientific, or educational institution, research laboratory, veterinary hospital, or animal refuge, unless such person has registered such animals with the local law enforcement agency in the county in which the animal is kept. Any person holding wildlife, including a mountain lion (and hybrids) or a bobcat, in captivity in any manner shall have in his or her possession the prescribed permit or evidence of exemption. Permit categories include Class I Wildlife Breeder (possession of bobcats), Class II Wildlife Breeder (possession of mountain lions and hybrids), Wildlife Hobby (possession in captivity of not more than one bobcat), and Wildlife Collector's Permit (possession by authorized representatives of a university, college, school, incorporated city, state or federal agency, publicly-owned zoo, wildlife or research organization or other qualified individual; provided, that the collection shall be used exclusively for scientific, educational or museum purposes or by professionally qualified individuals who charge a fee for biological studies for specific projects where the potential results are of sufficient public value and interest to justify special collection of wildlife). No Class I or Class II Wildlife Breeder permit is required for wildlife legally held by circuses, publicly owned zoos, American Zoo and Aquarium Association accredited not-for-profit facilities or <i>bona fide</i> research facilities. However, wildlife may not be held for personal use.</p>	<p>MO. ANN. STAT. § 578.023 (2008); MO. CODE REGS. ANN. tit. 3, §§ 10-9.105 <i>et seq.</i> § 10-20.805, tit. 2, § 30-9.020(17) (2008).</p>
	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). MDC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. The pelts of bobcats taken by hunting and trapping must be delivered to an agent of the MDC for registration or tagging before selling, transferring, tanning or mounting. After pelts are tagged, they can be processed by the taker throughout the year and may be sold only to licensed taxidermists, tanners or fur dealers. It is illegal to purchase or sell untagged bobcats or their pelts. Skinned carcass of furbearers may be sold throughout the year. No open season exists for mountain lions, however, mountain lions may be killed without permission if they are attacking or killing livestock or domestic animals or are threat to human safety. A mountain lion killed under this regulation must be reported immediately to MDC and the intact carcass must be surrendered to MDC within 24 hours.</p>	<p>MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (WWW.MDC.MO.GOV/REGS).</p>

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
MONTANA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>A person may not possess any exotic wildlife unless such possession is allowed by law or rule and a permit authorizing such possession has been obtained. No species of wild cat is currently identified by state law as either “prohibited” (cannot be possessed) or “controlled” (may be possessed pursuant to a permit). The Jungle cat and serval are listed as “noncontrolled” (may be possessed without a permit). However, exotic wildlife (defined as wildlife not native to Montana) may not be imported into the state unless the species has been classified as prohibited, controlled or noncontrolled, and the required permits for possession have been issued. These requirements do not apply to certain qualifying institutions, including accredited nonprofit zoological gardens; roadside menageries; or qualified research facilities. In addition, persons possessing exotic wildlife as of January 1, 2004, may obtain authorization for possession, subject to any conditions or restrictions deemed necessary to minimize risks.</p>	<p>MONT. CODE ANN. §§ 87-5-701 TO 87-5-709, § 87-5-712 (2007); MONT. ADMIN. R. § 12.6.2201 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).</p>
	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (MFWPC). MFWPC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. When a bobcat is harvested it must be reported to MFWPC within 24 hours and with specific information; the pelt of a bobcat must be personally presented to a MFWPC employee for tagging within ten days after harvest. Pelts not presented within ten days of harvest are subject to confiscation. The skulls of bobcats must be turned over to MFWPC at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Any accidental taking of furbearers when the season is closed must be released; if injured, MFWPC must be notified within 24 hours. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an accidentally taken furbearer. Fur dealers must be licensed by MFWPC. It is unlawful for any fur dealer to purchase or possess any untagged bobcat, except those originating outside the state that have an export permit or other lawful documentation. A federal export permit is required in addition to a MFWPC tag to export bobcat pelts from the United States. No persons may possess or transport any live furbearer or capture wild furbearers for fur farm stock. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service listed the Canada lynx as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Taking of a lynx by trapping or shooting is prohibited and illegal. Mountain lion hunting is permitted with the proper license or special permit issued by MFWPC. MFWPC regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. In all areas where mountain lions may be hunted, no spotted kittens or females with spotted kittens may be taken. Immediately after killing a mountain lion, the hunter must complete and attach a tag to the hide; evidence of sex must remain</p>	<p>MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS COMMISSION (WWW.FWP.MT.GOV).</p>

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MONTANA		naturally intact on the hide; and personally report their lion kill within 12 hours to MFWPC. Within ten days of harvest, the hunter must personally present the hide and skull to a MFWPC officer for inspection, registration and issuance of a hide tag and trophy license. It is unlawful to possess, ship, transport, sell or purchase any mountain lion or parts unless it has been properly tagged. A CITES tag is required to export mountain lion hides or parts out of the United States.	
