

## Chapter NR 17

### DOG TRIALS AND TRAINING

NR 17.001 Definitions.  
NR 17.01 Dog trials.

NR 17.02 Dog training.

(ss. 23.09 and 29.255, Stats.)

**NR 17.001 Definitions.** (1) “Department” means the state of Wisconsin department of natural resources.

(2) “Department lands” means lands under the management and control of the department.

(3) “WAFTC” means the Wisconsin association of field trial clubs.

(4) “Regional trials” means AKC licensed or American field sanctioned trial in a region of the United States comprising more than one state.

(5) “Championship trial” means annual trial for a particular breed or breeds in which the champion of the year is determined.

(6) “Classic” means similar to a championship trial, which includes trials run on wild game birds of particular species (i.e., quail classic, prairie chicken classic, etc.).

(7) “Dog trial (field trial)” means any organized competitive field event involving sporting dog breeds which is sanctioned, licensed or recognized by a local, state, regional or national dog organization.

(8) “Dog training” means the activity of teaching a dog to retrieve, point, flush, and/or track game for the purpose of hunting or dog trial competition.

(9) “Protected wild animals” means animals described in s. NR 19.001 (14).

(10) “Unprotected wild animals” means animals described in s. NR 19.001 (17).

**Note:** For user clarification, the definitions established by s. NR 19.001 (14) and (17) are presented as follows:

(14) “Protected wild animals” means those animals for which a closed season, bag limit, size limit or possession limit has been provided by statute or administrative rule, and includes:

(a) Nongame species unless specifically designated as unprotected by the department;

(b) Game fish, game animals, game birds and fur bearing animals during closed seasons;

(c) Endangered and threatened species listed in ch. NR 27.

(17) “Unprotected wild animals” means those animals for which no closed season, bag limit, size limit or possession limit has been provided by statute or administrative rule.

Examples of unprotected wild animals include feral pigeons, chukar partridge and coturnix quail.

**History:** Cr. Register, July, 1977, No. 259, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. (1) (c), cr. (1) (i) and (j), Register, April, 1985, No. 352, eff. 5-1-85; **CR 02-018: am. (9) and (10) Register September 2002 No. 561, eff. 10-1-02.**

**NR 17.01 Dog trials.** (1) **PERMIT REQUIREMENT.** Except as established in sub. (2), a permit to conduct dog trials shall be obtained from the department for dog trials when:

(a) *Department land.* Any protected or unprotected captive animal is used on lands owned or controlled by the department; or

(b) *Other land.* Any captive protected animal is used on lands not owned or controlled by the department; and

(c) *Special area.* Any captive or wild, free-roaming animal is used May 1 to June 30 in the area north of the highways described in s. NR 10.07 (1) (i).

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.** Dog trial permits are not required on the licensed premises of game farms, fur farms and shooting preserves or on any private land when license holders use licensed animals for dog trials.

(3) **PERMIT CONDITIONS.** Dog trial permits are subject to the following conditions. The permit shall:

(a) *Cost.* Cost \$10 per trial except on the Bong state recreation area where the permit shall be issued without charge. The fee shall be submitted with the application.

**Note:** Additional admission fees may be required on state forest and recreation area lands.

(b) *Authority.* Authorize the permittee and persons accompanying the permittee to possess and use the animals specified on the permit for dog trials only. Selling, breeding and propagation of these captive animals are prohibited.

(c) *Area restriction.* Be valid only on the area identified on the permit.

(d) *Revocation.* Be revoked by the department if any administrative rules or permit restrictions are violated. No fees collected by the department will be returned if a permit is revoked.

(4) **APPLICATION.** Applications shall be made on forms provided by the department and may be made to the department at any time before February 1 for trials held prior to July 31 and before July 1 for trials held prior to December 31 to coordinate scheduling with WAFTC. Thereafter, applications for open dates shall be considered by the department on a first-come, first-served basis and shall be submitted at least 10 days prior to the date of the trial.

(5) **ANIMAL USE.** (a) *Species.* Species of animals to be used at dog trials shall be listed on the permit and are subject to approval of the department.

(b) *Protected animals.* If captive protected wild animals are used, the permittee shall have in possession, at the time of the trial, a receipt issued by a licensed game or fur farm from which the animal used at the trial was obtained. All animals so obtained and used which are no longer alive shall be consumed or promptly disposed of in a department approved site.

