



INSTRUCTIONS FALCONRY LICENSE

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| License Fees: | 1-YEAR | \$38 (22.72) |
| | 3-YEAR | \$94 (22.99) |

LEGAL AUTHORITY: NRS 502.240, 503.582, and 503.583; 50CFR Parts 21.28 and 21.29
NAC 503.200 through 503.265

MINIMUM AGE: 14 years (See NAC 503.240 Section 2 below.)

FALCONRY DEFINED: "Falconry" means the sport of taking, or attempting to take, quarry by means of a trained raptor.

LICENSE/PERMIT REQUIREMENT: Except as provided in NAC 503.235 a person who resides in Nevada who practices falconry or trains birds of prey shall obtain a falconry license from the Department upon payment of a license fee as provided in NRS 502.240.

First-time applicants for a falconry license must pass an examination. (See NAC 503.235 below.)

WHERE TO OBTAIN APPLICATIONS: An application for a falconry license may be obtained from any regional office located in Fallon, Elko, Las Vegas, or from the headquarters of the Department of Wildlife.

DENIAL OF LICENSE: The Department may deny issuance or renewal of any class of falconry license or permit if the applicant has been convicted of a violation of any provision of NAC 503.200 to 503.345, inclusive. An applicant whose application for a license has been denied may appeal the denial to the commission.

PERTINENT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

NAC 503.200 Definitions. As used in NAC 503.200 to 503.345, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Captive-bred" or "bred in captivity" means raptors, including eggs, hatched in captivity from parents that mated or otherwise transferred gametes in captivity.
2. "Captivity" means a live raptor that is held in a controlled environment which is intensively manipulated by man for the purpose of producing raptors of selected species, and which has boundaries designed to prevent raptors, eggs or gametes of the selected species from entering or leaving the controlled environment.
3. "Eyas" means a nestling bird not yet capable of flight.
4. "Falconry" means the sport of taking, or attempting to take, quarry by means of a trained raptor.
5. "Passage" means a bird that has fledged and is less than 1 year of age.
6. "Raptor" means a live migratory bird of the orders *Falconiformes* and *Strigiformes*, other than the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).
7. "Take" means to trap or capture, or attempt to trap or capture, a raptor for the purpose of falconry.

NAC 503.205 License or permit to hunt, trap, possess or sell raptors; possession of eggs and feathers. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.582)

1. It is unlawful for any person to hunt, trap, possess or sell any species of owl, hawk or other bird of prey, including any raptor or its parts, without first obtaining a license or permit from the headquarters of the Department.
2. Raptor eggs may not be taken or possessed, except that raptor eggs laid by a bird in the possession of a person who holds a permit to propagate raptors may be possessed if the holder of the permit notifies the

headquarters of the Department in writing within 5 calendar days after the first egg has been laid. Eggs laid by a raptor held under the authority of a falconry license must be reported by the licensee to the Department within 5 calendar days after the first egg has been laid. The licensee will dispose of the egg as directed by the Department.

3. Raptor feathers that are molted or are from raptors held in captivity that die, may be retained and exchanged by licensees for imping purposes only.

NAC 503.210 Practice of falconry on certain species during regular and closed seasons. When practicing falconry on game species, a licensee shall comply with the provisions of Title 45 of NRS and all regulations of the board of wildlife commissioners. A species of wildlife which is classified as protected by the Department, or as threatened or endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, that is taken incidentally by a raptor may not be retained or possessed by a licensee. A species of wildlife which is classified as a game species by the Department that is taken incidentally by a raptor during the closed season may not be retained or possessed by the licensee. A licensee shall not intentionally release a raptor after any wildlife which is in a refuge or in a state or national park or is on privately owned property where the licensee does not have permission to hunt.

NAC 503.215 Acquisition and banding of raptors.

1. No person may acquire a raptor unless he first obtains from the Department a numbered, non-reuseable marker supplied by:

(a) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service for those raptors required to be identified by such a marker pursuant to 50 C.F.R. Part 21.29; or

(b) The Department for all other raptors, and attaches it to the raptor immediately upon acquisition.

2. The altering, counterfeiting or defacing of a marker is prohibited except that a permittee may remove the rear tab from a marker and make smooth any imperfect surface if the integrity of the marker and its numbering are not affected.