NEBRASKA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person shall keep in captivity any member of the family <i>Felidae</i> , except that a person legally possessing on March 1, 1986, any prohibited animal shall be allowed to keep the animal for the duration of its life. This prohibition does not apply to domesticated cats, any zoo, park, refuge, wildlife area, or nature center owned or operated by a city, village, state, or federal agency, or any person who holds a captive wildlife permit for the purpose of raising Canada lynx or bobcats to produce furs for sale to individuals or businesses or to produce breeding stock for sale to persons engaged in fur production.	NEB. REV. STAT. ANN. § 37-477 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). NGPC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. All bobcats must be registered and officially tagged by the NGPC within two calendar days of the close of the season and before the pelt is sold. There is no open season to hunt or trap Canada lynx or mountain lion.	NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION (WWW.NGPC.STATE.NE.US).
NEVADA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	All species of felines, except mountain lions and bobcats, may be possessed without a permit or license. A commercial or non-commercial license issued by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is required for the possession of mountain lions and bobcats. A person who, on February 28, 1994, held a permit or license issued by (NDOW) that authorizes the possession of a live animal may continue to possess that animal and its progeny for the life of that animal and its progeny.	NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 504.295 (2007); NEV. ADMIN. CODE § 503.140, §§ 504.450 (2007).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
NEVADA	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper trapping license issued by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). NDOW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Within ten days of the close of the season, a person who kills a bobcat must personally present the pelt for inspection and give the lower jaw to NDOW; have a NDOW seal attached to the pelt; and complete a report of the killing. Bobcat pelts shall not be sold, offered for sale, bartered, traded, purchased, or transported from the state without a NDOW seal attached to the pelt. Mountain lion hunting is permitted with the proper license by NDOW. NDOW regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. In all areas where mountain lions may be hunted, no spotted kittens or females with spotted kittens may be taken. Mountain lions must be presented to NDOW with the skull and hide for sealing.	NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE (WWW.NDOW.ORG).
NEW HAMPSHIRE	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Only persons who qualify as an exhibitor may obtain a permit to possess the following species of wild cat (including hybrids), which are designated as “controlled”: Tigers (golden tabby, Siberian, white Siberian, and Bengal); African serval; leopards; clouded leopards; lions; lynx (Canada and Iberian); jaguars (black and spotted); cougars; caracals; and bobcats. Exhibitor is defined as any person who is engaged in the showing, displaying or training of wildlife for the purpose of public viewing, whether or not a fee is collected, and who possesses, if applicable, a current USDA exhibitor's permit and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit to exhibit. In addition, any person who has legally acquired and continually possessed wildlife under a valid permit in 1992, that is now designated as controlled, may obtain a permit to possess the wildlife. Any person who legally possessed a species listed as non-controlled prior to June 1, 2007, that is now listed as controlled, may obtain a permit to possess the species. All species not specifically listed under the categories of non-controlled, prohibited or controlled shall be designated as controlled and require a permit to possess.	N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 207:14 (2008); N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. FIS 801.07, 804.01 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	There is no open season for the hunting or trapping of bobcats or lynx. Any taking of these species is prohibited.	NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT (WWW.HUNTNH.COM).

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SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
NEW JERSEY	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	All nondomestic cat species of the order <i>Carnivora</i> , family <i>Felidae</i> are classified as potentially dangerous species, for which a permit for possession may be issued only after a clear showing that certain criteria have been met. Animals identified as “potentially dangerous species” shall not be kept as a pet, for hobby purposes or in situations which could adversely affect the health of the animal or which could constitute a hazard to the public.	N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 7, § 7:25-4 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	New Jersey has classified the bobcat as an endangered species and is protected.	NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE (WWW.STATE.NJ.US/DEP/FGW/ENSP).
