



March 31, 2025

Animals and Fish - Historical Notes

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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The following is a listing of acts that at one time affected, but no longer appear to have any effect on, hunting, fishing or animal control in McMinn County. They are included herein for reference purposes.

1. Acts of 1889, Chapter 171, provided for the protection of game in the state. Deer, quail, and partridges were specifically regulated. This act was amended by the Acts of 1901, Chapter 250, which permitted the hunting of deer, quail, and partridges for profit in McMinn County.
2. Acts of 1895, Chapter 127, provided for the protection of fish in Tennessee. Prohibited means of fishing were dams, traps, seines, nets, dynamite, and explosives. However, this act was amended by Acts of 1897, Chapter 280, to permit the use of fish traps and nets.
3. Acts of 1903, Chapter 183, made it unlawful to kill fish by means of net, dynamite or poisons in all the streams of Bradley, McMinn, and James Counties.
4. Acts of 1907, Chapter 15, prohibited livestock from running at large. Owners of such livestock were held responsible for damages. (Applicable in counties with populations between 19,163 and 19,175 by the 1900 Census and apparently intended to apply to McMinn County.)
5. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 48, prohibited livestock from running at large. Owners of such livestock were held responsible. This Act was applicable in counties with populations between 21,000 and 21,100 by the census of 1910, and apparently enacted to reflect the population changes of the 1910 Federal Census since its provisions were identical to the 1907 Act.
6. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 289, prohibited quail hunting for three years in McMinn County. After this closed season has passed, hunting was permitted from December 15 through January 15 of each year.
7. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 405, exempted McMinn County from the general dog law of the state.
8. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 575, determined the hunting season for quail, partridge, and doves to be from November 15 through February 1 for quail and partridge, and from September 1 through March 1 for doves.

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