

WILD GAME FOR RETAIL SALE

Consumers have shown an increased interest in game animal meats for personal consumption at home, in restaurants, and for purchase at retail food establishments. Many game animals are now farm-raised so they can be sold at retail. Game animals, also known as non-amenable animals, include deer, elk, bison, water buffalo, and rabbit that are raised for eventual slaughter for human consumption. These animals can be killed and processed to be consumed for home use with no required inspection, but all non-amenable animals that will be processed and entered into commerce must comply with state and federal regulations. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) have provisions to provide inspection of non-amenable animals on a voluntary fee for inspection service. Having such regulations helps protect the public because the health history and post-harvest handling of a hunted animal is unknown.

Amenable animals are those which have been traditionally and commonly held as domestic livestock and include cattle, swine, sheep, goats, plus domesticated poultry which includes chicken, turkey, duck, geese, quail, or guinea fowl. (As a note: wild hog is the same species as domestic swine and therefore requires mandatory USDA inspection. The USDA FSIS has oversight for amenable animals to be sold at retail which requires continuous inspection, (including ante- and post mortem inspection of each animal slaughtered). All inspected amenable meat will bear a USDA inspection shield with official FSIS establishment number identifying where it was processed and indicating it meets the inspection requirements of USDA.

There is a public health concern for diseases which can be carried and transmitted from game animals to humans. Diseases of concern from game animals includes, but is not limited to:

Leptospirosis	Brucellosis
<i>E. Coli</i> infection	Salmonellosis
Toxoplasmosis	Rabies
Swine Influenza viruses	Trichinosis
Giardiasis	Cryptosporidiosis
Bovine Tuberculosis	Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) (similar to BSE)
Round worms (Ascariasis)	Tapeworms (Taeniasis or Sparganosis)
Q-fever (Coxiellosis)	Pseudorabies



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 2017 Food Code specifically addresses game animals:

<https://www.fda.gov/food/fda-food-code/food-code-2017>

3-201.17 Game Animals.

(A) If GAME ANIMALS are received for sale or service, they shall be:

(1) Commercially raised for FOOD ^{P**} and:

(a) Raised, slaughtered, and processed under a voluntary inspection program that is conducted by the agency that has animal health jurisdiction, ^P or

(b) Under a routine inspection program conducted by a regulatory agency other than the agency that has animal health jurisdiction, ^P and

(c) Raised, slaughtered, and processed according to:

(i) LAWS governing MEAT and POULTRY as determined by the agency that has animal health jurisdiction and the agency that conducts the inspection program, ^P and

(ii) Requirements which are developed by the agency that has animal health jurisdiction and the agency that conducts the inspection program with consideration of factors such as the need for antemortem and postmortem examination by an APPROVED veterinarian or veterinarian's designee; ^P

(2) Under a voluntary inspection program administered by the USDA for game animals such as exotic animals (reindeer, elk, deer, antelope, water buffalo, or bison) that are "inspected and APPROVED" in accordance with 9 CFR 352 Exotic animals; voluntary inspection or rabbits that are "inspected and certified" in accordance with 9 CFR 354 voluntary inspection of rabbits and edible products thereof; ^P

(3) As allowed by LAW, for wild GAME ANIMALS that are live caught:

(a) Under a routine inspection program conducted by a regulatory agency such as the agency that has animal health jurisdiction, ^P and

(b) Slaughtered and processed according to:

(i) LAWS governing MEAT and POULTRY as determined by the agency that has animal health jurisdiction and the agency that conducts the inspection program, ^P and

(ii) Requirements which are developed by the agency that has animal health jurisdiction and the agency that conducts the inspection program with consideration of factors such as the need for antemortem and postmortem examination by an APPROVED veterinarian or veterinarian's designee; ^P or

(4) As allowed by LAW, for field-dressed wild GAME ANIMALS under a routine inspection program that ensures the animals:

(a) Receive a postmortem examination by an APPROVED veterinarian or veterinarian's designee, ^P or

(b) Are field-dressed and transported according to requirements specified by the agency that has animal health jurisdiction and the agency that conducts the inspection program, ^P and

(c) Are processed according to LAWS governing MEAT and POULTRY as determined by the agency that has animal health jurisdiction and the agency that conducts the inspection program.
^P

****The superscript capital letter "P" signifies the requirement is considered a significant risk of foodborne illness.**

The 2017 Food Code requires the game animal to come from an approved source to be introduced into commerce whether for retail sale or for free distribution for human consumption. The approved source will require voluntary inspection program administered by USDA. For information please visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/inspection/apply-for-a-federal-grant-of-inspection> For answers to questions about USDA inspection-related policies, programs, systems and procedures m.askkaren.gov | **En Español**. You can also contact the District Office serving Florida at Phone: (404) 562-5900

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