NEW MEXICO	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Except as otherwise provided in the Wildlife Conservation Act, it is unlawful for any person to possess any restricted species, defined to include the following large exotic cat species or subspecies: leopards; clouded leopards; snow leopards; jaguars; Florida panthers; tigers; or ocelots. Possession may be authorized, however, by permit, for scientific or educational purposes or for propagation in captivity.	N.M. ADMIN. CODE tit. 19, § 33.6.1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper trapping license issued by the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game (NMDFG). NMDFG regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Persons who take a bobcat must present the pelt to a licensed fur dealer or NMDFG office for tagging along with a valid trapper license; all bobcat pelts must be tagged by April 14 and report the county in which the bobcat was harvested. No bobcat pelt taken in the state may be transported across state lines or sold, bartered or otherwise disposed of without a proper tag. Lynx are federally protected and may occur in parts of the state. If a lynx is captured it must be released; if the lynx is injured NMDFG must be contacted for assistance. If a protected furbearer is trapped during closed season it must be released. Hunters/trappers are advised on the differences between lynx and bobcats. Cougar hunting is permitted with the proper license by NMDFG. NMDFG regulates the means and methods in which cougars may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. In all areas where cougars may be hunted, no spotted kittens or females with spotted kittens may be taken. Cougars must be tagged with both a carcass and pelt tag. Cougars must be presented to NMDFG within five days of taking with a license and hide for pelt tagging; proof of sex must remain attached to the hide and remain visible. When a female cougar is	NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (WWW.WILDLIFE.STATE.NM.US).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
NEW MEXICO		taken the hunter is required to present the unfrozen skull with the mouth fixed open to NMDFG for removal of a premolar tooth. Cougar baiting and trapping is illegal. If a cougar is trapped it must be released. Transporting illegally taken game across state lines is a violation of the Lacey Act; such transport in connection with commercial activity may be classified as a felony.	
NEW YORK	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person shall possess any wild animal for use as a pet, including the following: leopards, snow leopards, clouded leopards, tigers, Asiatic lions, cheetahs, mountain lions or cougars, jaguars, ocelots, or margays. This prohibition does not apply to licensed zoological facilities, licensed exhibitors, research facilities, licensed veterinarians and incorporated humane societies, animal shelters, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals or animal welfare organizations in temporary possession of wild animals; state universities, private colleges or universities, or state agencies working with wild animals; licensed wildlife rehabilitators; a wildlife sanctuary; a person having custody of a wild animal solely for the purpose of transporting it to a licensed veterinarian, wildlife rehabilitator, humane society or other entity authorized by this section to handle or treat wild animals; or a non-resident who is in the state for ten or fewer days solely for the purpose of traveling between locations outside the state. A person who possessed a wild animal as a pet on January 1, 2005, may retain possession of that animal if he or she obtains a license within six months thereafter.	N.Y. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW §§ 11-0511 to 11-0512, § 11-0536 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper trapping license issued by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC). NYDEC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. A possession tag must be filled out for each animal taken and done immediately; possession tags must stay with the animal. Bobcat pelts must have a plastic seal attached to the pelt or unskinned animal before it is sold or transferred to another person; mounted or tanned or taken out of New York; only NYDEC representatives can attach the plastic bobcat pelt seal. A fur buyers license is not required in the state to buy fur. Lynx are classified as a small game animal but NYDEC regulations do not permit lynx harvesting. Lynx are fully protected in the state.	NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (WWW.DEC.NY.GOV).

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SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
NORTH CAROLINA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	The possession of any species of wild animal that is or once was native to the state, including a bobcat or cougar, is unlawful unless the possessor first obtains from the state Wildlife Resources Commission a captivity permit or license. A captivity permit authorizes possession of the animal for such period of time as is required to rehabilitate and release the animal to the wild. A captivity license authorizes long-term possession of a wild animal deemed “unfit” for release. Captivity licenses shall not be issued for the purpose of holding a wild animal as a pet. Publicly financed zoos, scientific and biological research facilities, and institutions of higher education that were granted an exemption by the Commission from the requirements of this rule prior to December 1, 2005 are exempt. A county or city may regulate, restrict, or prohibit the possession of animals that are dangerous to persons or property, but any such ordinance shall not permit an activity or condition with respect to the animals that is prohibited or more severely restricted by regulations of the Wildlife Resources Commission.	20 N.C. Reg. 1088 (Jan. 3, 2006); N.C. GEN. STAT. § 153A-131, § 160A-187 (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper trapping license issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC). NCWRC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. All fur must be tagged within ten days of the close of the season. It is unlawful to sell or transfer ownership of a carcass or pelt of a bobcat without first tagging it with the tag from the NCWRC.	NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCE COMMISSION (WWW.NCWILDLIFE.ORG).
