

**RULES OF THE
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**CHAPTER 40-13-15
TRANSPORTATION AND HOLDING OF LIVE FERAL HOGS**

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40-13-15-.01 Definitions

- (1) “Approved slaughter facility” means any slaughter facility licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (2) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
- (3) “Department” means the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
- (4) “Feral hog” means any hog which has lived any part of its life in a wild, free-ranging state and is currently in such state or has been taken, as provided in O.C.G.A. § 27-1-2.
- (5) “Official Identification”, for purposes of these rules, means a National Uniform Ear-tagging System (“NUES”) tag affixed to the ear, a USDA approved 840 series Radio Frequency Identification Device (“RFID”) tag affixed to the ear, or any other identification method approved by the State Veterinarian.
- (6) “Taking” means killing, capturing, destroying, catching, or seizing, as provided in O.C.G.A. § 27-1-2.
- (7) “Test eligible” means a feral hog that is not less than four (4) months of age.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-7-200 *et. seq.*

40-13-15-.02 Applicability of Rules

These rules shall apply to the transportation and holding of live feral hogs within the State of Georgia.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-7-200 *et. seq.*

40-13-15-.03 General Provisions

- (1) Live feral hogs transported or held in violation of these rules may be quarantined, disposed of, and/or destroyed in accordance with Georgia law.
- (2) The Commissioner may deny and/or revoke any Feral Hog Transport Permit and/or Feral Hog Facility License for any violation of these rules.
- (3) All carcasses, parts of carcasses, fetuses, embryos, effluent, or blood of taken feral hogs shall be disposed of in accordance with the Georgia Dead Animal Disposal Act, O.C.G.A. § 4-5-1 *et. seq.*
- (4) Official Identification shall not be removed from any live feral hog.
- (5) Any person who takes a live feral hog to which Official Identification is already affixed shall notify the Department within forty-eight (48) hours of such taking.
- (6) Complete and legible records documenting the transportation and/or holding of all live feral hogs shall be maintained as required by these rules.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-7-200 *et. seq.*

40-13-15-.04 Transportation of Live Feral Hogs

- (1) No person shall transport live feral hogs anywhere in this State unless authorized to do so pursuant to a valid Feral Hog Transport Permit, which shall be carried on the person of the permit holder at all times during transportation of live feral hogs.
- (2) Live feral hogs shall only be transported to an approved slaughter facility, licensed Feral Hog Facility, or other premises for immediate personal consumption unless a special written exemption is obtained from the Georgia State Veterinarian prior to transport. Live feral hogs transported for immediate personal consumption shall be slaughtered within 24 hours from being taken and shall not leave the transport conveyance except for immediate slaughter.

- (3) All feral hogs not being transported to an approved slaughter facility, licensed Feral Hog Facility, or premises for immediate personal consumption shall be destroyed prior to transport.
- (4) Live feral hogs shall not be moved to, or offered for sale in, any Georgia Department of Agriculture approved auction market or collection point.
- (5) All common carriers, trucks, and other conveyances used for the transportation of live feral hogs shall be maintained in a sanitary condition, be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each transport and/or use, and meet the cleaning and disinfecting requirements of the Georgia Department of Agriculture before further transportation of live feral hogs or livestock is permitted.
- (6) Prior to transport, all live feral hogs shall be individually identified by a method acceptable to the State Veterinarian. Acceptable options include the following:
 - a. Option 1: Prior to transport, Official Identification shall be affixed to each individual live feral hog; or
 - b. Option 2: Prior to transport, a temporary transport authorization shall be requested via the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division “Go Outdoors Georgia” smartphone application.
 - i. Any person who requests a temporary transport authorization via the “Go Outdoors Georgia” application shall confirm delivery of all live feral hogs via the application immediately upon arrival at the destination that was identified at the time of the request.
 - ii. Official Identification shall be affixed to each live feral hog transported under the temporary transport authorization within 48 hours of arrival at an approved destination, unless such feral hog is slaughtered.
- (7) Information relating to Official Identification can be obtained by contacting the Department’s Livestock/Poultry Program in Atlanta, Georgia during normal business hours, or visiting the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s website at agr.georgia.gov.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-7-200 *et. seq.*

40-13-15-.05 Feral Hog Transport Permit

- (1) Upon receipt of the fee and completed application or renewal application, the Department may issue a Feral Hog Transport Permit authorizing the applicant to transport live feral hogs to approved slaughter facilities, licensed Feral Hog Facilities, and/or other premises for immediate personal consumption.

