



## REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A FALCONRY LICENSE

If you are applying for your first falconry license, you are required to take and pass a supervised, written examination. This examination is designed to test your knowledge of the California laws and regulations pertaining to falconry, your competency in caring for raptors, and your knowledge of the life history of birds of prey. You must be at least 12 years of age or older to be issued an Apprentice Falconry License. As an Apprentice, you may possess one red-tailed hawk or an American kestrel.

You must pass the examination before a license may be issued. Pursuant to Section 670(e)(3), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), any applicant who fails to pass the examination may retake it no earlier than the next business day following the day of the failed examination. An applicant shall submit the nonrefundable falconry examination fee, specified in Section 703, **each time the applicant takes an examination.**

### TO BECOME QUALIFIED FOR A FALCONRY LICENSE:

#### 1. STUDY STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO FALCONRY

The laws and regulations pertaining to falconry are found in California Fish and Game Code Sections 395 and 396, and Section 670, Title 14, of the CCR. The Falconry License Laws and Regulations pamphlet (DFW 360e) is available online at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry).

#### 2. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH RAPTOR NATURAL HISTORY, IDENTIFICATION, CARE, AND THE PRACTICE OF FALCONRY

It is important to know as much as possible regarding identification, the natural history of raptors, and the practice of falconry. Get out in the field to acquaint yourself with raptor identification, habitats and behavior. Literature and references about raptors, falconry, the handling of, and caring for raptors, can be located on the internet, multiple social media outlets, and your local library or bookstore, or by contacting a falconry organization or mentor. Doing your research in advance will acquaint you with caring for and training a raptor for the practice of falconry. Special attention should be directed to the diseases and the sanitary problems you will face in keeping a bird in captivity.

#### 3. FIND A SPONSOR

As an Apprentice falconer, you will need to find a licensed falconer to sponsor you for at least two years. To do this, get involved with practicing falconers, most commonly located online through a falconry organization or mentor. You will likely need to spend considerable time getting to know falconry, and many practicing falconers before you find a sponsor. Once you find a sponsor, they will help you with obtaining equipment, designing housing facilities, and learning techniques to capture, care, and train a raptor for use in falconry.

**NOTE: The Department suggests that you find a sponsor who will meet with you, and work with you in person, to teach you the proper way to capture, care for, and train your falconry raptor.**

#### 4. FALCONRY EXAMINATION

When you are ready to take the falconry examination, notify the nearest Department of Fish and Wildlife office, listed on the back of this notice, and ask for an appointment to take the examination. Take the completed New Falconry License Application (DFW 360b), which is available online at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry), along with the examination fee, to a Department of Fish and Wildlife office and present them to the examination administrator on the day of your examination. You will be required to provide photo identification at the time of the examination. The examination will be supervised and is closed book. Please allow two hours to take the examination. The test will be corrected at the time of the examination and you will be given the test results.

#### 5. FACILITIES TO HOUSE YOUR RAPTOR

Proper housing is an essential ingredient of successful falconry. (Section 670(j), Title 14, of the CCR) Mews (hawk houses) vary in size and construction. For more information regarding raptor housing specifications and other facility standards, refer to Part 21.29 and 21.30, Title 50, of the Federal Code of Regulations (CFR) available online at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-21>.



**6. INSPECTION OF RAPTOR FACILITIES AND FALCONRY EQUIPMENT**

Once you pass your falconry examination, you must submit the New Falconry License Application (DFW 360b), along with the license fee, nonrefundable application fee and inspection fee, to the address listed on the application. A Department employee will contact you to schedule an inspection of your raptor facility and falconry equipment. A Department employee must inspect and approve your raptor housing facilities before a falconry license may be issued. Note: If the applicant or licensee is sharing an existing raptor facility with another licensed falconer, and possesses proof of a passed inspection, there is no requirement for an additional inspection.

**7. ISSUANCE OF THE FALCONRY LICENSE**

Once your facilities pass inspection and your completed New Falconry License Application (DFW 360b) has been reviewed, the License and Revenue Branch will mail your falconry license to you.

**8. GENERAL LICENSE INFORMATION**

Falconry licenses are valid from July 1 through the following June 30. Regardless of when you obtain your falconry license during the year, you **MUST** renew your falconry license on or before the following July 1 if you possess a raptor or want to keep your falconry license active. The falconry license must be in your possession when taking your bird off your property. You must exhibit all licenses upon the request of any officer.

**9. REPORTING CAPTURE OF RAPTORS FROM THE WILD**

The Resident Falconer Raptor Capture, Recapture and Release Report (DFW 360f), available on the Department's website at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry), must be completed and submitted to the Department's online reporting system, within 10 calendar days of capture of a raptor from the wild.

**10. OBTAIN A HUNTING LICENSE**

If you are hunting with your raptor, you must possess a valid California hunting license and appropriate validations, if required. Prior to obtaining your first hunting license, you are required to take the hunter education course. Information about obtaining a hunting license is available at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting). Information on hunter education is available at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/hunter-education](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/hunter-education).

**11. ADVANCEMENT FROM APPRENTICE CLASS**

You must be licensed as an Apprentice falconer with a sponsor, for at least two years, and be at least 16 years of age to advance to the General class. An Apprentice falconer shall submit a completed Apprentice Falconer's Annual Progress Report (DFW 360c), as specified in Section 703, to the address listed on the report. The report shall demonstrate that the Apprentice falconer has practiced falconry with a raptor at the Apprentice level, including maintaining, training, flying, and hunting with the raptor for at least four months in each regulatory year, and a summary of the species the Apprentice possessed, how long each was possessed, how often each was flown, and methods of capture and release, before being upgraded from Apprentice class to General class.

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**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICES**

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**FRESNO** — 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 243-4005 Ext. 151

**FAIRFIELD** — 2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100, Fairfield, CA 94534 (707) 428-2002

**RANCHO CORDOVA** — 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, (916) 358-2900

**SAN DIEGO** — 3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123, (858) 467-4201

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