



COYOTE HUNTING

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STATE HUNTING AND TRAPPING GUIDE

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection publishes an annual hunting and trapping guide that provides (1) a summary of the relevant laws and regulations and (2) information on hunting and trapping opportunities in Connecticut. The 2014 guide is available [here](#).

QUESTIONS

What is the statutory authority for Connecticut's coyote hunting season and legal hunting hours? What are the legal coyote hunting hours within the open hunting season in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island?

CONNECTICUT LAW AND REGULATIONS

Connecticut law authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner to regulate hunting in the state ([CGS §§ 26-3](#) and [26-65](#)). It allows him, by regulation, to specify the open and closed season and the legal hunting hours ([CGS §§ 26-16](#) and [26-66](#)).

The regulations specify that there is no closed coyote hunting season, except during the open spring turkey season beginning the first Wednesday in May and ending 25 consecutive days thereafter (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 26-66-3(g) and (j)). The regulations further specify that hunting is prohibited from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, with the exception of raccoon and opossum hunting, which is permitted after sunset in certain circumstances (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 26-66-1(c)). Thus, night time coyote hunting is not permitted in Connecticut.

By law, a violation of the hunting laws or regulations is a class D misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$250, imprisonment of up to 30 days, or both ([CGS §§ 26-71](#)).

LEGAL COYOTE HUNTING HOURS WITHIN OPEN SEASON

Legal coyote hunting hours vary by state. In Connecticut and Rhode Island, the coyote hunting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. In Massachusetts, the hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to midnight, except during the shotgun deer hunting season when the coyote hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset. In New York, the legal coyote hunting hours are from after sunrise on opening day and then any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open season.

Table 1 shows the 2013/2014 coyote hunting season and legal hunting hours for Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island.

Table 1: 2013/2014 Coyote Hunting Season and Hours

<i>State</i>	<i>Coyote Hunting Season</i>	<i>Coyote Hunting Hours</i>
Connecticut	January 1 to April 23, May 27 to October 4, and October 19 to December 31, 2013. January 1 to April 29 and June 2 to December 31, 2014	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Massachusetts	October 19, 2013 to March 8, 2014	½ hour before sunrise to midnight, except during the shotgun deer hunting season when the coyote hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset
New York	October 1, 2013 to March 30, 2014	after sunrise on opening day and then any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open season
Rhode Island	On state land, September 14, 2013 to February 28, 2014 and April 30 to May 25, 2014. On private land, there is no closed season.	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

Sources: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

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