

115-14-11. Falconry; general provisions. (a) Each falconer hunting or trapping raptors in Kansas shall possess any current hunting license, unless exempt pursuant to K.S.A. 32-919 and amendments thereto, and any other state or federal stamp, permit, certificate, or other issuance that may be required for hunting the species that the falconer is hunting. In addition, each nonresident falconer shall possess a current nonresident hunting license while participating in a falconry field trial or a department-approved special event.

(b) Any falconry raptor may kill wildlife, including animals killed outside the established hunting season, if it was not the intent of the falconry permittee to kill the wildlife. The falconry raptor may be allowed to feed on the wildlife, but the permittee shall not take the wildlife, or any part of the wildlife, into possession.

(1) The falconry permittee shall report the take of any federally listed threatened or endangered species to the ecological services field office of the United States fish and wildlife service and provide the location where the take took place.

(2) The falconry permittee shall report the take of any wildlife designated as endangered or threatened in K.A.R. 115-15-1 or as a species in need of conservation as listed in K.A.R. 115-15-2 to the environmental services section of the department and provide the location where the take took place.

(c) Any falconry permittee may take nuisance and depredating birds with a falconry raptor in accordance with K.A.R. 115-16-3 if the permittee is not paid for that individual's services.

(d) Any falconry permittee may conduct commercial abatement activities in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) Any master falconer may conduct commercial abatement activities with permitted falconry raptors if the master falconer possesses a special purpose abatement permit issued by the United States fish and wildlife service.

Any master falconer, general falconer, or apprentice falconer may conduct commercial abatement activities as a subpermittee of a properly permitted master falconer.

(2) Any falconry permittee holding a special abatement permit may receive payment for that individual's commercial services.

(e) Feathers molted by a falconry raptor shall be possessed or disposed of in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) Any falconry permittee may possess flight feathers for each species of raptor legally possessed or previously held for the duration of time the permittee holds a valid falconry permit.

(A) The permittee may receive feathers for imping from other permitted falconers, wildlife rehabilitators, or propagators in the United States. The permittee may give feathers for imping to other permitted falconers, wildlife rehabilitators, or propagators in the United States.

(B) It shall be unlawful to buy, sell, or barter the feathers.

(2) Any permittee may donate feathers from a falconry raptor, except golden eagle feathers, to any person or institution with a valid permit to possess the feathers issued by the United States fish and wildlife service or to any persons exempted by federal regulation from having the permit.

(3) Except for the primary or the secondary flight feathers and the retrices from a golden eagle, a falconry permittee shall not be required to gather feathers that are molted or otherwise lost by a falconry bird. These feathers may be left where they fall, stored for imping, or destroyed. All molted flight feathers and retrices from a golden eagle shall be collected by the permittee and, if not kept for imping, shall be sent to the national eagle repository.

(4) Each falconry permittee whose permit expires or is revoked shall donate the feathers of any species of falconry raptor, except a golden eagle, to any person or institution exempted from federal possession permit requirements or to any person or institution authorized by federal permit to acquire and possess the feathers. If the feathers cannot be donated, they shall be burned, buried, or otherwise destroyed.

(f) The carcass of each falconry raptor shall be disposed of in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) The entire body of each golden eagle, including all feathers, talons, and other parts, shall be sent to the national eagle repository.

(2) The body or feathers of any species of falconry raptor, excluding a golden eagle, may be donated to any person or institution exempted from federal possession permit requirements or to any person or institution authorized by federal permit to acquire and possess the body or feathers.

(3) The body of any falconry raptor, other than a golden eagle, that was banded or was implanted with a microchip before its death may be kept by the falconry permittee in accordance with the following provisions:

(A) The feathers from the body may be used for imping.

(B) The body may be prepared and mounted by a taxidermist. The mounted body may be used by the permittee as part of a conservation education program.

(C) If the raptor was banded, the band shall remain on the body. If the raptor was implanted with a microchip, the microchip shall remain implanted in place.

(4) The body or feathers of any raptor that is not donated or retained by the permittee shall be burned, buried, or otherwise destroyed within 10 days of the death of the bird or after final examination by a veterinarian to determine the cause of death.

(5) The carcass of each euthanized raptor shall be disposed of in a manner that prevents the secondary poisoning of eagles or other scavengers.

(6) For any falconry raptor other than a golden eagle, if the body or feathers are not donated or mounted by a taxidermist as authorized by this subsection, the falconry permittee may possess the raptor for as long as the permittee maintains a valid falconry permit. The falconry permittee shall keep all the paperwork documenting the acquisition and possession of the raptor.

(g) A falconry raptor may be used in conservation education programs presented in public venues in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) Any general falconer or master falconer may conduct or participate in such a program without the need for any other type of permit. Any apprentice falconer may conduct or participate in such a program while under the direct supervision of a general falconer or master falconer during the program.

The falconer presenting the program shall be responsible for all liability associated with falconry and conservation education activities for which the falconer is the instructor.

(2) The raptor shall be used primarily for falconry.

(3) A fee may be charged for the presentation of a conservation education program. However, the fee shall not exceed the amount required to recoup the falconer's costs for presenting the program.

(4) The presentation shall address falconry and conservation education. The conservation education portion of the program shall provide information about the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds. However, not all of these topics shall be required to be covered in every presentation.

(h) Falconry raptors may be photographed, filmed, or recorded by similar means for the production of movies or other sources of information on the practice of falconry or on the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) Any general falconer or master falconer may conduct or participate in such an activity without the need for any other type of permit. Any apprentice falconer may conduct or participate in such an activity while under the direct supervision of a general falconer or master falconer during the activity.

(2) The falconer shall not receive payment for the falconer's participation.

(3) Falconry raptors shall not be used to make movies or commercials or be used in other commercial ventures that are not related to falconry. Falconry raptors shall not be used for any of the following:

(A) Entertainment;

(B) advertisements, promotion, or endorsement of any products, merchandise, goods, services, meetings, or fairs; or

(C) the representation of any business, company, corporation, or other organization.

(i) Any general falconer or master falconer may assist a permitted migratory bird rehabilitator (“rehabilitator”) to condition raptors in preparation for their release to the wild in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) The rehabilitator shall provide the falconer with a letter or form that identifies the bird and explains that the falconer is assisting in the bird’s rehabilitation. The raptor undergoing rehabilitation shall not be transferred to the falconer but shall remain under the permit of the rehabilitator.

(2) The falconer shall not be required to meet the rehabilitator facility standards. The falconer shall maintain that individual’s facilities in accordance with K.A.R. 115-14-13.

(3) The falconer, in coordination with the rehabilitator, shall release all raptors that are able to be released to the wild or shall return any such bird that cannot be permanently released to the wild to the rehabilitator for placement within the 180-day time frame in which the rehabilitator is authorized to possess the bird, unless the rehabilitator receives authorization to retain the bird for longer than the 180-day period. Any rehabilitated bird may be transferred to the falconer in accordance with K.A.R. 115-14-15.

(j) When flown free, a hybrid raptor shall have at least two attached radio transmitters to aid the falconry permittee in tracking and locating the bird. The term “hybrid raptor” shall mean the offspring of two different species of raptor.

(k) The statewide season for taking game birds by falconry shall be September 1 through March 31. Any falconer may possess hen pheasants that are incidentally taken by falconry means during the established falconry game bird season. Each falconer shall possess no more than two hen pheasants per day.

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