NORTH DAKOTA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person may possess a Category 3 species, including big cats (mountain lion, jaguar, leopard, lion, tiger, cheetah and their hybrids), or Category 2 species, including all non-domestic cats not listed in Category 3, without first obtaining a non-traditional livestock license from the state board of animal health. Zoos, research, and educational facilities must comply with the requirements established for non-traditional livestock, although certain exemptions for specific testing requirements may be allowed. No person may propagate, domesticate, or possess any live protected animal, including bobcats, lynx, or mountain lion, without first obtaining a permit from the Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.	N.D. CENT. CODE § 20.1-09-02 (2008); N.D. ADMIN. CODE § 48-12-01.1-01 <i>et seq.</i> (2007).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
NORTH DAKOTA	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper trapping license issued by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD). NDGFD regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. “The pelt and carcass of each bobcat must be presented to NDGFD personnel for inspection and tagging no later than 14 days after the close of the season, or prior to sale or transfer of possession, whichever comes first. Absolutely no bobcat pelt will be tagged until the animal is skinned and presented with the intact carcass. The carcass then becomes the property of NDGFD. No person, taxidermist, or fur dealer shall possess or purchase an untagged bobcat. When any part of the animal is mounted, if the tag is removed from the pelt, the tag must be securely fasted to the back or bottom of mount.” Mountain lion hunting is permitted with the proper license issued by NDGFD. NDGFD regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. “Kittens (lions with visible spots) or females with kittens may not be taken. Any lion taken must be reported to NDGFD within 12 hours and the entire intact animal must be submitted for analysis. Legally taken lions will be returned to the hunter. Lynx are classified as protected furbearers and may not be harvested; the season is closed. “Pelt tags are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be used on the pelts of captive born and raised lynx in North Dakota. Documented proof must be presented to establish that the individual lynx are from an established breeding colony, and the individual lynx are off-spring of captive lynx.”</p>	NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT (WWW.GF.ND.GOV).
OHIO	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>No non-domestic animal may be imported into the state, unless accompanied by a permit issued prior to entry. It is unlawful for any person to possess any native endangered species of wild animal, including a bobcat, without first obtaining a written permit from the Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife.</p>	OHIO ADMIN. CODE §§ 901:1-17-12, 1501:31-23-01 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcats are a native species but were extirpated from the state in 1850. Neither the mountain lion or lynx were listed as native species in Ohio. No large carnivores of the family <i>Felidae</i> can be released for hunting or hunted in any wild animal hunting preserve.</p>	OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE (WWW.DNR.STATE.ON.US); OHIO REV. STAT. §1533.731(B)(2) (2008).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
OKLAHOMA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	<p>State law generally prohibits a person from possessing any native cat that will grow to reach the weight of 50 pounds or more. An exemption from this general prohibition exists for persons possessing a legally obtained native cat, from a source other than the wild, as a pet or for the purpose of training hunting dogs. Any person who keeps or maintains native wildlife, including a wild cat that will grow to weigh 50 pounds or more, must first obtain a commercial wildlife breeder's license. In addition, individuals possessing a noncommercial wildlife breeder's license are authorized to raise noncommercial wildlife solely for personal use. Personal use includes, but is not limited to: breeding for hobby; educational or scientific purposes; personal consumption; care and rehabilitation of a sick or injured animal; or release on private property (except any cat that will grow to weigh 50 pounds or more). Any person who is a nonresident and not permanently located within the state, who exhibits in the state on a temporary basis, native cats that will grow to weigh 50 pounds or more, must obtain a nonresident cat temporary exhibitor's permit. Any resident who has a commercial wildlife breeder's license who wishes to exhibit native cats that will reach the weight of 50 pounds or more is similarly required to obtain a resident cat exhibitor's permit.</p>	<p>OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 29, §§ 4-107, 4-122, 7-502 (2008).</p>
	HUNTING AND TRADE	<p>Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). ODWC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. "No bobcat pelt may be held in possession after ten working days after the close of the furbearer season by the taker or buyer, sold, purchased or bartered within Oklahoma, nor taken out of Oklahoma, without having first affixed a permanent tag to the pelt, and no one may possess any Oklahoma bobcat pelt without a permanent tag affixed to the pelt. This tag shall also serve as an export tag and must be affixed by ODWC authorized employee or designated private tagging agent. Mountain lions may be taken year-round when committing or about to commit depredation or when deemed a nuisance, safety or health hazard." When a mountain lion is killed a game warden or ODWC must be contacted immediately. The carcass including the hide will be examined by the ODWC within 24 hours. "No person, including but not limited to persons licensed for commercial hunting or wildlife breeders, may hunt, chase, capture, shoot at, wound, attempt to take or take, attempt to kill or kill, or slaughter any mountain lion, or any subspecies except otherwise provided by statute or commission rule." "No person may kill or injure any cat in captivity or released from captivity that can grow to a weight of 50 pounds or more."</p>	<p>OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (WWW.WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM). OKLA. ADMIN. CODE, §800:25-27-2 (2008).</p>

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
OREGON	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person may keep an exotic animal, defined to include any member of the family <i>Felidae</i> not indigenous to the state, except domestic cats, unless, before acquiring the animal, the person possesses a valid permit issued by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.	OR. REV. STAT. §§ 609.305, 609.319 (2007); OR. ADMIN. R. §§ 603-011-0700 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Bobcat harvesters must: secure a bobcat record card prior to hunting or trapping; immediately after taking a bobcat the record card must state the species, sex, date of possession and county; no person may purchase or possess both eastern and western bobcat record cards; the record card must be retained until raw pelts are disposed. To receive and qualify for an ownership card the record card along with the lower jawbone must accompany each bobcat; the ownership tag will be affixed by ODFW personnel and shall remain while the pelt is in raw form; an ownership tag must be affixed within five business days after the season ends. It is illegal to possess a harvested bobcat after five business days after the season ends without an ownership tag and to sell or remove from the state any harvested bobcat without the ownership tag. Cougar hunting is permitted with the proper license issued by ODFW. ODFW regulates the means and methods in which cougars may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Kittens (lions with visible spots) or females with kittens may not be taken. “Any cougar taken must be presented at an ODFW office within ten days of the kill to be checked and marked. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, skull and proof of sex attached. Hunters are required to submit the reproductive tract of any female cougar taken.”	OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WWW.DFW.STATE.OR.US).
