

131020

Citizen Resolution Reduce the hound bear training season

Wisconsin's two-month-long, continuous hound bear training season needs to be shortened to no longer than two weeks.

The hound bear training season from July 1 until August 31 is during the hottest summer months. Dogs can run daily, and a fresh dog can legally be chained to keep pressure on a bear in order to get it treed or until it fights.

The bear learns that a tree is a safe place from the dogs. After two months of a hunter retrieving his dogs from the treed bear, the bear's been trained to tree. In September during the hound kill season, this training is used to harvest the bear.

To turn hound bear hunting back to what it was intended to—a fair chase kill—the hound is to aid in harvesting one's bear. The sitter uses a gun or bow to aid his harvest. Not until kill season starts is it legal to sit with a gun or bow. The hound, like the gun and bow, can't be considered less or more important to aid one's harvest of a bear.

It is time to reduce the training season to something that respectfully treats black bears the way they deserve to be treated and as the big game they are.

Be it resolved on April 13, 2020 that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Taylor County work with the DNR to correct this situation through the introduction of a rule change on hound training season.

Jenifer Koberstein  
Jenifer K  
2358 S. Squire Rd  
Fitchburg WI 53711  
Dane County  
303-217-3813