

Wisconsin Bird Dog & Dog Club Training Regulations

WM-562-2015

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

A Bird Dog or Dog Club Training License allows the licensee to possess and use the following live captive-bred species for dog training purposes:

- bobwhite and other quail species of the subfamily *odontophorinae*,
- gray (Hungarian), chukar, and red-legged partridge,
- mallard duck, bred in captivity
- ring-necked and Reeves pheasants.

A license is not needed:

- to accompany a trainer or observe dog training activities
- to assist in handling the dogs during dog training activities
- to handle dead birds killed by a licensed dog trainer
- to train on a licensed bird hunting preserve
- for dog club members to train on a licensed Dog Club Training property

A Bird Dog Training License requires the completion of a bird dog training application, which is available at your local DNR service center or on the Internet (dnr.wi.gov).

Each bird dog or dog club training license is valid until the third December 31st after the date of issuance. Example: A license issued in June of 2013 is valid until December 31, 2015.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Each person who participates in bird dog training with the use of captive wild game-birds specified above must have their own bird dog training license, or be a member of a club that holds a dog club training license. "Participation" includes purchasing, possessing, releasing, and/or shooting live captive wild animals for dog training purposes.

This license does not authorize commercial shoots, organized hunts, or the selling, breeding, or propagation of captive wild birds.

Bird Dog Training License \$25.00

May be issued to any individual who is at least 10 years of age who files a dog training license application and pays the applicable fee. If licensee is shooting at or killing birds, all hunter safety and mentoring laws apply.

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 approved DNR dog training grounds, or other public or private properties with landowner permission.
- ❖ **Captive wild bird identification.**
 - A. All bobwhite quail, pheasants and gray partridge 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 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.

- ❖ **Non-toxic shot** must be used when training with mallard ducks.
- ❖ **Bird bands.** The licensee and persons assisting them may not have on their person any unused Department dog training bird bands while engaged in dog training. Wild birds, and birds that are not banded or identified as required above prior to release, 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) 261-8458.
- ❖ **Care, Handling & Treatment.** See Section on Care and Treatment of Birds and Animals (below).
- ❖ **Record Keeping.** Maintain proof of legal possession of captive wild animals, and file annual reports with the Department regarding dog training activities (see below).

Dog Club Training License \$100.00

Issued to an **organization** that files a dog club training application with the applicable fee, *and* owns or leases land for the purpose of training bird dogs or hound dogs to retrieve, point, flush or track game. 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 a minimum 14 years of age and eligible to obtain a dog club training license. Members must be eligible to participate in legal dog training activities, and be identified in writing as members of the 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 10 may possess a firearm. A person under the age of 10 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 or kill any animal 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 approved captive wild birds that are bred in captivity for bird dog training. Training under this license may only take place on properties owned or leased by the club. The species authorized for use under a dog club training license are the same as those for an individual bird dog or hound dog training license.

All requirements of the bird dog training license 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.

CLASSES OF FIELD TRAINING GROUNDS

Class 1 training grounds

Class 1 grounds are those department lands that are posted, marked or designated where dog training is allowed year-round, except hunting shall have priority. Class 1 field training 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: Northern Unit upland and wetland grounds, and Southern Unit-Ottawa Grounds
- 5) Pine Island wildlife area

Class 2 training grounds

Class 2 training grounds include any other DNR lands which are designated on maps available from the Department (dnr.wi.gov, keyword search "dog training"). Department lands will not be approved if dog training is determined to be inconsistent with the master plan, property plan, wildlife management objectives, or federal requirements. Class 2 grounds may have property-specific regulations (see maps). Many Class 2 grounds are closed April 15-July 31 as indicated on the property map and as posted at the property with department signs.

REPORTS, RECORD KEEPING AND PROOF OF LEGAL POSSESSION REQUIREMENTS

Each person holding a bird dog training license or a dog club training 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, address, and any captive wildlife license number 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 30th each year. Annual reports must include all of the following information for each species of captive wild bird:

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

DOG TRAINING ON FREE-ROAMING WILD ANIMALS

Except as described in 'Prohibitions' below, any person may train dogs on free-roaming wild animals (except wolves) 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, except for Class 1 and select Class 2 dog training grounds.
- ❖ *Northern restricted zone.* Dog training on any captive or free-roaming birds is prohibited May 1 to June 30 on all public and private lands within the northern restricted zone.