PENNSYLVANIA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	It is unlawful for a person to possess exotic wildlife, including lions, tigers, leopard, jaguars, cheetahs, cougars and any crossbreeds that are similar in appearance or features, without first securing a permit for exotic wildlife possession, exotic wildlife dealer, or wildlife menagerie. This requirement does not apply to qualified public zoological gardens; accredited private zoological parks or gardens, or nationally recognized circuses. It is unlawful for a person to possess or import into the state a bobcat, except for those animals lawfully imported by licensed propagators specifically for fur farming purposes. Bobcats imported under this exception and their progeny may not be sold or transferred for wildlife pet purposes or released into the wild.	34 PA. CONS. STAT. §§ 2961-2965 (2007); 58 PA. CODE §§ 147.241-147.262, § 137.1 (2008).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
PENNSYLVANIA	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). PGC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. A bobcat harvest permit is also required. Immediately after a bobcat is harvested, the bobcat harvest permit must be completed to include date, time, sex, county, township, Wildlife Management Unit and harvest method. The tag must be attached to the bobcat. PGC must be contacted within 48 hours to report the harvest, after which a legal possession tag will be issued.	PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION (WWW.PGC.STATE.PA.US).
RHODE ISLAND	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	No person shall possess animals of the order <i>Carnivora</i> , family <i>Felidae</i> , including non-domestic hybrids, without first obtaining a permit from the state Department of Environmental Management. Persons possessing any such animal on June 20, 1994, had six months to obtain a possession permit. The following entities need not acquire a permit, subject to qualification and, in some cases, compliance with certain conditions: short term nonresident exhibitions (not to exceed 30 days); animals possessed and being moved for breeding purposes as part of a recognized animal colony established for experimental breeding purposes; and zoological collections and managed propagation facilities accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and licensed by the USDA.	R.I. GEN. LAWS § 4-18-1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008); 1994 R.I. PUB. LAWS § 12-020-030 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	There is no open season to hunt or trap bobcats. The bobcat is included on the list of Rare Native Animals of Rhode Island as a state species of concern.	STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WWW.DEM.RI.GOV).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
SOUTH CAROLINA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Carnivores, defined to include but not limited to flesh-eating animals such as bobcats and lynx or the offspring of crossbreeding between these wild animals and domestic cats, that normally are not domesticated may not be sold as pets. This section does not apply to the sale, purchase, donation, or transfer of ownership of carnivores between publicly-owned zoos or licensed animal dealers; however, this exemption does not allow for the sale, purchase, donation, or transfer of ownership to private individuals in the state. In addition, it is unlawful for a person to possess a furbearer, including but not limited to a bobcat, without a permit from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Wildlife imported for exhibition purposes only by state wildlife departments, municipal zoos or parks, public museums, public zoological parks, and public scientific or educational institutions operated not for profit, and transient circuses are not required to procure such a permit.	S.C. CODE ANN. §§ 47-5-50, 50-16-20, 50-16-40 (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. SCDNR regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. “Any person required to have a commercial fur license who takes any bobcat must tag the fur, pelt, hide, or whole animal before it is sold, shipped, or transferred to any person or business or transported out of the state, if required by the federal government in order to comply with CITES. The tags must be securely attached and may not be removed until the time of processing; CITES tags are nontransferable and may not be altered. Furbearing animals to be sold as live animals are not required to be tagged. Anyone who purchases any whole furbearing animal, raw or green furs, pelts or hides is required to have a Fur Buyer’s License. Fur buyers shall keep a daily register of furs purchased on forms provided by the SCDNR.” Purchasing reports must be submitted to SCDNR by the 10 th day of each month for the previous month’s activities.	SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.DNR.SC.GOV).
