



# Wisconsin Dog Training and Trialing Regulations

PUB-WM-444 2007

This publication gives you a summary of Wisconsin's laws which pertain to individuals who possess a bird dog or hound dog training license, a bird dog or hound dog trial license, or a dog club training license. It is not a complete set of laws.

## LICENSE & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The following licenses and permit require the completion of a dog training/trial license application or a hound dog training enclosure inspection and permit application, which are available at your local DNR service center or the Internet ([www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)). Each license and permit must be approved by the DNR wildlife biologist for the county where the training or trial activities are to take place.

### Dog Training Licenses

Each of the 3 types of dog training licenses are valid until the third December 31<sup>st</sup> after the date of issuance.

Example: A license issued in June of 2003 is valid until December 31, 2005.

#### Bird Dog Training License

**\$25.00**

Issued to any individual who is at least 12 years of age who files a dog training license application and pays the applicable fee.

A bird dog training license allows you to purchase, possess, release into the wild, hunt and use approved species for dog training purposes only. This license does not authorize commercial shoots or organized hunts or the selling, breeding, or propagation of captive wild birds. Bird dog training licenses are not required on licensed bird hunting preserves or licensed dog club training properties.

A bird dog training license allows you to possess and use the following species for dog training purposes: captive-bred bobwhite and other species of quail of the subfamily *Odontophorinae*, gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, mallard duck, ring-necked and reeves pheasants.

Individuals issued a bird dog training license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** While engaged in bird dog training, the licensee must be in possession of the license and make the license available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** Train only on the properties identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Captive wild bird identification.**
  - A. All bobwhite quail, pheasants and gray partridge used for dog training to be released and killed under the authority of a dog training license shall, prior to release, be tagged around the leg with a bird dog training leg band supplied by the department.
  - B. Captive mallards used for dog training shall be identified by one of the following methods prior to 6 weeks of age:
    - (1) Removal of the hind toe from the right foot; or
    - (2) Tattooing of a readily discernible number or letter or combination thereof on the web of one foot; or
    - (3) Banding of one metatarsus with a seamless metal band; or
    - (4) Pinioning of a wing by removal of the metacarpal bones of one wing or a portion of the metacarpal bones which renders the bird permanently incapable of flight.
- ❖ **Bird bands.** The licensee and persons assisting them may not have on their person while engaged in dog training any unused department dog training bird bands. Wild birds and birds that are not banded or identified as required above may not be killed during training exercises. **Note:** Dog training bands (Form #9400-566) are available through any DNR Service Center free of charge, or by calling the Bureau of Wildlife Management at (608) 266-8204.
- ❖ **Care, Handling & Treatment.** See Section on Care and Treatment of Birds and Animals (below), and also Refer to the separate informational pamphlets on Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards Pub-CS-20

#### Hound Dog Training License

**\$25.00**

Issued to any individual who is at least 12 years of age who files a dog training license application and pays the applicable fee.

A hound dog training license allows you to purchase, possess and use captive raccoon or bobcat for dog training purposes, and use captive black bear possessed under the authority of a captive wild animal farm license for dog training purposes. In addition, rabbit/hare, coyote and fox may be purchased, possessed or used for dog training purposes if held in a permitted hound dog training enclosure. The license does not authorize commercial or organized shoots, selling, breeding, or propagating of animals, or training of dogs with the use of captive black bear on DNR lands.

In addition, individuals issued a hound dog training license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** While engaged in hound dog training, the licensee must be in possession of the license and make the license available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** Train only on the properties or areas identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Care, Handling & Treatment.** See section on Care and Treatment of Birds and Animals (below), and also Refer to the separate informational pamphlets on Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards Pub-CS-20 and Hound Dog Training Enclosure Regulations PUB-WM-477 for specific details. Copies available at your local DNR Service Center, or on-line at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/captive/captive.htm>

## Hound Dog Training Enclosures, Inspections & Permits

**\$ No Fee**

In addition to needing a hound dog training or hound dog trial or a dog club training license, a hound dog trialing enclosure permit is required to possess and use captive wild rabbits/hares, fox or coyote for dog training purposes. The use of captive wild rabbits/hares, fox or coyote for dog training may only occur within a hound dog training enclosure which meets the requirements of NR 17.045, Wis. Adm. Code, which has been inspected by the department and for which the owner or operator holds a current hound dog training enclosure permit. Unless the hound dog training enclosure is also covered under a dog club training license or a dog trial license, individuals that release or train their dogs on rabbits, hares, fox or coyote within a hound dog training enclosure must possess an individual hound dog training license.