- (2) Application for a Feral Hog Transport Permit shall be made online at the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s website at agr.georgia.gov.
- (3) The Feral Hog Transport Permit shall be valid upon date of issuance and shall expire annually on December 31. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to apply for renewal of such permit prior to the expiration date.
- (4) An annual permit fee of \$15.00 shall be remitted before a Feral Hog Transport Permit is issued or renewed.
- (5) The Feral Hog Transport Permit is valid only for the applicant stated on the permit and is not transferable.
- (6) The Feral Hog Transport Permit shall be carried on the person of the permit holder at all times during transportation of live feral hogs.
- (7) The holder of a Feral Hog Transport Permit shall maintain complete and legible records on all feral hogs transported by said permit holder. All feral hog transport records shall include:
 - a. The physical address of the transport permit holder;
 - b. The vehicle and trailer license plate number used for the transport;
 - c. The county from which each live feral hog is acquired;
 - d. The date each live feral hog is transported;
 - e. The gender of each live feral hog transported;
 - f. A photograph that clearly displays the entirety of each live feral hog transported;
 - g. The Official Identification number assigned to each live feral hog transported; and
 - h. The Premise Identification number, license number, name, and physical address of the approved destination to which each live feral hog is transported.
- (8) The holder of a Feral Hog Transport Permit may use the “Go Outdoors Georgia” smartphone application to comply with the record-keeping requirements of this Rule.
- (9) All feral hog transport records shall be maintained for two (2) consecutive years, of which the previous one (1) year of records shall be carried on the permit holder at all times during transportation of live feral hogs. Said records shall be made available to the Georgia Department of Agriculture and/or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for inspection immediately upon request.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-7-200 *et. seq.*

40-13-15-.06 Feral Hog Facility Requirements

- (1) A license is required for the operation of a Feral Hog Facility which holds live feral hogs.
- (2) Premises registration is required for all physical locations where live feral hogs are held. A Premises Identification number evidencing said registration may be obtained by contacting the Department's Livestock/Poultry Program in Atlanta, Georgia during normal business hours, or visiting the Georgia Department of Agriculture's website at agr.georgia.gov.
- (3) Any operator of a licensed Feral Hog Facility who intends to personally transport live feral hogs is required to obtain and maintain a Feral Hog Transport Permit.
- (4) Live feral hogs may only be transported by individuals holding a valid Feral Hog Transport Permit.
- (5) Live feral hogs held at a licensed Feral Hog Facility may only be transported to approved slaughter facilities, other licensed Feral Hog Facilities, or for immediate personal consumption unless a special written exemption is obtained from the State Veterinarian prior to transport.
- (6) All feral hogs not being transported to an approved slaughter facility, licensed Feral Hog Facility, or for immediate personal consumption shall be destroyed prior to leaving the licensed Feral Hog Facility.
- (7) All live feral hogs shall have Official Identification applied within 48 hours of arrival at an approved destination unless such live feral hog is slaughtered within 48 hours of arrival.
- (8) All test eligible live feral hogs held in a Feral Hog Facility must test negative to an official brucellosis test and an official pseudorabies test within 14 days of arrival at the facility and be retested in 30 days. Following the second test, all live feral hogs at the facility must be tested every 180 days thereafter.
 - a. Upon notification of positive test results for Brucellosis or Pseudorabies, feral hogs shall be depopulated within twenty-four (24) hours or officially permitted by the Department to be transported directly to an approved slaughter facility within 48 hours.
 - b. Following depopulation, all remaining live feral hogs shall be quarantined and retested no sooner than thirty (30) days following the initial positive test. Testing shall be repeated at 30-day intervals until two (2) negative consecutive complete herd tests are obtained.
 - c. Each new live feral hog added to a licensed Feral Hog Facility, whether intentionally or accidentally, must be held separately, have Official Identification applied, and be tested for Brucellosis and Pseudorabies, in accordance with these rules, prior to introduction into the existing facility population.

