

## FAQs for Wisconsin Bird Dog Training and Trialing

### Bird Dog Training

#### 1. When is a bird dog training license required?

While training dogs on public or private lands while possessing and using live captive bred quail of the subfamily *odontophorinae* (includes bobwhite quail), gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, mallard duck, and pheasants of the species *phasianus colchicus* (ring-necked pheasant) or *syrmaticus reevesii* (Reeves pheasant). However, if you are training dogs while using a firearm on certain Department properties in Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties where special firearms restrictions apply (even without live captive birds), a dog training license is required regardless of the type of birds being used.

#### 2. If I have a dog training license and have someone else train with or assist me, do they need a dog training license also?

A license is not needed to accompany or observe dog training activities, to assist in handling the dogs during dog training activities, or to handle dead birds killed by a licensed dog trainer. Each person who participates in bird dog training by handling or shooting the listed captive wild game-birds must have their own individual 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 at live captive wild animals for dog training purposes.

#### 3. Is there a closed season for training on captive or free-roaming wild birds on private lands?

It is not legal to train on or allow dogs to pursue any free roaming wild animals from May 1 to June 30 on any lands within the northern restricted zone described in NR 10.07(1)(i). But training in this area with captive wild birds under a bird dog training license is allowed.

#### 4. Do I need a dog training license to train with pigeons?

Yes, but only if you are using a firearm on certain Department properties as described in answer #1 (above). Pigeons are not one of the listed captive birds requiring a dog training license. Pigeons are unprotected and not treated as a wild animal in Wisconsin. They can be hunted or used for training year-round with no daily bag limits or possession limits. The Department considers and treats pigeons as a "domestic species". However, if you are training dogs with and releasing live pigeons on any DNR lands open for dog training, prior written authorization is required; which may be in the form of a dog training license.

#### 5. Do I need a dog training license to train with dead game birds?

Yes, but only if you are using a firearm on certain Department properties as described in answer #1 (above). Dog training licenses are required when using live captive animals. However, it is a good idea to avoid using recently killed birds so that they won't be mistaken for illegally hunted game birds in your possession. You may want to use a wing or thawed game bird carcass that was not recently killed to avoid any confusion.

### Dog Club Training

#### 1. What is the definition of "dog club"?

"Dog club" means an organization that owns or leases land for the purpose of training bird dogs or hound dogs to retrieve, point, flush or track game and has a membership of at least two people.

**2. Do we have to own the land to get a club training license?**

A dog club training license can be issued for any lands that are owned or leased by the club.

**3. Can I get a dog club training license for DNR lands?**

No, but you can get a dog training license that is good for all designated dog training grounds on DNR lands.

## **Dog Trials**

**1. Can I train my dog while a dog trial is occurring on a DNR property?**

There may be areas of the larger DNR training/trial grounds that are not used during certain scheduled dog trials. By checking with event organizers, a person may find areas to train their dogs during a trial. However, dog training may be prohibited on some designated training/trialing grounds in State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas during a licensed dog trial. In an effort to avoid conflicts, the schedules for most dog trials are posted at the training/trial grounds.

**2. Do I need a dog trial license to hold a trial on my own property?**

Yes, but only if you are holding a trial on private property and using captive wild pheasants of the species *phasianus colchicus* (ring-necked pheasant) or *syrmaticus reevesii*, quail of the subfamily *odontophorinae* (includes bobwhite quail), gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, and mallard ducks that are bred in captivity.

**3. Is there a closed period for trials using captive or free-roaming wild birds on private lands?**

It is not legal to hold a trial which allows dogs to pursue any free roaming wild birds from May 1 to June 30 on any lands within the northern restricted zone described in s. NR 10.07(1)(i). It is legal to hold a trial in the northern restricted zone with captive wild birds under a bird dog trial license.