
Indiana DNR Game Breeder's License Information

Do you want to raise bobwhite quail or ring-necked pheasants?

If so, you will need a game breeder's license from the Indiana DNR. A game breeder's license is required by the Indiana DNR in order to sell bobwhite quail or ring-necked pheasants or possess them for more than five days. This includes all colors/varieties like snowflake, red, and jumbo bobwhite quail.

What species of bird or animals does the game breeder's license cover? Bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasants, and the following species of mammals: raccoons, striped skunks, gray foxes, red foxes (including their colors like silver and gold cross), coyotes, Eastern cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, fox squirrels, beavers, muskrats, long-tailed weasels and opossums.

Please note that a license is not required by the DNR to possess or sell legally owned captive-bred white-tailed deer, fennec foxes, sugar gliders, hedgehogs, or Coturnix (Japanese) quail, as well as some other exotic species.

How much does a license cost?

The fee for a game breeder's license is \$25/year to raise, possess, or release the birds/animals or \$30/year to sell them.

What are the game breeder's license requirements?

- You must apply for a license within five days of taking possession of the birds or other animals. The application can be found [on our permits and commercial licenses webpage](#).
- You will need a receipt or other documentation for any birds or other animals that you acquire.
- The enclosure(s) for the birds or other animals will need to pass an inspection by an Indiana conservation officer when you apply for the license. There are no specific cage sizes, but requirements include having enough space for the birds or other animals to move around freely, clean food and water, protection from the elements (like a nestbox), and protection from predators. A complete set of the requirements is found in Indiana Administrative Code in 312 IAC 9-10-4.
- You will need to maintain an inventory/transaction log of all birds or animals kept under the license and issue receipts for any bird or other animal that you sell, gift, or otherwise transfer to another person. You also need documentation for any animals that are acquired later on.

What can I do with the birds or animals I have under the license?

Bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasants can be released into the wild on property where you have permission, as long as they aren't sick or diseased. If you paid for the commercial game breeder's license (\$30), other animals/birds can be sold or gifted to another person. Mammals kept under this license can be sold if you paid for the commercial game breeder's license (\$30), or they can be gifted to another person but may not be released into the wild.

How do I apply for the license?

You can mail the application form (and annual report for renewals) with a check or money order made payable to the Indiana DNR to the address on the application form, or you can [pay by credit card or PayPal online](#). Please note that there is an additional fee of \$0.40 plus 1.96% for the credit card fee to pay online. Once we receive your

application for the game breeder's license and the payment, we will have a conservation officer contact you to do an inspection of the enclosure for the animals/birds and see the receipt.

Where can I find the regulations?

[Find information on the state law governing the Indiana Game Breeder's License in IC 14-22-20.](#)

[Find information on Indiana Administrative Code governing Game Breeder's licenses in 312 IAC 9-10-4.](#)

Who do I contact for more information?

Call the wildlife permitting biologist at 317-232-4102, the permit supervisor at 317-233-6527, or email wildlifepermits@dnr.IN.gov.