

115-14-12. Falconry; permits, applications, and examinations. (a) Except as provided in this regulation, any individual engaged in falconry who possesses a current Kansas falconry permit or a current falconry permit from another state may engage in falconry activities as authorized by law or regulation. The permittee shall be in the immediate possession of the permit while trapping, transporting, working with, or flying a falconry raptor. Each falconer wanting to capture a raptor from the wild shall comply with K.A.R. 115-14-14. The permittee shall not be required to have immediate possession of the falconry permit while the raptor is located on the permitted premises of the falconry facility but shall produce the permit upon request for inspection by any law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this regulation.

(b) Each individual wanting to engage in falconry shall submit an application to the secretary for the appropriate permit, on forms provided by the department. The application shall require at least the following information to be provided:

- (1) The applicant's name;
- (2) the applicant's address;
- (3) the address of the facilities where the raptors are to be kept;
- (4) the species and number of raptors to be permitted in accordance with the limitations specified in this regulation;
- (5) the applicant's date of birth;
- (6) the applicant's social security number;
- (7) the level of falconry permit being applied for; and
- (8) any additional relevant information that may be required for the type of permit as described within this regulation.

(c) Each falconry permit shall be valid from the date of issuance through December 31 in the third calendar year after issuance. A falconry permit may be renewed without the examination otherwise required by this regulation if the permit is renewed before the current permit expires.

(d) Each individual holding a current valid falconry permit from another state, moving to Kansas with the intent to establish residency, and wanting to bring that individual's legally permitted raptors into the state shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The individual shall apply for the appropriate level of Kansas falconry permit within 30 days after moving into the state. The determination of which level of falconry permit is appropriate for the applicant shall be based on the requirements of subsections (j), (k), and (l).

(2) The individual shall not be required to take the department's falconry examination specified in paragraph (j)(3).

(3) The individual shall notify the state where the individual formerly resided of the individual's move, within 30 days of moving to Kansas.

(4) Any falconry birds held by the individual under the former permit may be retained during the permit application and issuance process in Kansas if the birds are kept in an appropriate facility as specified in K.A.R. 115-14-13.

Each permanent facility to house falconry birds possessed under this subsection shall be constructed, inspected, and approved in accordance with K.A.R. 115-14-13 before the issuance of the Kansas falconry permit.

(e) Each individual whose permit has lapsed shall be allowed to reinstate that individual's permit in accordance with this subsection.

(1) Any individual whose Kansas falconry permit has lapsed for fewer than five years may be reinstated at the level previously held if the individual submits a complete application and provides proof of the previous level of certification. Each of the individual's facilities shall pass the inspection requirements in K.A.R. 115-14-13 before the individual may be allowed to possess a falconry raptor.

(2) Each individual whose Kansas falconry permit has lapsed for five years or more shall be required to correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions on the department's falconry examination specified in paragraph (j)(3). Upon passing the examination, the individual's falconry permit shall be reinstated at the level previously held. Each of the individual's facilities shall pass the inspection requirements in K.A.R. 115-14-13 before the individual may be allowed to possess a falconry raptor.

(f) Any individual whose falconry permit has been revoked or suspended may apply for that individual's permit to be reinstated after the suspension period or revocation. In addition to submitting a completed application to the department, the individual shall be required to correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions on the department's falconry examination specified in paragraph (j)(3). Upon passing the examination, the individual's falconry permit shall be reinstated at the level previously held. Each of the individual's facilities shall pass the inspection requirements in K.A.R. 115-14-13 before the individual may be allowed to possess a falconry raptor.

(g) Any individual residing in Kansas who is not a citizen of the United States, has practiced falconry in the individual's home country, and has not been previously permitted for falconry in another state may apply for a temporary falconry permit. Each temporary falconry permit shall be valid from the date of issuance through December 31 in the third calendar year after issuance. The level of permit issued shall be consistent with the level of permit types specified in subsections (j), (k), and (l). In addition, the applicant shall meet the following provisions:

(1) Any individual covered under this subsection may apply for and receive a temporary falconry permit in accordance with the following provisions:

(A) The individual applying for the temporary permit shall be required to correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions on the department's falconry examination specified in paragraph (j)(3).

