

Section 5
Legal Concerns

Section 5 – Legal Concerns

Most of the legal issues surrounding wild pigs primarily deal with the management strategies used to control them. This section is devoted to the issues surrounding hunting, trapping, and moving of wild pigs.

Hunting of Wild Pigs

The following statements apply to hunting on private land in the state of Georgia:

- Wild pigs may be hunted year round with no bag limits.
- They may also be hunted at night with a light carried on the person or affixed to a helmet or hat or part of a belt system worn by a hunter.
- Generally, hunting from a vehicle is illegal; however, special permits can be acquired that allow hunting from a vehicle and the use of any light source.
- Although wild pigs in Georgia are not considered a game species, a resident hunting license is required to hunt them for all resident hunters 16 years old or older, except when hunting on land owned by them or their immediate family.
- Non-residents must possess a non-resident hunting license.
- Wild pigs can be hunted over bait. However, use of bait cannot be in violation of deer hunting regulations.

Wild pigs can also be hunted on Federal lands and state Wildlife Management Areas in Georgia. The following statements apply to hunting on public land:

- There must be an open season for a listed game species.
- There are restrictions on the equipment that can be used in these areas.
- The appropriate weapon depends on the game species season open at a given time—wild pigs can be hunted with deer rifles during deer rifle season or shotguns during turkey season, etc.
- There is no limit on the number of wild pigs that can be taken on public hunting lands.
- It is illegal to hunt wild pigs on public land at night.
- It is illegal to hunt over bait on public lands.

- Hunting on public land requires a Georgia hunting license.
- Blaze orange vests are required for all hunters during firearm and primitive weapons seasons.
- Hunting wild pigs with dogs is permitted on public lands with appropriate weapons restrictions.
- Training dogs during dates when training season coincides with small game or turkey season is allowed.
- Consult the Georgia Hunting Regulations to confirm where and when training dates occur for a given area.

Transportation of Wild Pigs

It is illegal to move wild pigs within the state of Georgia unless the animals have tested negative to an official brucellosis test and an official pseudorabies test within 30 days prior to movement. These tests can be avoided only if the wild pigs are moved to an approved hunting preserve in Georgia. However, at the time of this manual's production, no approved hunting preserves exist within the state. (Authority O.C. G. A. § 4-4-70 and Chapter 40-13-3 Rules of GA Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division.)

It is illegal to release any trapped or transported live wild pig into any area that is not fenced to prevent escape of such wild pig. Any persons convicted of the release of live wild pigs in violation of established laws and regulations may be subject to revocation of hunting privileges for up to three years. Transport and possession of live wild pigs are regulated by Georgia Department of Agriculture; contact the Animal Industry Division at 404-656-3671 for more information.

Trapping of Wild Pigs

The following statements apply to trapping on private land in the state of Georgia:

- There is no season or bag limit.
- Trap designs described previously in this manual can be used to capture wild pigs.
- Snaring wild pigs in Georgia private lands is illegal.
- Trapping wild pigs on public land in Georgia is illegal. According to state trapping regulations, only furbearing animals are allowed to be trapped on public lands.
- It is also illegal to transport captured wild pigs to any unfenced area in the state of Georgia.
- Fences will rarely contain wild pigs. Wild pigs should never be released alive.

Toxicants

Research is in progress to determine a suitable toxicant, or poison, for wild pigs. Several products have shown promising results in preliminary research. It is likely to be 3-7 years before a poison is approved for use on wild pigs. Several compounds are often used by landowners in an attempt to control wild pig populations. Unfortunately, almost all of these products cause serious harm to the environment and to non-target wildlife species, including game animals and endangered species. The use of toxicants is not permitted in Georgia.

**AT THE TIME THIS MANUAL WAS WRITTEN,
APPLYING OR DISPERSING ANY POISON TO
KILL WILD PIGS IN GEORGIA IS ILLEGAL.**

(page intentionally left blank)