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*Managing fish and wildlife  
resources for their long-  
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benefit of people.*

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**TO: Private Fox Area Operators and Interested Persons**

**FROM: Colonel Julie Jones**  
**Director, Division of Law Enforcement**

**SUBJECT: Private Fox Area Permit Requirements**

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In order to operate a private fox area for the hunting of fox and/or coyote, this agency requires a no-cost permit in accordance with Rules 68A-24.002 and 68A-9.0022, Florida Administrative Code.

To qualify for a permit, persons must submit a letter of application that includes a legal description of the property and the total number of acres enclosed by a fence. Applicants must also include a map depicting all fencing boundaries, escape areas, and food/watering areas.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Division of Law Enforcement personnel will conduct an on-site inspection of the area prior to the issuance of a permit. Facilities that do not meet the minimum requirements will be eligible for reinspection after 30 days. FWC personnel will conduct additional inspections as required.

With an appropriate permit issued by the Executive Director, foxes may be imported for the purposes of stocking private fox areas, but the trapping of foxes for any purpose in Florida is prohibited. The importation of coyotes is prohibited. With an appropriate permit issued by the Executive Director, coyotes may be trapped in Florida and relocated to private fox areas. Private fox areas holding coyotes must be surrounded by a fence at least eight feet high or a fence six feet high with a two foot, 45 degree inward angle overhang. All fencing, including the inward angle overhang, shall be constructed of 11½ gauge chain link or equivalent strength material.

Provisions for operating private fox areas are:

1. A fenced area used for the hunting of foxes and/or coyotes shall be a minimum of 100 acres.
2. All foxes and coyotes shall be kept in a safe, sanitary and humane manner, with available food and water, adequate escape cover, and protection from the elements at all times. Such conditions are subject to approval by personnel of the FWC. After official notice by the FWC, any required modifications of facilities shall be completed within 30 days.

3. Foxes may be imported for the purposes of stocking private fox areas, but may not be taken from the wild in Florida. All foxes must:
  - a. Be transported and possessed in accordance with State laws and Rules 68A-6.0022 and 68A-6.0023, F.A.C.;
  - b. Be imported from states with a 12-month, rabies-free status for that species, and red foxes must originate from states other than North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, or Wisconsin; and
  - c. Be imported as authorized only under a separate permit specifying the state of origin and approximate number of foxes in the shipment. Each shipment must be accompanied by an official interstate health certificate/certificate of veterinary inspection.
4. The importation of coyotes is prohibited. Coyotes may only be trapped or relocated to private fox areas under permit from the Executive Director. All coyotes must:
  - a. Be transported and possessed in accordance with State laws and Rules 68A-6.0022 and 68A-6.0023, F.A.C.;
  - b. Be held in facilities surrounded by a fence at least eight feet high or a fence six feet high with or surrounded by a two foot, 45 degree inward angle overhang. All fencing including the inward angle overhang shall be constructed of 11½ gauge chain link or equivalent strength material.
5. Prior to release into private fox areas, all foxes and coyotes shall be vaccinated for common canine diseases. After release, all animals shall be given periodic worm treatments offered in free-choice foods.
6. Prior to release into private fox areas, all foxes and coyotes shall be tagged, tattooed or otherwise permanently marked with the name and address of the private fox area, and an identification number. The number shall be entered into the records kept by the permittee.

No foxes or coyotes shall be possessed without permanent identification with the specified information.
7. There shall be a minimum of one "escape area" per 50 acres of private fox area. The nature and form of such escape areas shall be

at the discretion of the operator, except that the escape areas must be dog-proof. If there is not an adequate number of naturally occurring escape areas, supplemental man-made areas must be continuously provided and maintained as a condition of the permit.

8. The number of dogs allowed to simultaneously hunt a private fox area shall be determined based on an assessment of ground cover density.

A classification system of three categories is established for ground cover. During initial and subsequent annual inspections by FWC personnel, ground cover in a private fox area shall be ascribed to Class A if it has a heavy ground cover, Class B if it has a moderately heavy ground cover, and Class C if it has a light ground cover. The maximum permissible density of dogs shall be one per five acres for Class A private fox areas, one per ten acres for Class B, and one per 15 acres for Class C.

9. Any fox or coyote injured shall be, (depending on the nature of the injury):
  - a. Immediately treated and released,
  - b. Immediately turned over to a licensed veterinarian for treatment, or
  - c. Euthanized.

Foxes and coyotes shall not be possessed in cages or areas less than 100 acres at any time, except during vehicle transport to a veterinarian or back to the private fox area.

10. Permittees shall maintain accurate records showing the source, date of acquisition, and date of disposition for all foxes and/or coyotes by ear tag, tattoo numbers or other permanent identification number. Information kept shall also include veterinary care/inoculation records and the date of mortality.
11. Private fox areas shall be designed, constructed, and maintained so as to ensure that neither foxes, coyotes nor dogs can escape or enter the area.
12. Facilities and records of any private fox area are subject to inspection by representatives of the FWC at all times.

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13. Failure to provide by all terms or conditions of this permit shall be grounds for revocation or denial of this permit under the provisions of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

If you have further questions concerning the operation of private fox areas, please contact the Division of Law Enforcement at (850) 488-6253 or write this office.

JJ/KWH/su