See separate Wisconsin Hound Dog Training Enclosure Regulations pamphlet - PUB-WM-477 , for specific regulations on training dogs in a hound dog training enclosure and details on how to apply for an enclosure permit.

## Dog Club Training License

**\$100.00**

Issued to an **organization** that owns or leases land for the purpose of training bird dog or hound dogs to retrieve, point, flush or track game, that files a dog club training application and pays the applicable fee. A dog club training license cannot be issued for lands that are not owned or leased by the club.

A club is any organization of at least 2 or more individuals, of whom at least one is at least 14 years of age and eligible to obtain a dog club training license and who are eligible to participate in legal bird or hound dog training activities, who are identified in writing as members of a licensed dog training club on a list retained by the license holder. Such lists shall be made available to the department upon request.

**Note:** Pursuant to s. 29.304, Stats., no one under the age of 12 may possess a firearm. A person under the age of 12 may be a member of a dog training club and may train dogs with the use of captive wild animals as authorized under the dog training club license, but may not possess a firearm as part of the training activity.

Similar to the bird dog training license, a dog club training license allows the members of a club to purchase, possess and use certain approved captive wild birds that are bred in captivity for bird dog training. This license also authorizes club members to possess and use captive wild raccoons, rabbits, coyote, fox and bobcat for hound dog training. The license does not authorize the use of captive bear, commercial shoots, animal selling, breeding or propagation. Training under this license may only take place on properties owned or leased by the club.

Again, the species authorized for use under a dog club training license are captive ring-necked and reeves pheasants, bobwhite quail and other quail of the subfamily *odontophorinae*, gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, and mallard ducks that are bred in captivity, as well as captive raccoons and rabbits.

All requirements of the bird dog and hound dog training license and hound dog training enclosures apply to a dog club training license **except** for the display of license requirements. The dog club training license shall be kept at the clubhouse or training grounds where the training activity is occurring. If a club member is engaged in training activities but not within one-quarter mile of the clubhouse, the member shall be in possession of a copy of the dog club training license. Club members shall make the license available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.

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## **Dog Trial Licenses**

Both the bird dog trial license and the hound dog trial license are valid until the first December 31<sup>st</sup> following the date of issuance. Example: A license issued in June 2003 is valid until December 31, 2003.

## Bird Dog Trial License

**\$25.00**

A bird dog trial license authorizes the licensee and participants to engage in an organized competitive field event that involves sporting dog breeds and that is sanctioned, licensed or recognized by a local, state, regional or national dog organization. This license does not authorize commercial shoots involving any of the authorized species or the selling, breeding or propagation of bobwhite quail or mallard ducks. Bird dog trial licenses are not needed on bird hunting preserves licensed for the use of the same species.

A bird dog trial license allows you to purchase, possess and use the following species for dog trialing purposes: captive-bred bobwhite and other quail of the subfamily *odontophorinae*, gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, mallard duck, ring-necked and reeves pheasants.

In addition, individuals issued a bird dog trialing license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** A bird dog trial license shall be in the possession of the grounds marshal during dog trialing activities and must be made available to any DNR conservation warden or other DNR authorized department agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** The licensee and participants may conduct trials only on the properties identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Captive wild bird identification.** Captive wild birds released and killed under the authority of a dog trial license do not have to be marked prior to release, except for captive mallards (see marking requirements in the 'bird dog training license' section).
- ❖ **Care, Handling & Treatment.** See section on Care and Treatment of Birds and Animals (below), and also Refer to the separate informational pamphlets on Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards Pub-CS-20

A hound dog trialing license allows the licensee and participants in an organized competitive field event that involves sporting dog breeds and is sanctioned, licensed or recognized by a local, state, regional, or national dog organization to purchase, possess and use captive raccoons, rabbits, coyote, fox or bobcat for dog training purposes, and use captive black bear possessed under the authority of a captive wild animal farm license for hound dog trails. The license does not authorize commercial shoots or selling, breeding or propagating of animals or training of captive black bear on department lands.