SOUTH DAKOTA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A permit is required to possess any nondomestic mammal, including animals of the order <i>Carnivora</i> , family <i>Felidae</i> , or any hybrids.	S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 40-3-26 (2008); S.D. ADMIN. R. 12:68:18:03 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
SOUTH DAKOTA	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP). SDGFP regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. “Any person harvesting a bobcat must submit the entire carcass, along with the pelt to a SDGFP officer or extension trapper within five days of capture. The pelt will be inspected, tagged and registered and the lower jaw will be removed from the carcass. The tagged pelt will be returned. No person may buy or sell bobcat pelts that are not legally tagged.” Mountain lion hunting is permitted with the proper license issued by SDGFP. SDGFP regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. “It is mandatory that all harvested mountain lions be reported to SDGFP personnel within 24 hours of harvest for inspection and pelt tagging. Mountain lions with spotted coats (kittens) may not be harvested; any mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion may not be harvested.”	SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS (WWW.SDGFP.INFO).
TENNESSEE	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	All species of lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, and cougars are classified as Class I species inherently dangerous to humans and may only be possessed by zoos, circuses, and commercial propagators; except for persons legally possessing Class I wildlife prior to June 25, 1991 are eligible to obtain a personal possession permit to keep such wildlife, and are allowed to maintain the lineage of such species up to a maximum of three animals per species. Bobcat/domestic cat hybrids, wild cat species not otherwise classified, and bobcats raised solely for the sale of fur may be possessed without a permit.	TENN. CODE ANN. § 70-4-401 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA). TWRA regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Bobcat pelts must be tagged with Tennessee U.S. CITES tags in order to be exported from the United States. The taking of a bobcat on a private wildlife preserve is specifically prohibited.	TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCE AGENCY (WWW.STATE.TN.US/TWRA).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
TEXAS	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A person may not own, harbor, or have custody or control of a dangerous wild animal, defined to include the following wild cats: lion, tiger, ocelot, cougar, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, bobcat, lynx, serval, caracal, or any hybrids, for any purpose unless the person holds a certificate of registration issued by an animal registration agency. Among other exceptions, this requirement does not apply to the following: a county, municipality, or agency of the state or the U.S., or an agent or official thereof; a licensed research facility; an organization that is an accredited member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; a dangerous wild animal owned by and in the custody and control of a transient circus company meeting certain criteria; or a dangerous wild animal owned by and in the possession of a college or university solely as a mascot. This requirement does not prevent a municipality or county from prohibiting or regulating the possession of a dangerous wild animal.	TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ANN. §§ 822.101 <i>et seq.</i> (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) states that “bobcats are not classified as a fur-bearing animal and not subject to the fur-bearing animal regulations.” Bobcats were not found on any hunting guides. However, bobcat pelts are subject to the following: “Prior to purchase, sale, trade or transport outside Texas, bobcat pelts taken in Texas including tanned pelts and mounts must be permanently tagged with a department issued federal CITES tag valid for the year in which the bobcat was taken.” Mountain lions are classified under nongame and other species, are not classified as protected, and can be harvested at any time. TPWD asks if mountain lions are sighted or killed to report same to TPWD. Four felid species are listed as either endangered or threatened and therefore are protected: ocelot, margay, jaguarundi, and jaguar. Canned hunts: “No person may kill or attempt to injure a dangerous wild animal (African or Asiatic lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah or any subspecies or hybrid) that is held in captivity in the state or released from captivity in the state for the purpose of being killed, nor may any person conduct, promote, advertise or assist in the hunting of a dangerous wild animal.”	TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT (WWW.TPWD.STATE.TX.US).
UTAH	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A person must obtain a certificate of registration before possessing any species of zoological animals classified as prohibited or controlled. All species of wild cats (including hybrids) of the <i>Felidae</i> family are classified as prohibited for purposes of possession, except captive-bred bobcat and lynx which are classified as controlled for purposes of possession. Certificates of registration are not issued for the possession of any live zoological animals classified as prohibited for personal use; commercial use; or scientific or educational use, except, upon a determination that the proposed use is beneficial to wildlife or significantly benefits the general public without material detriment to wildlife. A certificate of registration for possession for commercial purposes may be	UTAH ADMIN. CODE §§ R657-3-1 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).

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STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
UTAH		issued to a zoo, circus, amusement park, aviary, or film company; or a certificate of registration for possession for scientific or educational purposes may be issued to a university, college, governmental agency, <i>bona fide</i> nonprofit institution, or a person involved in wildlife research. In addition, a person lawfully possessing an animal prior to the effective date of any species reclassification from non-controlled to controlled or prohibited, or reclassification from controlled to prohibited, may continue to legally possess such an animal if he or she applies for and receives within six months of the reclassification a certificate of registration for possession.	