NAC 503.220 Introduction into or removal from state of raptors.

1. It is unlawful, except by the written consent and approval of the Department, for any person at any time to receive, bring, or have brought or shipped into the State of Nevada, or to remove from one portion of this state to any other portion or to any other state, any raptor or any eggs or young of any raptor.

2. Any person who holds a valid falconry license which is issued by the Department and lists the raptors in his possession may bring into this state or remove to any other state any raptor listed on the license without having a permit for importation or exportation if a numbered marker which is supplied by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Department, as appropriate, and which is not reusable, is attached to the raptor.

3. A person who is a resident of another state and who holds a valid falconry license issued by the appropriate agency of that state may bring into or remove from this state a raptor in his possession under the authority of that falconry license without having a permit for the importation or exportation of a raptor issued by the Department if a numbered marker which is supplied by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the appropriate agency of the state which issued the license if required, as appropriate, and which is not reusable, is attached to the raptor.

4. A raptor taken from the wild in Nevada by a resident of this state may not be permanently removed from this state unless the:

(a) Resident holds a valid license issued by the Department pursuant to NRS 503.583 and leaves this state to establish his domicile in another state; or

(b) Raptor has been held for at least 1 year.

NAC 503.225 Purchase, sale or transfer of raptors.

1. A person who holds a valid falconry license issued by the Department may receive by transfer legally acquired raptors from other persons possessing a valid falconry license or a propagation permit. Any person who receives a raptor by transfer, purchase, trade or barter must be authorized to receive such a raptor pursuant to the provisions of NAC 503.235 and 503.250.

2. A licensed falconer may purchase, sell, trade or barter any captive-bred raptor which is banded with a numbered seamless marker authorized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

3. A captive-bred raptor may not be transferred, purchased, sold, traded or bartered until it is 2 weeks old and only after it is properly marked with a numbered seamless marker provided or authorized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

4. Each time a person acquires a raptor, he shall notify the Department within 5 calendar days after the acquisition. To comply with the provisions of this subsection, a person who acquires a raptor may submit to the Department a copy of form 3-186A, which must be submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

NAC 503.230 Authorization for intentional release of raptor. A falconry licensee must obtain written authorization from the Department before a raptor of any species not indigenous to Nevada is intentionally released to the wild. The marker from the released bird must be removed and surrendered to the Department within 5 calendar days after the date on which the bird is released. The marker from an intentionally released bird which is indigenous to Nevada must also be removed and surrendered to the Department within 5 calendar days after the date on which the bird is released.

NAC 503.235 Falconry license: Application; contents; examination; conditions; exceptions.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, a person who resides in the State of Nevada and who practices falconry or trains birds of prey must obtain a falconry license of the proper class from the Department. An applicant for a falconry license must include on his application:

- (a) The name of the applicant;
- (b) The physical and mailing address of the applicant's residence;
- (c) The telephone number of the applicant's residence;
- (d) The date of birth of the applicant;
- (e) The driver's license number of the applicant, if he has been issued a driver's license;
- (f) The number of raptors the applicant possesses and the species of each;
- (g) The age of each raptor, if known;
- (h) The sex of each raptor, if known;
- (i) The source and date of acquisition of each raptor;
- (j) The band number of each raptor; and
- (k) The applicant's signature and the date on which he signed the application.

2. If the applicant has moved to this state with the intention of making this state his permanent residence and he holds a falconry license issued by the state from which he is moving, the applicant may attach a copy of his falconry license to his application in lieu of taking the examination required by subsection 3. If the applicant fails to attach a copy of his falconry license issued by his previous state of residence, he will be required to take the examination required by subsection 3.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, before the Department issues a falconry license, the applicant must correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions on a supervised examination supplied or approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the Department. The examination will test the applicant's knowledge of basic biology, the care and handling of raptors, and the literature, laws, and regulations, and other subjects relating to falconry. Failure of the examination will result in a 30-day waiting period after the date of the written examination before reexamination.

4. A person must possess a valid falconer's license when practicing falconry. In addition, a person who releases a raptor at game birds or game mammals during the open season must possess a valid hunting license issued by the Department.