(B) Upon passing the examination, a temporary permit for the appropriate level shall be issued by the department, based on the individual's documentation of experience and training.

(C) The individual holding the temporary permit may possess raptors for falconry purposes if the individual has falconry facilities approved in accordance with K.A.R. 115-14-13. The individual holding a temporary permit may fly raptors held for falconry by another permitted falconer. The individual holding a temporary permit shall not take raptors from the wild for falconry purposes.

(2) Any individual holding a temporary permit in accordance with this subsection may use any bird for falconry that the individual legally possessed in the individual's country of origin for falconry purposes if the importation of that species of bird into the United States is not prohibited and the individual has met all permitting requirements of the individual's country of origin.

(A) The individual shall comply with all requirements for practicing falconry in the state. The individual shall acquire all permits and comply with all federal laws concerning the importation, exportation, and transportation of falconry birds; the wild bird conservation act; the endangered species act; migratory bird import and export permits; and the endangered species convention.

(B) Each falconry bird imported into the state under this subsection shall be exported from the state by the temporary permittee when the permittee leaves the state, unless a permit is issued allowing the bird to remain in Kansas. If the bird dies while in the state, the permittee shall report the loss to the department before leaving the state.

(C) When flown free, each bird brought into the state under the provisions of this subsection shall have attached to the bird two radio transmitters that allow the permittee to locate the bird.

(h) Each individual who holds a current, valid Kansas falconry permit and resides in another state, territory, or tribal land different from the individual's primary Kansas residence for more than 120 consecutive days shall provide the location of the individual's falconry facilities in the other jurisdiction to the department. This information shall be listed on the individual's Kansas falconry permit.

(i) Falconry permits shall be issued for the following levels of permittees: apprentice falconer, general falconer, and master falconer. Each applicant for a specific level shall meet the requirements of subsection (j), (k), or (l).

(j) An "apprentice falconer" shall mean an individual who is beginning falconry at an entry level, has no prior permitted falconry experience, and meets the following requirements:

(1) The applicant shall be at least 12 years of age. The application of any applicant under 18 years of age shall be signed by a parent or legal guardian, who shall be legally responsible for the applicant's activities.

(2) The applicant shall have secured a written sponsor agreement either from a general falconer with at least two years of falconry experience as a general falconer or from a master falconer, stating that the falconer has agreed to mentor the applicant for the duration of the apprentice permit.

(A) The sponsor agreement shall include a statement from the general falconer or master falconer specifying that the sponsor shall mentor the applicant in learning the husbandry and training of raptors for falconry, learning relevant wildlife laws and regulations concerning the practice of falconry, and deciding what species of raptor is appropriate for the applicant to possess while practicing falconry at the apprentice level.

(B) If the general falconer or master falconer is not able to fulfill the sponsor agreement to mentor the apprentice falconer, the apprentice shall secure a sponsor agreement from another falconer with the necessary qualifications and notify the department within 30 days of the change. The falconer sponsoring the apprentice falconer shall notify the department in writing within 30 days of withdrawing the falconer's mentorship.

(3) Each applicant for an apprentice falconry permit shall be required to correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions on the department's falconry examination. The examination shall cover the following topics:

(A) The care and handling of falconry raptors;

(B) federal and state laws and regulations relating to falconry; and

(C) other relevant subject matter relating to falconry, including diseases and general health.

(4) Any applicant failing the examination may reapply after 90 days.

(5) An apprentice falconer shall not possess more than one raptor. Each apprentice falconer shall be restricted to taking or possessing not more than one wild-caught raptor from one of the following species:

(A) American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*);

(B) red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*); or

(C) red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*).

