



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



Release - Immediate

September 5, 1922.

SUMMARY OF 1922 LAWS RELATING
TO FUR ANIMALS READY

The legislatures which met in 11 States during the year made but few and unimportant changes in the laws relating to fur animals, according to the annual summary just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, which, through its Bureau of Biological Survey, is charged with the administration of Federal laws relating to the fur industry. Copies of the publication, entitled "Laws Relating to Fur Animals, 1922," by George A. Lawyer, chief United States game warden, and Frank L. Earnshaw, assistant, may be had by writing to the department at Washington, D.C.

In Alaska shooting of fur animals is now permitted, but beaver houses or runways may not be destroyed. Foxes certified as disease-free by an official veterinarian of another country may be imported without quarantine. In Montana a person suffering damage from beavers may get a permit to take these animals on his own premises, but skins so taken must be cared for, properly cured, and sent to the State game warden for tagging. A special permit must be secured in order to ship the skin out of the State.

Evidence of illegal shipments of fur has been uncovered in the course of checking up shipments and receipts of furs by the principal fur houses of the country. These cases have been prosecuted and fines and penalties totaling several thousands of dollars imposed.

Not all States offer bounties for undesirable animals, although in most States where predatory creatures give trouble there is a price on the heads of wolves, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes and similar destructive animals. Sometimes the county or township pays the bounty. In Wisconsin the State treasurer duplicates all county awards. Seals are considered a pest in Massachusetts, as well as in the State of Washington. Anyone who can catch a panther in New York State is entitled to \$20 bounty. Bears in Pennsylvania have an open and closed season, although they may be killed at any time in defense of person or property. American trappers receive yearly many millions of dollars for their fur harvest.

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