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HUNTING GUIDE

October 2008



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Squirrel hunting has been part of our heritage since before Davy Crockett.

Kansas offers of small game

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Among the small game available for hunting in Kansas are prairie chicken, quail, cottontail and jack rabbits, squirrels and crows, and then there is nongame hunting of prairie dogs and other rodents.

Ahunting license is required to take nongame 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 on their land as part of an effort to control the rodents. Wildlife officers usually can provide a list of those who allow prairie dog hunting.

In Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties, the officer is Mike Hopper, and he can be reached at (785) 899-5199. In Decatur and Rawlins County 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 wildlife office 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, but that it takes some patience.

Rabbit season is open year round for cottontail and jackrabbits. Daily bag limit on rabbits is 10 with 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 of 20. Crow season is from Nov. 10 to March 10. There is no limit.