In addition, individuals issued a hound dog trialing license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** The license shall be in the possession of the Master of Hounds during the trial event. The license shall be made available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** Train only on the properties or areas identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Care, Handling & Treatment.** See section on Care and Treatment of Birds and Animals (below), and also Refer to the separate informational pamphlets on Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards Pub-CS-20 and Hound Dog Training Enclosure Regulations PUB-WM-477 for specific details. Copies available at your local DNR Service Center, or on-line at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/captive/captive.htm>

## CARE AND TREATMENT OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS

Captive wild birds possessed for dog training purposes shall be treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper and adequate space, shade, food and fresh water. If birds are severely injured, they shall be humanely killed. Primary and transportation enclosures for captive-bred bobwhite quail and mallards shall meet the requirements in § NR 16.30 to 16.38, Wisconsin Administrative Code. (See separate DNR informational pamphlet on Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards for details.)

Captive raccoon, rabbit/hare, coyote, fox, bobcat or bear possessed for dog training purposes shall be treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper and adequate space, shade and fresh water. Dogs may not be released into a training enclosure with the intent to injure or kill any captive rabbit/hare, coyote or fox. Captive rabbit/hare, coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat or bear may not be shot inside a training enclosure or cage. Any coyote or fox injured during a dog training exercise shall be submitted to a veterinarian for treatment at the owner or operator's expense, or euthanized and shall be reported to the department within 24 hours. Primary and transportation enclosures shall meet the requirements in § NR 16.30 to 16.38, Wisconsin Administrative Code. (See separate DNR informational pamphlets on Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards – Pub-CS-20 and Hound Dog Training Enclosure Regulations PUB-WM-477 for details.)

### Captive bear, bobcat and raccoon, if lawfully obtained, may be used for dog training and trials, provided:

1. Any bear is also possessed under authority of a captive wild animal farm license.
2. Bear, bobcat and raccoon, when not being used for trailing purposes, are housed in accordance with s. NR 16.30 and 16.38. (See separate DNR informational pamphlet on Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards for details.)
3. The bear, bobcat or raccoon is kept in a cage at all times. The cage shall be constructed so that:
  - a. The cage is strong enough to contain the animal securely and comfortably and to withstand the normal rigors of the training or trial.
  - b. The interior of the cage has no sharp points or edges and no protrusions that could injure the bear, bobcat or raccoon contained in it.
  - c. The bear, bobcat or raccoon is at all times securely contained within a cage in a way that it is not likely to result in injury to itself, to handlers, or to persons or animals nearby.
  - d. The cage containing the bear has a mesh size no greater than 2 inches square.
  - e. The cage shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow the bear, bobcat or raccoon to make normal postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement to sit, stand on all 4 legs, turn around and lie in a normal manner.
  - f. The cage shall be designed to allow urine and feces to drain from the cage.
  - g. Permanent devices such as handles or handholds shall be provided on the exterior that enables the cage to be lifted and ensures that anyone handling the cage will not come into physical contact with the bear, bobcat or raccoon contained inside.
  - h. When the cage is elevated in a tree or on a pole for training or trial purposes, the cage shall be raised a minimum of 10 feet off the ground.
4. All individuals except the owner of the captive animal, the owner's designee or the dog handler shall be kept at least 4 feet from the cage. For bear, a barrier shall be provided to assure that individuals other than the owner, designee or handlers are kept 4 feet from the cage.
5. Dogs shall be kept a minimum of one foot from the cage at all times by restraint, cage design or barrier fence except where the cage is covered by solid material, which prevents all physical contact between the dog and the captive animal. The one foot minimum distance does not apply to raccoon training or trials with the use of roll cages.
6. The cage shall be adequately shaded at all times.
7. The bear, bobcat or raccoon shall have access to fresh water.
8. Roll cages may not be used for dog training with bear or bobcat.
9. Training & Trialing periods.
  - a. The length of time that captive wild bear, bobcat or raccoon may be used for training exercises may not exceed 12 hours within a 24-hour period.
  - b. Captive wild bear, bobcat and raccoon shall be provided with a minimum of 8 consecutive hours of rest within a 24-hour period.
  - c. A bear, bobcat or raccoon used for training, may not be housed in an enclosure that does not meet the primary enclosure standards in s. NR 16.30(4), Wis. Adm. Code for a period of more than 72 hours.

