



MARYLAND TAXIDERMY INFORMATION GUIDE

This guide is only an information summary and is not law as printed.

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

TAXIDERMY INFORMATION

Any person who wishes to practice taxidermy or fur tanning or who desires to mount, preserve, or tan any species of wildlife for another person are required within the State of Maryland to obtain a required Taxidermist and Fur-tanner License.

The state of Maryland offers two levels of permits for taxidermy work.

Taxidermist and Fur-Tanner License: allows for all aspects of taxidermy work.

European Mount License: for individuals that only create skull mounts.

Anyone applying for a taxidermy license (after July 1988) will be required to pass a written examination and submit recent work samples for evaluation by the Department of Natural Resources.

PERMITTING PROCESS

New Applicants:

1. Complete the Taxidermy and Fur-tanner application, or European Mount application and return it to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources via mail or email (to: wildlifepermits.dnr@maryland.gov) with the nonrefundable application fee of \$50 by check. This may be sent via mail or brought with you during your test appointment. Failure or refusal to provide information requested on the application is sufficient grounds for rejection of the application.
2. [Request an appointment](#) with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to complete the Taxidermy or European Mount written examination. A passing score for the written examination must be 80% or higher.
3. In conjunction with the written exam, applicants will also have to provide recent work samples for examination by the Department in accordance with Code Ann. 4-211 and 10-512. Work sample(s) must meet minimum professional standards, as determined by the Department. See Specimen Review for more information.
4. Upon successful completion of the written exam and work evaluation, your written exam will be graded. If you do not pass the written examination with a score of 80% or higher, you must wait a minimum of 30 days before retaking your exam. You may take the test a total of three times without passing before your application is no longer valid, and you must wait 12 months from the date of the last examination to reapply.

Permit Renewals:

1. Complete the renewal form and return it with a non-refundable processing fee of \$50 (check or money order) to Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the address listed on the renewal.

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

2. If you wish to submit a digital copy separate of your payment, please send your renewal form via email to: wildlifepermits.dnr@maryland.gov and include your permit number with your paper payment.

FEES AND LICENSE PERIOD

New Taxidermist Fee: After successful completion of the application, work sample(s), and testing requirements, a taxidermist license will be issued upon payment of a \$50 application fee.

License Period: License issued pursuant to this section run for a period of 1 year from the current year of issuance until the next 31st day of July after issuance, on which date the license expires unless it is revoked sooner.

Renewal Fee: A taxidermy license can be renewed every year by completing a renewal form and paying a \$50 renewal fee.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION MATERIAL

The written examination for the taxidermy permit is a 25-question test. This test covers the following for birds, mammals, and fish:

- Basic Taxidermy Techniques (fleshing, hide seems, gluing/drumming, etc.)
- Basic Fur Tanner Techniques (drying skins, skin issues, etc.)
- Laws and Regulations (taxidermist requirements, federal law and permit requirements, hunting law and regulations, etc.)
- Animal Basics (basic biology of species they may encounter, diseases, etc.)

The written examination for European mount permits is a 20-question test. This test covers the following information:

- Basic European Mount Techniques (cleaning, etc.)
- Laws and Regulations (taxidermist requirements, federal and local law and permit requirements, hunting law and regulations, etc.)
- Animal Basics (cervid biology, etc.)

SPECIMEN REVIEW

The criteria used to judge each specimen will be:

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

1. **ANATOMICAL ACCURACY AND LIFELIFE APPEARANCE:** This includes proper setting of eyes and antlers; proper placement of ears, wings, feet, tail, and legs; workmanship around the lips, bill and nose; proper proportions and anatomical accuracy.
2. **CRAFTSMANSHIP:** Seams must not show and should be completely closed. Any repairs should not be distinguishable, and patches should be the same color and texture. There should be no presence of odors; no drumming; no shrinkage; proper alignment of skin; and the proper use of paints and fillers. Feathers should be properly aligned.
3. **CLEANLINESS:** There should be no grease, oils, paints, dirt, dust, etc. on a specimen. Skull mounts should be clean, free of tissue, free of odor, and white in color (unless paint or applique has been applied).
4. **SUPPORT STRENGTH:** There should be no exposed wires, rods, pins, or threads. The mount should be securely attached to the base. Support structures (wires, rods, etc.) are of sufficient strength for their intended use.

RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Taxidermist permit holders must maintain a complete and accurate record of all fish and wildlife, or parts thereof, received and possessed in accordance with their taxidermy permit on a daily basis. Work completed must be recorded in a ledger on a form provided by the Department. The ledger must cover all transactions from the date of issuance of the taxidermist permit until the date of expiration and shall be kept up-to-date. In addition to any other penalty provided in legislation, any person failing to maintain or keep an up-to-date ledger or making false entries may have their license revoked for a period not to exceed 5 years.

The ledger should indicate the name, address, telephone number, current license number (DNRid, fishing, hunting, etc.), fish or wildlife species, the quantity of each species, date the species was received, and date the species was delivered or returned to the customer. The ledger should also indicate the country, state, and county or political subdivision in which the fish or wildlife were harvested, along with the date the specimen was harvested, and the official number for the harvested animal (confirmation number, pelt tag, possession tag, bill of sale, etc.).

Licensees must have records available for inspection by any Natural Resources police officer or law enforcement officer during reasonable hours, in addition to allowing any officer to enter at reasonable hours for inspection of premises and facilities where operations are being carried and to inspect fish and wildlife.