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license(s) issued by the Utah Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (UDNRDW). UDNRDW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. Upon harvesting a bobcat the permit holder must attached the temporary possession tag indicating the sex, and date of kill to the unskinned carcass or fur. Bobcat permits are only valid with a valid furbearer license. Bobcat pelts must be delivered to UDNRDW to have a permanent tag attached and to surrender the lower jaw; no person may possess a green pelt or unskinned carcass from a bobcat that does not have a permanent tag attached after the close of the bobcat season. Any bobcat or cougar caught in a trap out of season must be released unharmed and reported to UDNRDW within 48 hours. Lynx are protected under the Endangered Species Act; any lynx captured or trapped must be reported to UDNRDW. Cougar hunting is permitted with the proper license issued by UDNRDW. UDNRDW regulates the means and methods in which cougars may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. “After a cougar has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered or held at bay, a person may not, in any manner, restrict or hinder the animal’s ability to escape; a person may not engage in a canned hunt.” The carcass of a cougar must be tagged with a temporary possession tag before the carcass is moved or the hunter leaves the kill site, and must include the date taken and sex; the tag must be securely fastened and visible and remain attached until a permanent possession tag is attached and is only valid for 48 hours. The pelt and skull must be presented to UDNRDW for inspection, issuance and attachment of a permanent possession tag. Legally obtained, tanned cougar hides may be purchased or sold; but teeth, claws, paws or skulls of any cougar, may not be purchased, sold, offered for sale, or bartered.	UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE (WWW.WILDLIFE.UTAH.GOV).

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
VERMONT	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A person shall not bring into the state or possess any live wild animal, defined to include all animals, other than domestic animals, whether or not native to the state, unless the person first obtains a permit to do so. As a general policy, permits shall not be issued for the keeping of any wild animal as a pet, but only for <i>bona fide</i> scientific or educational purposes.	VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 10, § 4709 (2007); VT. CODE R. 12 010 021 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VDFW). VDFW regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. VDFW provides the following requirements for bobcats: a person who takes bobcats during the shooting season shall present the pelts and carcasses to a VDFW game warden for tagging within ten days of the close of the season; a person who takes bobcats during the trapping season shall notify VDFW game warden within 48 hours of the close of the season. Pelts and carcasses presented for tagging: such tags shall remain attached to each skin until tanned and made into commercial fur. All bobcat carcasses shall be surrendered to VDFW; no bobcat pelts or carcasses taken during open seasons shall be transported out of the state prior to being tagged; skins of bobcats legally taken may be possessed, transported, bought, and sold only when tagged and marked. Anyone dealing in pelts must have a valid fur dealer's license. There is no open season to hunt or trap lynx.	VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE (WWW.VTFISHANDWILDLIFE.COM)
VIRGINIA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A special permit is required to possess nonnative (exotic) wild animals, including all species of the <i>Felidae</i> family. A person who possessed such an animal prior to July 1, 1992, who declared in writing of their possession by January 1, 1993, is deemed to have a permit for possession only. Nonnative (exotic) species of the <i>Felidae</i> family that are possessed by dealers, exhibitors, transporters, and researchers licensed or registered by the USDA also will be deemed to be permitted.	4 VA. ADMIN. CODE §§ 15-20-50, 15-30-5 <i>et seq.</i> (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). VDGIF regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. "No bobcat pelts may be tanned, mounted, sold, traded, or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of VDGIF. All bobcat pelts must be sealed by April 1."	VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES (WWW.DGIF.VIRGINIA.GOV).

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
WASHINGTON	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A person may not own, possess, keep, harbor, bring into the state, or have custody or control of a potentially dangerous wild animal, defined to include lions, tigers, captive-bred cougars, jaguars, cheetahs, leopards, snow leopards, and clouded leopards. A person in legal possession of a potentially dangerous wild animal prior to July 22, 2007, however, may keep possession of the animal for the remainder of the animal's life. Among other exceptions, the provisions of this chapter do not apply to certain institutions authorized by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission or accredited or certified by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; licensed research facilities; or licensed circuses in the state on a temporary basis.	WASH. REV. CODE §§ 16.30.010 <i>et seq.</i> (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (WFWC). WFWC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. WFWC provides the following sealing requirements for bobcats: "It is unlawful to possess or export from the state bobcat pelts taken in the state without a WFWC seal attached. Bobcat pelts on or off the carcass must be sealed within 20 days after the close of the hunting or trapping seasons in which they were harvested. All bobcat pelts must be presented by the person harvesting them to a WFWC employee or office for sealing. Cougar hunting is permitted with the proper license issued by the WFWC. WFWC regulates the means and methods in which cougars may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. WFWC provides the following on cougars: hunters who harvest a cougar must notify WFWC within 24 hours of the kill and provide their name, unit of kill, and sex of the cougar. The raw pelt of the cougar, with proof of natural sex attached, must be sealed by an authorized WFWC employee within five days of notification of the kill; the skull of the cougar must also be presented to WFWC. It is illegal to kill or possess spotted cougar kittens or an adult cougar accompanied by spotted kittens. WFWC does not permit the hunting of captive wildlife on private shooting preserves.	WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (HTTP://WDFW.WA.GOV).