### Captive rabbits/hares, coyote and fox, if lawfully obtained and possessed, may be used for dog training and trials, provided:

1. The rabbits/hares, coyote and fox are confined within a hound dog training enclosure which meets the requirements of NR 17.045, Wis. Adm. Code, which has been inspected by the department and for which the owner or operator holds a current hound dog training enclosure permit.
2. See section on Hound Dog Training Enclosures, Inspections and Permits above for more details.
3. Training & Trialing periods:
  - a. The length of time that training activity may occur in a hound dog training enclosure containing captive coyote or fox may not exceed 16 hours within a 24-hour period. Trialing with captive coyote or fox may not exceed 12 hours within a 24-hour period.
  - b. A minimum of 8 consecutive hours of rest within a 24-hour period shall be provided during which no dog training or trialing may take place within an enclosure containing captive coyote or fox.

## REPORTS, RECORD KEEPING AND PROOF OF LEGAL POSSESSION REQUIREMENTS

Each person holding a bird dog training license, a hound dog training license, a dog club training license, a bird dog trial license, or a hound dog trial license must keep a record by date of all captive wild animals that are purchased, acquired, transferred, died, killed or escaped, including:

1. Complete name and address and the number of any captive wildlife license of the person from whom the wild animals were purchased or acquired.
2. The date of the transaction and the number and species of the wild animals.
3. All captive wild animals that have died, have been killed, or have escaped.

Records must be kept up to date and all transactions must be recorded within 7 days. All records and reports must be kept for at least 3 years and must be made available for inspection by DNR personnel upon request.

### Annual Reports

All license holders must submit an annual report by January 30, each year.

Annual reports must include all of the following information for each species of captive wild animal licensed by the person holding the license:

1. The total number of each species of captive wild animals possessed on the date of the report.
2. The total number of each species of captive wild animals that were purchased or otherwise acquired during the reporting year.
3. The total number of each species of captive wild animals that were released or transferred during the reporting year.
4. The total number of each species of captive wild animals that were killed, escaped or died during the reporting year.

### Quarterly Reports

1. You must submit a quarterly report by April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31 each year for the previous 3 months.
2. You only need to report transactions involving **bobcat, coyote and fox** on your quarterly report.
3. A quarterly report does not need to be filed if you do not purchase, acquire, transfer, or have any deaths or escapes involving these species during a quarter.

Submission of required reports may be a condition for renewal of any license or permit.

### Sources of Captive Wild Animals for Hound Dog Training

**In-State Captive Sources.** Generally, all coyote, fox, rabbit, raccoon and bobcat used for hound dog training may only be obtained from a legal Wisconsin captive bred source. No free-ranging wild animals captured from the wild may be used for hound dog training purposes, except:

1. Coyotes and raccoons that are live trapped on a Wisconsin licensed wild fur farm.
2. Coyotes and rabbits that are causing a nuisance or damage and which have been live trapped for relocation under the authority of s. NR 12.10(1)(a)5. and (b)5.

Coyotes or rabbits that were live trapped under s. NR 12.10(1)(a)5. and (b)5., and released into a hound dog training enclosure, may not be later relocated to any other cage or enclosure unless the owner or operator of an enclosure holds a valid hound dog training enclosure permit for that enclosure.

**Out-of-State Captive Sources.** Unless authorized by the department, captive wild animals from out of state may not be used within a hound dog training enclosure. If the department authorizes use of an imported captive animal for use in hound dog training enclosures, the animal shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection as required under s. ATCP 11.02 and a copy of the certificate maintained with the records required to be kept under s. NR 17.11(5) and a copy shall be provided to the department with quarterly reports required under s. 169.36(9)(b), Stats. When determining whether to issue an authorization under this subsection the department shall consider whether the animal originates from a state or country with suspected or known infectious wildlife diseases.

**Note:** To request the use of an imported captive wild animal, contact the state wildlife veterinarian, (608) 266-8204.

## DOG TRAINING AND TRIALING ON FREE-ROAMING WILD ANIMALS

Except as described in 'Prohibitions' below, any person may train dogs on free-roaming wild animals without a dog training or trialing license.