- d. Brucellosis and Pseudorabies testing records shall be maintained for two (2) years from the testing date. Testing records shall be made available to the Georgia Department of Agriculture and/or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources upon request.
 - e. All such testing shall be performed by a veterinarian licensed under the Georgia Veterinary Practice Act and at the owner's expense.
- (9) The Commissioner shall require a Licensed Feral Hog Facility to observe and maintain any and all health and/or sanitization practices deemed necessary and appropriate to prevent and/or control the spread of contagious or infectious livestock diseases.
 - (10) Licensed Feral Hog Facilities shall be fenced with heavy duty woven wire at not less than forty-seven inches (47") minimum height from ground level, with a high tensile electric wire at the top and bottom of the fence, inside of the woven wire, on six-inch (6") stand-offs. A separate charger must be used for each electric wire. Said fence shall be clear of obstructions at all times in order to allow inspection on a regular basis.
 - (11) All live feral hogs shall be maintained in secure escape-proof and entry-proof pens. Feral hog holding pens shall be designed to ensure complete segregation of the existing population and new additions undergoing testing requirements.
 - (12) It shall be unlawful for any person to release or cause to be released from captivity any live feral hog, or possess a live feral hog in such manner so as to cause, accidentally or intentionally, its release or escape from captivity.
 - (13) Feral hogs held at a licensed Feral Hog Facility shall not be permitted to breed. All boars shall be castrated or maintained in separate confinement from female hogs until castration.
 - (14) All progeny of female swine bred prior to introduction to the facility shall be held and treated in accordance with these rules.
 - (15) Information relating to Official Identification can be obtained by contacting the Department's Livestock/Poultry Program in Atlanta, Georgia during normal business hours, or visiting the Georgia Department of Agriculture's website at agr.georgia.gov.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-7-200 *et. seq.*

40-13-15-.07 Feral Hog Facility License

- (1) Application for a Feral Hog Facility license shall be made online at the Georgia Department of Agriculture's website at agr.georgia.gov.

- (2) Prior to issuance of a Feral Hog Facility license, the facility to be licensed must pass a pre-license compliance inspection administered by the Department. The applicant for a license shall contact the Department to schedule the pre-license compliance inspection. A licensed facility will thereafter be subjected to random compliance inspections by the Department and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
- (3) The Feral Hog Facility license shall be valid upon date of issuance and shall expire annually on December 31. It is the responsibility of the license holder to apply for renewal of such license prior to the expiration date.
- (4) An annual license fee of \$100.00 shall be remitted before a Feral Hog Facility license is issued or renewed.
- (5) The Feral Hog Facility license is valid only for the applicant and location stated on the license and is not transferable.
- (6) The Feral Hog Facility license shall be prominently displayed in a visible location at the facility at all times.
- (7) The holder of a Feral Hog Facility license shall maintain complete and legible records on all feral hogs held at such facility. Said records shall include:
 - a. Inventory of all live feral hogs, including a list of each natural addition;
 - b. Transport Permit number of the person who transported live feral hogs to the facility;
 - c. Dates of all deliveries of live feral hogs;
 - d. The gender of each live feral hog;
 - e. A photograph that clearly displays the entirety of each live feral hog;
 - f. The official identification number assigned to each live feral hog;
 - g. Official Brucellosis and Pseudorabies testing records correlating test results with official Identification number; The date each feral hog is removed from the facility;
 - h. Information sufficient to document all losses and removals from the facility, including but not limited to the cause of each loss/removal, date of each loss/removal, and Official Identification number assigned to each loss/removal; and
 - i. The license number, name, and location of the approved slaughter facility, licensed Feral Hog Facility, or premises for immediate personal consumption to which any live feral hog is transported and/or removed.
- (8) All records shall be maintained for two (2) consecutive years and shall be made available to the Georgia Department of Agriculture and/or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for inspection immediately upon request.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-7-200 *et. seq.*