



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife



Application for Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialist Permit

Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists are private individuals licensed by the DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife to provide wildlife control services to the public in situations involving nuisance wildlife. No person, unless otherwise authorized under state or federal law, shall conduct wildlife control services, with or without an associated fee, in Rhode Island without first obtaining a Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialist Permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Wildlife control services are defined as: “to harass, repel, evict, exclude, capture, possess, transport, liberate, destroy; or attempt to harass, repel, evict, exclude, capture, possess, transport, liberate, or destroy a problem wild animal.” This would also include to disturbance, removal, destruction or attempted disturbance, removal, or destruction of nests, dens, lodges, or burrows.

A Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialist permit shall authorize the permittee to control the following species or groups of species only: striped skunk, opossum, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, coyote, bats, moles, muskrat, gray squirrel, red squirrel, southern flying squirrel, chipmunk, woodchuck, rats, mice, voles, cottontail rabbits, weasels, mink, pigeon, starling, English sparrow, monk parakeet, snapping turtle, and snakes. The DEM’s Director may authorize a permittee to control other species not listed above at such times and under such conditions as he or she deems appropriate or necessary.

Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists must pass a written examination administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife relating to biology, wildlife diseases, animal welfare, regulations, and other appropriate subjects related to nuisance wildlife control before being issued a permit. Questions on the exam are based on, but not limited to the Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists Handbook developed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Handbooks are available from the Division of Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp field Headquarters. Handbooks are \$7.50 if picked up, \$11.00 by mail. Examinations will be offered at the Great Swamp Field Office located at 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI and by appointment only. Examinations will be offered between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM Monday through Fridays.

In addition to passing the exam, Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists must possess a current Rhode Island trapping license. **Include a copy of your current trapping license with your application.** Trapping licenses can be obtained from the DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licensing, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI (401)-222-6647.

Permits are valid from January 1 to December 31 inclusive. The NWCS permit fee is \$25.00. Permits must be renewed annually; those renewing their permit do not have to retake the exam after passing it the first time. NWCS will be issued reporting forms by the DFW on which all control activities must be recorded. Reports for previous year activities must be submitted to DFW no later than January 1, even if you did not provide services during that year. Failure to submit reports, provide the required information, or providing false or incorrect information is cause for revocation, suspension, or non-renewal of permit. Reports must be made available for inspection by an Environmental Police Officer or DFW officials at any reasonable time.

NOTE: The issuance of a NWCS permit does not preclude the holder from obtaining any other necessary licenses including but not limited to the R.I. DEM Division of Agriculture or the R.I. Contractors Registration Board. The application of any restricted use pesticides or commercial application of pesticides requires a R.I. commercial pesticide applicators license.

Under Title 5 of Rhode Island general laws, no person shall undertake any construction, alterations, or repairs to any structure without a valid R.I. Contractors License as administered by the R.I. Contractors Registration Board. There are some exceptions for minor alterations. For more information contact the Board at (401) 222-1268.

Pursuant to the provisions of Rhode Island General Law 20-1-18, Chapter 42-17.1, I hereby apply for a permit to control nuisance wildlife species.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Business name _____

Telephone Number _____ R.I. Trapping License # _____

Have you been convicted of any provision of R.I. General Laws Title 4, Title 20, or Title 42 or any federal statute or regulation which is related to the intended activity within the past three years? No____ Yes____ If yes, please explain:

I certify that the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature Date

Do you wish to have your name on a list of permittees providing nuisance wildlife services? Yes____ No____

Mail or bring this application to:

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife
Great Swamp Field Headquarters
277 Great Neck Road
West Kingston, RI 02892

To schedule an appointment to take an examination contact:

(401)-789-0281

Note: We can only accept checks or money orders when paying for booklets or permit fees; we are not prepared to handle cash or credit cards. Checks should be made payable to: RI DEM – Division of Fish and Wildlife