### Prohibitions

- ❖ **Department lands.** Dogs shall be controlled on a leash not longer than 8 feet in length from April 15 - July 31 on all DNR public hunting lands with the exception of Class 1 dog training grounds and Class 2 dog training grounds approved on a dog training or trail license.
- ❖ **Exceptions for training on raccoons and rabbits.** Except where prohibited in state parks, campgrounds, natural areas and other posted areas, from July 1 to the following April 14th, hound dogs may be trained on free-roaming raccoons and rabbits on department lands without a leash.
- ❖ **Northern restricted zone.** Dog training on any captive or free-roaming wild animal is prohibited May 1 to June 30 on all lands within the northern restricted zone, except as follows:

A person may train or trial dogs on captive or free-roaming raccoons and rabbits in the northern restricted zone May 1 to June 30 provided all the following apply:

1. The licensee applies for and receives a hound dog training or trialing license.
2. The licensee complies with any restrictions placed on a license to prevent the intentional or unintentional pursuit of wild bear.
3. The licensee may list up to 3 townships in the same or adjoining counties for training purposes.
4. The department approves the property locations listed.
5. No more than 2 dogs in a single pack may be used to pursue raccoon or rabbit for training purposes regardless of the number of persons assisting or accompanying the hound dog training license holder and regardless of the dog ownership.

6. For trialing purposes, the location of the Master of Hounds and the name of any approved state properties where the dog trials are to be held shall be listed on the hound dog trial license and application.

- ❖ **Bear dog training period.** An individual may ONLY use dogs to pursue free-roaming wild bear from July 1 to August 31 and provided:
  - The person possesses a class A or B bear license or is under age 12;
  - Each dog is uniquely tattooed or wears a collar with the owner's name and address attached;
  - No more than 6 dogs in a single pack may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of persons assisting the licensee and regardless of the dog ownership.

**NOTE:** Bears may not be pursued where prohibited in state parks, state campgrounds, state natural areas or other posted or restricted areas.



**Northern Restricted Zone.**

- ❖ **Killing wild animals.** No person engaged in training dogs may kill or cause to be killed any free-roaming wild animal including unprotected wild animals without department approval.
- ❖ **Revocations.** Pursuant to s. 169.45(7), Stats., the department may revoke a dog training license issued under s. 169.20, Stats., when dogs are found to be running bear in the northern restricted zone at times other than the July 1 to August 31 bear dog training period established under s. NR 10.101(2)(b).

**Hunters:** A hound dog training license is not required to train on free roaming bear during the July 1 to August 31 bear dog training period. A class A or B bear hunting license is required to train during this period. Bear may only be hunted with the aid of dogs during the open season for hunting bear with dogs.

## DOG TRIALS ON DEPARTMENT LANDS

Applications should be made before March 1 for trials held on or prior to July 31 and before July 1 for trials held after July 31 to coordinate scheduling with other events. Applications will be considered on a first-come first-served basis and must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the date of the trial.

Captive wild pheasants, when provided by the DNR, may only be used on department lands and may not be shot at dog trials unless authorized by the department. All unused live game birds provided by the department shall be released on the trial grounds at the end of the event. All animals which are no longer alive should be consumed or disposed of properly and promptly.

The department may cancel or reschedule dog trial events and restrict or prohibit dog trial equine or vehicle use if excessive damage occurs or is likely to occur to soils or vegetation on department lands. License fees shall be refunded if a trial is canceled by the department and an alternative site or date cannot be established. All trash and other waste materials including field trial markers are to be removed at completion of the trial. A grounds marshal or Master of Hounds is responsible for the dog trial coordination, supervision, clean up and regulation compliance shall be designated by the licensee for each field trial. Equines may be used only as authorized by the trial license.

## CLASSES OF FIELD TRIAL GROUNDS

### Class 1 field trial and training grounds

Class 1 grounds are those department lands that are posted, marked or designated where dog trials are allowed year-round, except hunting shall have priority. Class 1 field trial grounds include the following:

- 1) Richard Bong state recreation area- the west unit of the special use zone
- 2) George W. Mead wildlife area
- 3) Lower Wisconsin River wildlife area- Mazomanie unit
- 4) Kettle Moraine state forest- Ottawa unit
- 5) Pine Island wildlife area

### Class 2 field trial and training grounds

Class 2 field trial and training grounds include all other DNR lands designated on the license and approved by the local state wildlife biologist. Department lands will not be approved if dog training or trialing is determined to be inconsistent with the master plan, property plan, wildlife management objectives, or federal requirements.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



This publication is available in braille, audio cassette, large print or computer format upon request. To order, call 608-266-8204.