

FURBEARER FUN FACTS

**Badger and pine marten tail hair is used for artist paint brushes

**A beavers tail and meat is cooked and eaten by some societies. The skin of his tail is used to make belt buckles.

**The muskrat pelt was used by early day natives as a diaper for babies.

**The beaver castor gland that he uses to keep from getting wet in the water, is dried and refined. The end product is used as a base for hand lotion and moisturizers.

**Skunk essence(the stuff that smells) is collected by the trapper, sold, refined and used as a base for perfume.

**Furbearer carcasses are used in the winter as feed stations for raptors and carnivores.

**Furbearer skulls are cleaned and used for educational purposes

**The carcasses of wolverine, fisher, otter, bobcat and pinemarten are sent to laboratories and used to collect scientific information about the animal.

WHAT IS TRAPPING?

Trapping is the oldest land based industry in North America. Trapping furbearers has long been a way of managing over populations of these animals. Trapping also makes use of a natural renewable resource. The harvest of furbearers is regulated to take only surplus animals, leaving healthy, mature animals. A trapper goes to classes to learn efficient and humane methods of trapping furbearers. These classes teach how to set traps so the animal is not injured and does not suffer. Trappers have rules and regulations they must follow or they will get a ticket, fined or arrested. A trapper must also buy a license that allows him to trap certain furbearers. He can trap only a certain number or limit of furbearers in specific districts or areas. A trapper is a conservationist who is helping to keep furbearers here for future generations.

This information is distributed by the Montana Trappers Association as part of their Education Program