5. The Department may deny issuance or renewal of any class of falconry license or permit if the applicant has been convicted of a violation of any provision of NAC 503.200 to 503.345, inclusive. An applicant whose license has been denied may appeal the denial to the commission.

6. A person who does not reside in the State of Nevada does not have to obtain a falconry license of the proper class from the Department to practice falconry while visiting this state if he possesses a valid falconry license issued by the state of which he is a resident.

7. A person who possesses a raptor solely for commercial displays or exhibitions is not required to obtain a falconry license if:

(a) The species of raptor used or to be used in the commercial display or exhibition is not listed as a protected species by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703 et seq.; and

(b) The raptor is not used for the sport of falconry.

NAC 503.240 Falconry license: Classifications; issuance.

1. The Department may issue apprentice, general and master falconry licenses.
2. The Department may issue an apprentice license to an applicant who:
 - (a) Is at least 14 years of age; and
 - (b) Obtains a sponsor for the first 2 years during which he is an apprentice licensee.
3. The Department may issue a general license to an applicant who:
 - (a) Is at least 18 years of age;
 - (b) Has at least 2 years' experience in the practice of falconry as an apprentice licensee or the equivalent classification of an apprentice licensee;
 - (c) Has possessed a raptor during each year that he was licensed as an apprentice or the equivalent; and
 - (d) Submits a signed letter from his sponsor which recommends the issuance of a general license to the applicant.
4. The Department may issue a master license to an applicant who has at least 5 years' experience in the practice of falconry as a general licensee or the equivalent classification of a general licensee.

NAC 503.245 Sponsorship of apprentice licensee.

1. A person who is a general or master falconry licensee or the equivalent may sponsor an apprentice falconry licensee.
2. A person may not sponsor more than three apprentice licensees at one time.
3. If sponsorship is terminated, the holder of an apprentice license must obtain a new sponsor within 30 days of the date of termination of the sponsorship or his apprentice license will be revoked.

NAC 503.250 Possession and replacement of raptors by apprentice, general licensee or master licensee.

1. An apprentice licensee:
 - (a) Shall not possess more than one raptor nor obtain more than one raptor for replacement during any 12-month period.
 - (b) May possess only an American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) or a red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*).
2. A general licensee shall not possess more than two raptors nor obtain more than two raptors for replacement during any 12-month period.
3. A master licensee shall not possess more than three raptors nor obtain more than two raptors taken from the wild for replacement during any 12-month period.

NAC 503.255 Equipment required for license. Before obtaining a license, an applicant must allow an inspection by a representative of the Department to ensure that the applicant possesses:

1. At least one pair of Alymeri or similar jesses constructed of pliable, high-quality leather or suitable synthetic material to be used when any raptor is flown free. Traditional one-piece jesses may be used when a raptor is not being flown.
2. At least one flexible, weather-resistant leash and one strong swivel of acceptable falconry design.
3. At least one suitable container for each raptor for drinking and bathing. The container must be 2 to 6 inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor.
4. At least one weathering area and a perch of an acceptable design for each raptor.
5. A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing a raptor. The device must be graduated in increments of not more than 1/2 ounce or 15 grams.

NAC 503.260 Inspections.

1. Any person holding a falconry license must allow the department's employees to enter his premises at any reasonable hour to inspect equipment, mews or other raptor housing facilities and raptors possessed by the

licensee or to inspect, audit or copy any permit, book or record required to be kept by the provisions of NAC 503.200 to 503.345, inclusive, or federal regulations relating to falconry.

2. Refusal to allow inspection of raptors, facilities and equipment during reasonable hours will result in the denial of issuance or revocation of the raptor license or permit and seizure of any raptor in the licensee's possession.

NAC 503.265 Application for license must include information on raptors in applicant's possession.

A person who is applying to renew a falconry license, and a person who is applying for a new falconry license, must include on his application for the license each species of raptor and the band number of each raptor he possesses on the date of the application. A falconry license or permit to take a raptor will not be issued or renewed unless the applicant has provided the Department with the information required by this section.

WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION AND FEES

Submit the completed application with the required fee to:

Nevada Department of Wildlife
License Office – Falconry License
4600 Kietzke Lane, D-135
Reno, NV 89502
