

Virginia Trappers Association

CODE OF ETHICS

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is a long standing tradition of trapping and the harvesting of fur. In order to insure the future of our tradition, we as trappers must be willing to adapt. It should be the duty of each trapper to become as knowledgeable and skillful as possible and to apply those skills and knowledge on the trap line. We must be willing to accept new ideas and new trapping systems when necessary. Each trapper is accountable to every other trapper, in that what one of us does reflects on us all. We should:

- 1) Obey all trapping regulations, and support strict enforcement by reporting violations
- 2) Trap in the most humane way possible
- 3) Support trapper training
- 4) Respect the other trapper's grounds – particularly those maintained trap lines with a history of use
- 5) Mentor and support new trappers in ethics, trapping methods, and handling of fur
- 6) Respect the rights and feelings of others even if you disagree with them
- 7) Cooperate with and assist wildlife management agencies
- 8) Properly identify and record all trap and snare locations accurately, and remove all traps and snares when you are finished trapping
- 9) Leave the area in such a state that one would not find evidence of a trapper having been there
- 10) Dispose of animal carcasses properly so as not to offend others
- 11) Do not disturb the traps of other trappers.
- 12) Always conduct yourself in a manner that will show your respect for yourself and the Virginia Trappers Association, the pride you have in your art, and show reverence and respect for the animals you trap