

may lawfully be taken or killed under a license in the district within the boundaries of which such land is situated. The skins of all opossums so killed may only be disposed of as provided by regulation 7 hereof.

5. It shall be the duty of every person desiring to take or kill opossums in any State forest, provisional State forest, forest reserve, forest plantation reserve, bush reserve, timber reserve, reserve for the growth and preservation of timber, to obtain the written consent of a Conservator of Forests or of a responsible officer of the State Forest service having control thereof; or in any Crown lands, scenic reserve, or any public reserve, to obtain the written consent of the Commissioner of Crown Lands or of any Board having control thereof. Notification of consent must be endorsed on the license by the issuing officer. This authority must be presented when applying for the issue of a license to take or kill opossums in any area mentioned in this regulation, and no license shall be issued without the production of such written authority.

6. The holder of any such license is not entitled by virtue of such license to enter upon any private land without the consent of the owner or occupier thereof; or upon any State forest, provisional State forest, forest reserve, forest plantation reserve, bush reserve, timber reserve, or reserve for the growth and preservation of timber, without the written authority of a Conservator of Forests or of a responsible officer of the State Forest service having control thereof; or upon any Crown land, scenic reserve, or any public reserve without the written authority of a Commissioner of Crown Lands or of any Board having control thereof.

7. No person shall dispose of opossum skins by gift, sale, or otherwise howsoever unless such skins bear the official mark, and no person shall dispose of opossum skins for gain unless sold to or by a licensed broker.

This regulation shall not apply to skins which have already been sold through a licensed broker and are stamped to indicate royalty has been paid, and such skins may be disposed of by the purchaser in such manner as he sees fit:

8. A person consigning or delivering skins of opossums to a licensed broker for sale must send therewith a true and correct statement in writing, in the form No. 2 in the First Schedule hereto, signed by him, specifying the nature and number of skins, and certifying that such skins were obtained from animals taken or killed in a district for which an open season prevailed during the time such animals were taken or killed, and such skins must be produced to the secretary or to the ranger of the acclimatization society in whose district the skins were taken, or to a Postmaster in that district, in order that such person may place his certificate at the foot of such statement. No person shall accept delivery of such skins unless accompanied by such statement and certificate. Any person committing a breach of this regulation shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20.

Such statement shall be made in duplicate, one copy to accompany the skins forwarded for sale, and the other copy to be forwarded direct to the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs.

9. No person shall act as a broker under these regulations without first taking out an annual license, to be called a broker's license, in the form No. 3 in the First Schedule hereto. Such license may be obtained from the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, on application in the form No. 4 in the First Schedule hereto, upon payment of a fee of 21s., and shall expire on the 30th day of April following the date thereof:

Provided that a separate license must be taken out in respect of every branch of any business.

10. It shall be the duty of every licensed broker to collect from the vendor a royalty of 1s. on every skin sold to or by him, upon which he shall be allowed a commission of £5 per cent., payable after his returns have been sent in as provided in regulation 14. Such royalty shall be paid to the authorized officer before the royalty-paid stamp is affixed by him.

11. No skins shall be delivered by a licensed broker unless they have been stamped to show that the royalty has been paid:

Provided that skins in possession of a broker which have not been stamped, and upon which royalty has not been paid, may be delivered to the buyer or returned to the seller where authority to do so has been granted by the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs; and such authority may be granted on such conditions as the said Under-Secretary thinks fit to impose.

12. For the purpose of complying with these regulations, the licensed broker shall notify the officer appointed to stamp skins and collect royalty from brokers at least three days before any auction sale of skins takes place; and in case of a private sale, such notification must be given immediately the sale is effected,

Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the royalty may be paid after the sale takes place, on the condition that the broker will be responsible for such royalty.

13. Every licensed broker shall keep a register in the form No. 5 in the First Schedule hereto, and shall on receipt of any opossum skins enter therein the correct name, address, and occupation of each company, firm, or person from whom such skins are obtained for sale, indicating the locality where the opossums were taken and to whom such skins are sold. Such register shall be produced for inspection on demand by any constable, officer of an acclimatization society, ranger, or authorized officer.

14. Every licensed broker shall, immediately the sale of any opossum skins takes place, forward to the secretary of the acclimatization society in whose district the opossums were taken a catalogue of such sale, giving the names of the sellers and buyers; and, immediately after the last day of each month, shall forward to the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, a certified copy of the entries made during the month in the register referred to in regulation 13, noting thereon the number of opossum skins then in his possession.

15. Any person who retains opossum skins for his own use, or for the purpose of preserving and manufacturing into rugs, coats, or other articles, shall pay a royalty of 1s. per skin as provided in the foregoing regulations, and such skins must have the royalty-paid stamp affixed by the authorized officer before such skins are tanned or prepared for tanning or other method of preservation.

16. Except as provided in these regulations, every owner of an opossum skin not bearing the official mark shall pay to an authorized officer a royalty of one shilling (1s.) in respect thereof within one month from the date of these regulations or within one month from the date of the skin coming into his possession, whichever is the later. It shall be the duty of such authorized officer to have the said skin stamped with the appropriate official mark immediately such royalty is paid.

17. All opossum skins in the possession of any person shall, on demand by any constable, officer of an acclimatization society, ranger, or authorized officer, be produced for inspection; and any person illegally in possession of skins is liable, on conviction, to a fine of £10, and to a further fine of £5 for each skin found in his possession, and such skins shall be forfeited and become the property of the Crown.

18. No person shall at any time have possession of any opossum skin which does not bear an official mark thereon; provided, however, that it shall not be a breach of this regulation to have possession of any such skin—

- (a.) Within one month from the date on which the same was taken, if the same is lawfully taken in any of the places mentioned in regulation 25; or
- (b.) At any time within one month from the close of the open season, if the same is lawfully taken during the open season in any other place in New Zealand; or
- (c.) At any time within one month from the date of importation if the same is imported;

and provided also that the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, may extend such periods subject to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose.

19. It shall be an offence for any person to perforate or otherwise stamp or mark an opossum skin in such a way as to suggest that the appropriate official mark has been affixed by an authorized officer, and the offence shall be punishable by a fine of £50 in addition to forfeiture of the skin or skins concerned, and such skins shall, upon the conviction of such person, be forfeited to His Majesty.

20. All opossum skins imported into the Dominion, other than those in a manufactured state, must be stamped by an authorized officer with the appropriate official mark as proof of importation; and every person importing skins must, within three days after the receipt of such skins, notify that officer. No royalty shall be payable in respect of any such skins:

Provided that no opossum skins imported into the Dominion shall be disposed of for gain unless they are sold in the manner provided by regulation 7 and have been stamped with the appropriate official mark to indicate that royalty has been paid.

21. (1.) No person shall export or attempt to export opossum skins without the consent in writing of the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs:

Provided that this shall not apply to skins made up as coats, rugs, muffs, or articles of personal or domestic or household use or ornament.

(2.) No person shall export or attempt to export opossum skins unless they have been stamped with the appropriate official mark.

22. There shall be paid to the acclimatization society in whose districts opossums were taken or killed such proportion of the fees, fines, and royalties in respect thereof as may be decided by the Governor-General in Council.