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Sec. 26-47-1. Licensed nuisance wildlife control operators

(a) No person shall obtain a nuisance wildlife control operator license without first presenting evidence of having obtained the appropriate certificate of competency issued by the Department.

(b) Nuisance wildlife control operators shall submit to the commissioner a nuisance wildlife control operator report between December 1 and December 31 of the current licensing year. Submission of such report shall be a condition for license renewal. Such report shall include the number, species, date, and location of animals captured, killed, or relocated and other information which the commissioner may deem necessary. Any licensee shall permit, at any reasonable time, any Department official to examine and inspect such records.

(c) Nuisance wildlife control operators shall outline to the persons seeking services the control methods to be used to relieve the nuisance problem and or to alleviate damage to livestock, crops, or property caused by wildlife.

(d) Nuisance wildlife control operators may use cage traps, box traps, padded leg-hold traps in the burrow of a wild animal, other nonlethal methods, or shooting to alleviate nuisance situations caused by the following species: striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), weasels (*Mustela* sp.), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), woodchucks (*Marmota monax*), chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*), porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*), gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*), red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus* sp.), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), European Hare (*Lepus europaeus*), starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), pigeons (*Columba livia*), bats, moles, snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*), or snakes except timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) and black rat snake (*Elaphe O. Obsoleta*). The use of high velocity air guns or firearms under this section shall be subject to all state and municipal restrictions.

(e) No species, other than those listed in 26-47-1 (d), may be trapped or killed by a nuisance wildlife control operator without said operator first obtaining a special permit from the Department. Such permit shall establish the methods and procedures which may be used to alleviate the nuisance condition.

(f) The Department, upon receiving three or more complaints from persons seeking assistance regarding unsatisfactory or unethical performance by a licensed nuisance wildlife control operator, may suspend the license of such operator for a period as determined by the commissioner.

(Effective January 1, 1987)