Law regarding record keeping and reporting requirements can be found within the Code of Maryland Natural Resources, 4-211 and 10-512.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES

It is illegal to take, possess, transport, export, process, sell, offer for sale, or ship any species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or In Need of Conservation in Maryland (ACM [§4-2A-03](#), [§10-2A-03](#)). The State of Maryland may issue a permit as an exemption for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of a listed species (ACM [§10-2A-05](#), COMAR [08.03.08.03](#)).

Species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or In Need of Conservation can be found in the *Code of Maryland Regulations* (COMAR):

[08.03.08.04 Endangered Species of Wildlife, Reptiles, Amphibians, Mollusks, Crustaceans, and Finfish](#)

[08.03.08.07 Threatened Species of Wildlife, Reptiles, Amphibians, Mollusks, Crustaceans, and Finfish](#)

[08.03.08.09 Species in Need of Conservation](#)

MIGRATORY BIRDS

To perform taxidermy services on migratory birds, a federal taxidermy permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). More information on obtaining the 3-200-8: Migratory Bird Taxidermy permit can be found on their website [here](#). Obtaining a Migratory Bird Taxidermy permit is covered in [federal regulation 21.63](#). General information required on applications for permits can be found in [federal regulation 13.12](#).

Migratory birds include:

Ducks	Pigeons	Woodcock	Little Brown Cranes
Geese	Snipes	Brant	Rails
Crows	Swans	Coots	Doves
Gallinules			

A complete list of migratory bird species of migratory bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act can be found on the USFWS website at List of Birds Protected by [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) (2023) and in code of federal regulation, [10.13 List of Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#).

All other questions regarding the Migratory Bird Taxidermy Permit, contact US Fish & Wildlife, Migratory Bird Region 5 office at 300 Westgate Center Drive in Hadley, MA 01035 or (413)-253-8200.

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

SALVAGE OF ROAD-KILLED ANIMALS

Customers may legally salvage some road-killed animals for possession. Furbearer species may be salvaged by licensed trappers or permitted wildlife damage control operators. Deer and turkey roadkills may be salvaged by any customer with a DNRid number that has obtained a non-harvest confirmation number. Black bear roadkills or found carcasses may be salvaged by any customer with a DNRid number that has obtained a possession tag through any of our wildlife service field offices. Field office contacts may be found here: [MDNR Regional Offices](#)

SALE OF TAXIDERMY

With written approval from the Department for each specimen, taxidermists may sell or dispose of any tanned, cured, or mounted **fish** and **wildlife** specimen legally acquired but unclaimed by the customer within 30 days after written notice to the customer by certified mail.

A license holder may not sell or dispose of any tanned, cured, or mounted specimen that is a migratory game bird. With written approval from the Department for each specimen, taxidermists may donate a legally acquired **migratory game bird** specimen unclaimed by the customer within 30 days after written notice to the customer by certified mail.

No person may sell a migratory game bird unless it is pen-raised or commercially raised and identified by a leg band and receipt containing the breeder's license number.

A person may sell the plumage of lawfully taken wild birds if that sale does not violate regulations of the United States Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

To inquire about written approval for taxidermy sale or donation, please contact Georgia Johnson (georgia.johnson@maryland.gov).

HUNTING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

Taxidermists should be aware of Maryland's species, hunting seasons, and hunting laws and regulations to ensure they are mounting legally taken species.

[Maryland Hunting Seasons Calendar 2023-2024](#)

[Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping 2023-2024](#)

Note: An antlered white-tailed deer is a deer with two or more points to one antler, or a deer with at least one antler three or more inches long, measuring from the top of the skull.

If a customer brings a specimen that was taken out of season or does not meet state or federal regulations, call the Natural Resources Police.

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

DISEASE

There are diseases that game animals carry that taxidermists may encounter. Wearing gloves and maintaining a clean work area is a good place to start. This prevents surface and tool contamination. Other diseases like the tick-borne illness Lyme's disease, can also be prevented by freezing the specimen before you begin working on it, and checking yourself for ticks after working with a fresh specimen.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting members of the deer family, including white-tailed deer. If you are a taxidermist in a Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area (CWDMA), you are required to complete the CWD Authorization. More information regarding CWD and the authorization form can be found on MDNR's website: [Chronic Wasting Disease \(CWD\) in Maryland](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are new to taxidermy and European mounts, below are links to information.

[DIY European Mount for Deer](#) by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

[Experimenting with a Euro Mount](#) by Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

[McKenzie Taxidermy Educational Materials](#)

[Matuska Taxidermy Supply Company](#) | Youtube Channel (Deer Taxidermy, Bird Taxidermy, and Fish Taxidermy)

[Step-By-Step Duck Taxidermy](#) by Ducks Unlimited

The links and information are not endorsed by the State of Maryland or Department of Natural Resources. This information is provided as a courtesy for new taxidermists as a starting point and is not a definitive or comprehensive list or guide. Taxidermists should do their own research regarding taxidermy techniques and supplies and will naturally find what works best for them as an individual.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Submit your application/renewal:

wildlifepermits.dnr@maryland.gov

Permits Coordinator
Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

General Taxidermy Related Questions: Amber Staples, Assistant Permits Coordinator,
amber.staples@maryland.gov, 410-260-8572

Sale/Donation of Taxidermy: Georgia Johnson, Wildlife Permits Coordinator,
georgia.johnson@maryland.gov, 301-502-0202

Maryland Taxidermy Application: insert link

Maryland European Mount Application: insert link

Maryland Taxidermy Regulations: 10-512 and 4-211

Maryland Natural Resources Police Information: 410-260-8880

Maryland Natural Resources Police (Violations and Emergencies): 410-260-8888

CWD Taxidermist Certification: insert email or link

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Regional Office: 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035 or (413)-253-8200

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401