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Small animal species all year around with

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Small-game hunting in Kansas provides a wide variety of targets including prairie chicken, quail, cottontail and jackrabbits, squirrels and crows, and then there is non-game hunting of prairie dogs and other rodents.

A hunting license is required to hunt the small-game and non-game species such as prairie dog, ground squirrel, woodchuck, kangaroo rat, starling and house sparrows. The season is open year around, and there is no possession limit on these animals.

Some landowners allow hunting of prairie dogs as part of an effort to control the rodents. Conservation officers for the state Department of Wildlife and Parks usually can provide a list of those who allow prairie dog shooting.

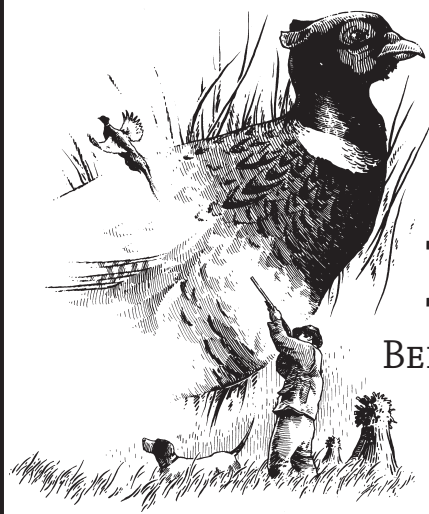
In Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties, the officer is Mike Hopper, and he can be reached at (785) 899-5199. In Decatur and Rawlins Counties and the west half of Norton County, the officer is Dick Kelly at (785) 475-2950. The officer for the east half of Norton County and Phillips County is Larry Stones at (785) 543-5820, and in Thomas, Sheridan and Logan counties, the officer is Benny Young at (785) 462-7602.

Ranchers and farmers in many parts of the



state will be trying to control prairie dogs by poisoning them from the first of October to March 15. Contacting the conservation officer or landowner where prairie dogs are visible is a good plan if a hunter is interested in trying this type of hunting. Officer Hopper said he has a list of landowners who allow prairie dog hunting.

Rabbit season is open year around for cottontail and jack rabbits. Daily bag limit on rabbits is 10, with up to 30 in possession. Squirrel (gray or fox) season is from June 1 to Feb. 28. Daily bag limit for squirrel is five with a possession limit



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may be hunted proper state license

of 20. Crow season is from Nov. 10 to March 10. There is no bag limit for crows.

Prairie chicken season runs from Nov. 21 to Jan. 31 except in the southwest, where the season is from Nov. 21 to Dec. 31. The bag limit in the northwest is two per day, and in the southwest one per day.

The prairie chicken season opening day is the third Saturday in November. Hunters hunting these birds usually take positions around a grain field, waiting for birds to fly in from surrounding grasslands, said a state wildlife conservation officer.

Small game in Kansas can be hunted with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge with shot only; center fire and rimfire rifles and handguns; muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and pistols; cap-and-ball pistols; pellet and BB guns; bow and arrow; sling shot; and falconry.

Residents 16 to 64 must have a hunting license (\$20.50 annual fee) and nonresident hunters, regardless of age, must have a nonresident license (\$72.50 annual fee over age 16, \$37.50 nonresident 16 and under). Anyone who has not lived in Kansas for 60 days is considered a nonresident.

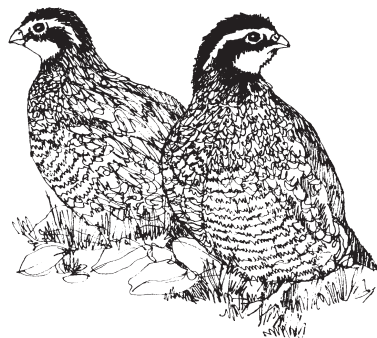
Lifetime licenses for residents only are available from the state. Lifetime hunting, furharvest or fishing licenses cost \$442.15 (add \$40 if

paying quarterly), while a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license costs \$882.15 (add \$80 if paying quarterly).

Kansas hunters may buy over-the-counter game permits online at kdwp.state.ks.us. Kansas hunting and fishing licenses are available by calling toll-free (800) 918-2877.

Nonresidents who are full-time students at state colleges or vocational schools may obtain resident licenses and permits, but must carry evidence of their status.

There are exemptions from the license requirement for landowners or tenants of land leased for farming and their immediate families living with them, while hunting or fur harvesting on their own land.



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Welcome to Norton

Have A
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Please

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**WORDEN
LAW OFFICE**

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