



Frequently Asked Questions about Montana's new Trapper Education Class and Swivels Requirements

Q: Which traps must have swivels?

A: Only ground-set foothold traps, beginning with the 2019-20 season. Conibear/body gripping traps, water sets, and weasel boxes will not require swivels.

Q: For the upcoming 2017-2018 trapping season, who must take the class or provide proof of having passed a trapper education class in another state in order to purchase a trapping license?

A: Nobody. The new trapper education requirements will be phased in over time. The new requirements will first take effect for the 2018-2019 trapping season.

Q: Will trapper education classes taken in another state qualify?

A: Yes. As long as the class was "state-sanctioned" and you have evidence of having passed the class. "State-sanctioned" means it was administered by a state or provincial wildlife agency for the purpose of trapper education and certification.

Q: If I have never purchased a Montana trapping license, am I required to take the class no matter my age?

A: Yes, beginning with the 2018-2019 trapping season, anyone who has never purchased a Montana trapping license must either take the new Montana trapper education class or produce evidence of having passed a state-sanctioned trapper education class in another state or province.

Q: If I was born on or before January 1, 1985, do I have to take the class to purchase a trapping license?

A: Only if you have never purchased a Montana trapping license before AND you do not have proof of having completed a state-sanctioned trapper education class. This requirement will not take effect until the 2019-2020 trapping season.

Q: If I was born after January 1, 1985, do I have to take the class to purchase a trapping license even if I have purchased a Montana trapping license in a previous year?

A: Yes, beginning with the 2019-2020 trapping season, you will not be allowed to purchase a trapping license until you have evidence of having passed a state-sanctioned trapper education class. Montana will begin offering classes during spring 2018.



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Q: If I trap predators or non-game for livestock or property protection purposes, do I have to take the class?

A: No. However, you will not be able to retain incidentally captured wolves or furbearers such as bobcat without a trapping license and appropriate trapper education certification. If you do not have a general trapping license and certification, you are required to release uninjured furbearers or wolves on site; in cases where the furbearer or wolf cannot be released uninjured, you are required to contact FWP to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal.

Q: If I have been certified to trap wolves through the Montana wolf trapping certification class, do I still have to take the new class to trap wolves?

A: Yes, in some cases. Trapping wolves requires purchase of a general trapping license. You will not be able to purchase a general trapping license unless you 1) are grandfathered in by birthdate (born on or prior to Jan. 1, 1985) and have previously purchased a Montana trapping license, or 2) can provide evidence of having passed a state-sanctioned trapper education course. This is because Montana's wolf certification class does not cover the full breadth of information that will be included in the new trapper education class.

Q: Will Montana's new trapper education class certify me for wolf trapping also?

A: Yes. Beginning with Montana's classes in 2018.

Q: What is the minimum age at which a person can take the trapper education class and be certified?

A: Students must be at least 11 years of age at the time they take the trapper education class to be certified.

Q: Do kids wanting to obtain a youth trapper license have to take the class?

A: No. Youth ages 6-11 can purchase a youth trapper license valid for only muskrat and mink without having taken the class.