WEST VIRGINIA	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	A person may obtain a permit to keep and maintain in captivity as a pet, a wild animal that has been acquired from a commercial dealer or during the legal open hunting season.	W. VA. CODE § 20-2-51 (2008).

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
WEST VIRGINIA	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR). WVDNR regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. WVDNR provides the following on bobcats: Each person killing a bobcat must attach a completed field tag to the bobcat or remain with the bobcat and have upon their person a completed field tag (or make one) before moving the carcass from where it was killed. The tag shall include: the hunter/trapper's name, address, hunting license number, date, time, and county of kill. The tag must be attached to the bobcat immediately and remain on the carcass until it is tagged with an official game checking tag which must be completed within 30 days of the close of bobcat season. It is illegal to have in possession an untagged bobcat pelt or parts, after 30 days following the close of the seasons. There is no open season to hunt mountain lions.	WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.WVDNR.GOV).
WISCONSIN	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Subject to certain exemptions, no person may possess a live wild animal, including a wild cat, unless the person holds a license or is otherwise approved to possess the animal. A person is exempt from holding a license or other approval to possess live nonnative wild animals that are not an endangered or threatened species, except for nonnative wild animals that are harmful. Cougars are designated by rule to be harmful wild animals. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources may designate by rule other species of wild animals as harmful wild animals. The following are exempt from this licensing/approval requirement: a veterinarian, for the purpose of providing medical treatment to wild animals; a public zoo or aquarium; a circus or the Circus World Museum located in Baraboo, Wisconsin; and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.	WIS. STAT. ANN. §§ 169.01 <i>et seq.</i> (2007).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). WDNR regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. WDNR provides the following requirements for bobcats: persons may not possess or have under control any bobcat unless it is immediately validated by attaching and sealing the pelt tag through the opening of the bobcat's mouth to the opening of its eye, beneath the skin. The pelt and registration tag shall remain attached to the pelt until removed by a fur dresser or taxidermist at time of preparation. Persons may not transfer, give, trade, sell or purchase any bobcat pelt unless it bears a WDNR registration tag attached by an authorized WDNR representative; and may not possess bobcat pelts longer than five days after the month of harvest without registering the pelt(s) with WDNR. Mountain	WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WWW.DNR.WI.GOV).

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF STATE STATUTES ON CAPTIVE POSSESSION, HUNTING AND TRADE OF WILDCATS¹

STATE	ACTIVITY	SUMMARY OF CODES & REGULATIONS	CITATION
WISCONSIN		lions and lynx are protected at all times; there is no open season to hunt or trap mountain lions or lynx. Hunters are advised by WDNR about the differences between lynx and bobcats.	
WYOMING	CAPTIVE POSSESSION	Private ownership of live animals classified as big or trophy game animals, including mountain lions, is prohibited. Subject to certain exemptions, a permit is required prior to importation, possession, and/or confinement of any living wildlife, including all wild mammals and their hybrids.	WYO. STAT. ANN. §§ 23-1-101 <i>et seq.</i> (2007); WYO. CODE R. § 040-040-010 (2008).
	HUNTING AND TRADE	Bobcat hunting/trapping is permitted with the proper license issued by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC). WGFC regulates the means and methods in which bobcats may be hunted/trapped, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. WGFC provides the following requirements for bobcats: all bobcats harvested in the state shall be registered with WGFC by the person taking the bobcat. Bobcat pelts may be registered throughout bobcat season, but registration of pelts shall end at 5:00 pm on March 11 of each year. It shall be unlawful to possess an untagged green bobcat pelt after the registration period expires. Before a WGFC bobcat tag is issued, the person taking the bobcat, shall provide at the time of registration, the age and sex of the bobcat, the management area in which it was taken, date taken, number of traps set, number of days traps set, or days hunted with a firearm. Mountain lion hunting is permitted with the proper license issued by the WGFC. WGFC regulates the means and methods in which mountain lions may be hunted, establishes open seasons, geographic regions, and bag limits. WGFC provides the following on mountain lions: hunters taking mountain lions shall retain the pelt and skull from each mountain lion taken for registration purposes. Even if the skull is damaged, it shall accompany the pelt. Visible external evidence of sex shall remain naturally attached to the pelt. Within 72 hours after taking a mountain lion, the licensee shall present the pelt and skull to a WFGC game warden for registration and provide the location of the site of kill including section, township, and range. Hunters may take any mountain lion except kittens and female mountain lions with kittens.	WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION (WWW.GF.STATE.WY.US).

¹ A summary of State pending legislation is provided in a separate chart.