

Coyote Hunting Regulations in Alachua County

Barton Wilder

Coyotes are considered to be a nuisance species and can be hunted on private property and public land. However, the rules for hunting coyotes differ considerably between private property and public lands.

Private Property

Coyotes can be hunted year round on private property in Florida. There are no limits to the amount that can be taken. A hunting license from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) is not required to hunt coyotes on private property. In addition, night hunting for coyotes using a spotlight is permitted on private property.

Public Lands

Hunting in national and state forests is regulated by the FWC as wildlife management areas (WMAs). Property owned by water management districts can also be part of WMAs. A valid FWC hunting license and management area permit is required to hunt. The hunting regulations and dates vary in each WMA. Coyote hunting during the designated season is permitted in all WMAs in Alachua County with the exception of Santa Fe Swamp and the Orange Creek Small Game Hunting Area. There is no bag limit on coyotes in the WMAs in Alachua County. Hunting coyotes at night is prohibited in all WMAs in Alachua County. A list of all the WMAs in Florida with their hunting regulations can be found here:

<http://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures#wma>.

Trapping Rules

Trapping of coyotes is allowed on private property. Trappers must have a valid steel trap permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Traps must be checked every 24 hours. In addition, trappers that wish to sell coyote fur taken with either traps or firearms must have a furbearer trapping license. Trapping is only permitted in the Grove Park WMA during the authorized season.

Table 1 Coyote hunting regulations for WMAs in Alachua County

	Private property	Wildlife Management Areas
Open season	Yes	No
Hunting License	No	Yes
Bag limit	None	None
Night hunting	Yes	No

If you have any questions about hunting or trapping coyotes, please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission North Central Office at 386-758-0525.