Northern Restricted Zone

- ❖ Some exceptions apply to these restrictions when training dog to pursue wild free-roaming bears, raccoons, and rabbits. See Hound Dog Training Regulations for details.

CARE AND TREATMENT OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS

Captive wild birds and animals 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 or animals 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, Wis. Adm. Code.

(See also separate DNR informational pamphlet on [Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards](#) for details.)

GENERAL PEN AND SHELTER REQUIREMENTS

1. Pens must be large enough to allow each captive wild animal to make normal position changes with plenty of freedom of movement.
2. All captive wild animals housed in the same enclosure must be compatible. Vicious or aggressive animals must be housed separately.

3. Outdoor facilities must provide shelter large enough to fit all animals inside comfortably.
4. Shelters need 4 sides, a roof and a floor and must provide the animals with protection from the cold, heat, sun, snow, wind and rain.
5. A wind and rain break must be provided at the shelter entrance.
6. Shelters need clean dry bedding material if the temperature falls below 50° F. Additional bedding is needed if temperatures fall below 35° F.
7. Metal barrels, cans, refrigerators, freezers and similar objects **may not** be used for shelters.
8. Shelters must be ventilated to provide for animal health and well-being, and to minimize odors, drafts, ammonia levels and moisture. Ventilation can be provided by windows, doors, vents, fans or air conditioning.
9. Shade areas large enough to contain all the captive wild animals at one time must be provided to protect them from the sun.
10. Outdoor shelter may consist of natural vegetation, which provides protection from the sun, wind, rain and snow.
11. **SPECIAL PEN REQUIREMENTS FOR WATERFOWL:** All waterfowl bred, raised or held on a captive wild animal farm must be enclosed within a covered pen throughout the states open season for hunting waterfowl when written or oral notice is given to the licensee by the department or its agents.

PEN REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION

When transporting captive wild animals the animals must be inside a compartment, transportation cage, carton or crate that meets the following requirements:

1. The enclosure must be strong enough to hold the animal securely and comfortably and to withstand the difficulties of transportation.
2. The enclosure must be large enough to allow every animal inside to turn about normally while standing, to stand and sit comfortably and to lie normally.
3. The interior of the enclosure must have no sharp points or edges that could injure the animal inside.
4. The cage must not allow any part of the animal's body to be put outside the cage in a way that could result in injury to itself, handlers or people or animals nearby.
5. It must be easy to quickly remove the animal in case of an emergency.
6. Unless the cage is permanently attached to a vehicle, handles or hand holds must be provided on the outside to prevent those handling the cage from coming in contact with the animal inside.
7. The enclosure must have adequate ventilation on at least 2 opposite walls.
8. The enclosure must have a solid bottom, or if made of slats or wire mesh it must be constructed so the animals' legs and feet cannot pass through the slats or holes.
9. Enclosures must be positioned in the vehicle in a way that protects the animals from the elements.
10. Transportation enclosures must be cleaned before every use. If the animal is in transit for more than 24 hours the enclosure must be cleaned to prevent the soiling of the animal by body waste. If it becomes necessary to remove the captive wild animal from the enclosure in order to clean, or to move the animal to another enclosure, this procedure shall be completed in a way that safeguards the animal from injury and prevents escape.
11. When removing animals from an enclosure care must be taken to prevent them from injuries or escaping.
12. Animals transported in the same enclosure must be of the same species and be compatible.
13. Overly aggressive or vicious animals must be transported individually.
14. You should carry a copy of your license or receipts during transportation to show you are authorized to possess the animals you are transporting.

Captive Wildlife Laws

State Statute Chapter 169, Captive Wildlife is available for download here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/documents/captive169.pdf>
 Administrative Code NR 16, Captive Wildlife is available for download here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/documents/captiveNR16.pdf>

To purchase copies via mail, please call or write:
 Document Sales
 P.O. Box 7840
 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7840
 608-266-3358

For more information, please see the Department of Natural Resources' website: dnr.wi.gov , keyword search "Dog Training".