



---

---

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

---

---

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2003 Wisconsin Act 247</b><br>[2003 Assembly Bill 424]   | <b>Possession of Deer<br/>Heads and Skins</b>   |
| 2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a> | Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a> |

Unless expressly authorized by statute, no person may sell, buy, or trade any game or fish. The statutes also place restrictions on the possession of deer and elk, and of parts removed from deer and elk that are lawfully killed.

Act 247 modifies the statutory provisions regarding the possession of the heads and skins of deer or elk that are lawfully killed. The former statute exempted the head and skin from all regulation under the fish and game statutes. Because the statute provided a complete exemption for regulation, it allowed such activities as sale of the heads and skins, or mounting and selling the heads without a taxidermist license. Act 247 narrows this provision so that only the possession and control of the head or skin is exempt from fish and game regulation.

A person may possess or control deer or elk antlers in the velvet or a deer or elk skin in the spotted coat with authorization from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Act 247 adds a procedure for obtaining this authorization. Under Act 247, a request for written authorization must be made within seven days after the carcass tag has been attached to the deer or elk. The procedure for obtaining DNR approval for possession of antlers in the velvet or skin in the spotted coat is expected to be used more frequently due to the extended hunting seasons in areas affected by chronic wasting disease.

Act 247 also eliminates an obsolete reference to the red or blue coat of a deer.

Act 247 creates an additional exception to the prohibition on sale of fish and game that allows sale of tails and skulls of a deer or elk, antlers that are not in the velvet, and skins that are not in the spotted coat, so long as the deer or elk was lawfully killed.

**Effective Date:** The Act takes effect on April 28, 2004.

**Prepared by:** Mark C. Patronsky, Senior Staff Attorney

April 26, 2004

MCP:tlu

---

---

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.