

## Raising Game Birds - License Requirements

If you acquire a live game bird (ring-necked pheasant or bobwhite quail, including their subspecies and color phases) or purchase a live game bird, you must apply for a game breeder's license with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) within five (5) days. A game bird possessed under a game breeder's license issued by the DNR may be released or sold for food purposes, breeding purposes, or for release. A person who buys a game bird from an out-of-state breeder (licensed game breeders, only) must be able to show legal proof of out-of-state origin for all game birds possessed, including both a receipt and health certificate.

The DNR may issue to a resident of Indiana, upon the payment of a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15), a license to propagate in captivity; and possess, buy, or sell for this purpose only; game birds, game mammals, or furbearing mammals protected by Indiana law. The license must be renewed annually. There is no minimum age requirement for an application for a game breeder's license, so although the application asks for a driver's license number, it is not required. The license holder is the one responsible for the record-keeping and other requirements of the law, however, so it may be best to have the parents sign the application form as well. Note: you may not raise wild turkeys or ruffed grouse

### Notes:

- Each game bird must be lawfully acquired. A receipted invoice, bill of lading, or other satisfactory evidence of lawful acquisition (copy of a valid game breeder license or valid dated receipt that establishes lawful acquisition or ownership) shall be presented for inspection upon the request of a conservation officer and must accompany any transportation of game birds.
- Birds (and eggs) imported into Indiana require a certificate of veterinary inspection (health certificate) from an accredited veterinarian in the state of origin before the game bird is shipped into Indiana.
- Each cage or enclosure will be inspected by a conservation officer before a license may be issued.
- The game bird must be confined in a cage or other enclosure that makes escape of the game bird unlikely and prevents the entrance of free-roaming game birds of the same species.
- Each game bird shall be handled, housed, and transported in a sanitary and humane manner.
- Bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasants may be released into the wild on land in which you have permission.
- A known diseased game bird may not be released and shall not be sold.
- A license holder is required to keep accurate records of purchases, sales, names and addresses (buyer and seller), and number and species of game birds sold for at least two (2) years after the transaction.
- The license holder shall provide an annual report to the division by February 15. The annual report shall include, for each species possessed, the following information: number bought, number sold, number born, number traded, number gifted, number released, number of deaths, and number on hand
- A conservation officer may enter the premises of the license holder at all reasonable hours to inspect those premises and any records relative to the license.

See the full [statute](#) for additional information and regulations.

**Contact the DNR to request an application or for more information:  
Telephone: (317) 233-6527 or (317) 232-4102  
E-mail: [lpetercheff@dnr.in.gov](mailto:lpetercheff@dnr.in.gov)**