(6) A raptor acquired by an apprentice falconer shall not have been taken from the wild as an eyas or have become imprinted on humans. Any wild-caught raptor species specified in paragraph (j)(5) may be transferred to the apprentice falconer by another properly permitted falconry permittee.

An apprentice falconer shall not acquire more than one replacement raptor during any 12-month period.

(7) The facilities used to house and keep the raptor shall meet the requirements in K.A.R. 115-14-13.

(k) A "general falconer" shall mean an individual who has been previously permitted as an apprentice falconer and meets the following requirements:

(1) The applicant shall be at least 16 years of age. The application of any applicant under 18 years of age shall be signed by a parent or legal guardian, who shall be legally responsible for the applicant's activities.

(2) Each application shall be accompanied by a letter from general falconer or a master falconer stating that the applicant has practiced falconry with wild raptors at the level of apprentice falconer, or its equivalent, for at least two years, including maintaining, training, flying, and hunting the raptor for at least four months in each year. This time may include the capture and release of falconry raptors. A school or education program in falconry shall not be substituted to shorten the required two years of experience at the level of apprentice falconer.

(3) A general falconer may take and use any species of *Accipitriform*, *Falconiform*, or *Strigiform*, including wild or captive-bred raptors and hybrid raptors, as defined in K.A.R. 115-14-11, for falconry, with the following exceptions:

(A) Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*);

(B) bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*);

(C) white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*); and

(D) Steller's sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*).

(4) A general falconer shall possess no more than three raptors at any one time, regardless of the number of state, tribal, or territorial falconry permits the general falconer possesses.

(1) A "master falconer" shall mean an individual who has been previously permitted at the level of general falconer and meets the following requirements:

(1) The applicant shall have practiced falconry with that individual's own raptor as a general falconer for at least five years.

(2) A master falconer may take and use any species of *Accipitriform*, *Falconiform*, or *Strigiform*, including wild or captive-bred raptors and hybrid raptors for falconry, with the following exceptions:

(A) A bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) shall not be possessed.

(B) Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), or Steller's sea eagles (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*) may be possessed if the permittee meets the following requirements:

(i) The permittee shall not possess more than three raptors of the species listed in paragraph (1)(2)(B).

(ii) The permittee shall provide documentation to the department of the permittee's experience in handling large raptors, including information about the species handled and the type and duration of the activity in which the experience was gained.

(iii) The permittee shall provide the department with at least two letters of reference from people with experience in handling or flying large raptors including eagles, ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*), goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*), or great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*). Each letter shall contain a concise history of the author's experience with large raptors, which may include the handling of raptors held by zoos, rehabilitating large raptors, or scientific studies involving large raptors. Each letter shall also assess the permittee's ability to care for eagles and fly them for falconry purposes.

(C) The possession of a golden eagle, white-tailed eagle, or Steller's sea eagle shall count as one of the wild raptors that the permittee is allowed to possess.

(D) A master falconer may possess wild or captive-bred raptors or hybrid raptors of the species allowed by this subsection.

(E) A master falconer shall possess no more than five wild-caught raptors, including golden eagles, regardless of the number of state, tribal, or territorial falconry permits that the falconer possesses.

(F) A master falconer may possess any number of captive-bred raptors. However, the raptors shall be trained to pursue wild game and shall be used for hunting.

(m) A falconry permit may be denied, suspended, or revoked by the secretary for any of the following reasons:

(1) The application is incomplete or contains false information.

(2) The applicant does not meet the qualifications specified in this regulation.

(3) The applicant has failed to maintain or to submit required reports.

(4) The applicant has been convicted of violating department laws or regulations relating to hunting or the practice of falconry or has had any other department license or permit denied, suspended, or revoked.

(5) Issuance of the permit would not be in the best interests of the public, for reasons including complaints or inappropriate conduct while holding a previous falconry permit.

This regulation shall be effective on and after December 31, 2020. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807; effective Dec. 31, 2012; amended Dec. 31, 2020.)