

## WILDLIFE LAWS OF BELIZE

- Hunting any animal without a license from the Government is illegal
- Hunting baby animals or mothers with their young is illegal
- No hunting is allowed **ever** in protected areas
- Farmers can kill wildlife on their land if the animal is damaging crops but they must report it to the Government
- You cannot deal in wild life (this means sell or trade) without a license issued by the Government
- It is illegal to take pregnant iguana or to eat Hickatee eggs or the eggs of any wild animal or bird
- If you are caught breaking these laws you can be fined or even sent to prison

Animals you are **NEVER** allowed to hunt include:

**Note: “hunting” means trapping, killing, buying, selling, and caging**

### **Primates**

Black Howler Monkey  
Black Spider Monkey

### **Cats**

Jaguar  
Mountain Lion, Puma, or Cougar  
Ocelot (wild cat)  
Margay (wild cat)  
Jaguarundi (wild cat)  
Central American Cacomistle

### **Other Bush Creatures**

Baird's Tapir (The National Animal)  
Woolly Opossum  
Giant Molossus Bat (or Black Mastiff Bat)  
Giant Anteater  
Pygmy Silky Anteater  
Prehensile-tailed Porcupine  
Kinkajou (or Night Walker)  
Striped Hog-nosed Skunk  
Grison

### **River Creatures**

Central American Otter  
Salt-water Crocodile  
Morelet's Crocodile

### **Sea Creatures**

Whales, all species  
Dolphins, all species  
Caribbean Monk Seal (*extinct since 1952*  
*This is only seal to vanish due to human cause*)  
Manatee

### **All birds except for the following:**

*Chachalaca (species of bird)*  
*Crested Guan (species of bird)*  
*Great Curassow (species of bird)*  
*Black-throated Bobwhite (species of bird)*  
*Blue-winged Teal (type of duck)*  
*Lesser Scaup (type of duck)*

## **Closed Seasons**

Hickatee, deer, iguana and others have ‘closed seasons’ – which means it is illegal to hunt them even if you have a licence. This is to allow the animal to breed and lay eggs. Unfortunately, in Belize, it is during this closed season when many of the animals are hunted for their eggs or young (for example Hickatee and iguana at Easter time)

**Deer: 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September (males) 1<sup>st</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> February of the next year (female)**

**Gibnut: 1<sup>st</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> May of the following year**

**Armadillo: 1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Peccary: 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**Iguanas & Hickatee: 1st February to 30th June**

**Game birds (guan & curassow), 1st of February to 15th July**

**Penalties:** fine of up to \$500.00 or six months imprisonment (first offence)

If someone is caught a second time within a five year period they could be charged another \$1,000.00

**Report illegal hunting to the Belize Forest Department: 802 1524**