(c) *Private stock.* Live captive animals obtained from private sources may be removed from the trial grounds by persons in possession of a valid permit or license.

(d) *Department stock.* Captive protected wild animals provided by the department shall be used only on department lands and may not be shot at dog trials unless authorized by the department. Live game birds shall be released on the trial grounds at the end of the permit period.

(e) *Wild animals.* Wild, free-roaming animals may not be killed during the closed season.

(f) *Mammal identification.* Captive raccoons used for dog trials shall be tattooed on either ear with a letter-number combination determined by the department unless controlled by leash, cage or similar restraint.

(g) *Care and treatment.* Captive animals possessed for dog trial purposes shall be treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper and adequate housing, care, food and fresh water.

(6) **SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.** (a) *Grounds condition.* The department may cancel or reschedule dog trial events and restrict or prohibit dog trial horse use if excessive damage occurs or is likely to occur to soils or vegetation on department lands. Permit fees shall be refunded if a trial is canceled by the department and an alternative site or date cannot be established.

(b) *Camping*. Camping on department lands is allowed only by permit.

**Note:** Fees are required on state forest and recreation area lands.

(c) *Parking*. Vehicle parking on department lands is restricted to areas designated by the department.

(d) *Vaccinations*. The owner of a dog shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian within 30 days after the dog reaches the age of 4 months and revaccinated within one year after the initial vaccination as established by s. 95.21, Stats.

(e) *Tree damage*. No person may cause damage to trees by any manner of gaining access to trees on department lands.

(f) *Litter*. All waste material including field trial markers shall be removed by the permittee at the completion of the field trial.

(g) *Ground marshal*. A grounds marshal or master of hounds responsible for the dog trial coordination, supervision, clean-up and regulation compliance shall be designated by the permittee for each field trial.

(h) *Horses*. Horses may only be used as a trial activity. Pleasure riding is not permitted.

**(7) CLASSES OF FIELD TRIAL GROUNDS.** (a) *Class 1 field trial grounds*. Class 1 field trial grounds are those posted, marked or designated department lands where dog trials are permitted year-round, except hunting shall have priority. Class 1 field trial grounds include the following:

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

(b) *Class 2 field trial grounds*. Class 2 field trial grounds are those department lands not established in par. (a) and designated on the field trial permit subject to date restrictions of February 1 through April 15 or April 15 through July 31 at department discretion.

**History:** Cr. Register, July, 1977, No. 259, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. (7) (a)1., cr. (7) (c)5, and (8) (b), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; r. and recr. Register, April, 1985, No. 352, eff. 5-1-85; renum. (1) (a) to (e) to be (1) (d) to (h), r. and recr., (1) (intro.), cr. (3) (e), am. (3) (f) and (4) (g), Register, October, 1987, No. 382, eff. 11-1-87; r. and recr. (1), renum. (2) to (5) to be (4) to (7), cr. (2), (3) and (7) (a) 5., Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88.

**NR 17.02 Dog training.** (1) **PERMITS.** Except as established by sub. (3) (b), a valid dog training permit shall be required for any person to possess, use or shoot captive protected wild animals released for dog training purposes on any lands. The use of unprotected wild animals does not require a permit except May 1 to June 30 north of the highways described in s. NR 10.07 (1) (i). The permit shall:

(a) *Cost*. Cost \$5 per training period. The fee shall be submitted with the application.

**Note:** Additional user fees are required on state forest and recreation area lands.

(b) *Effective period*. Be effective through December 31 of the year following issue.

(c) *Authority*. Authorize the permittee and persons accompanying the permittee to possess and use captive, protected wild animals for dog training only. The permit does not authorize commercial or organized shoots, animal selling, breeding or propagation. On department lands, captive protected wild animals may only be used within designated dog training areas.

(d) *Possession*. Be in possession of the permittee while engaged in dog training activities and exhibited to any authorized department agent upon demand.

(e) *Area restriction*. Be valid only on the areas identified on the permit.

(f) *Revocation*. Be revoked by the department if any administrative rules or permit restrictions are violated. No fees collected by the department will be returned if a permit is revoked.

(2) **APPLICATION.** Applications shall be made on forms provided by the department.

(3) **ANIMAL USE.** Any person using captive protected wild animals for dog training shall possess a receipt issued by a licensed fur farm or game farm or by a dog training or dog trial permit holder.

(a) *Wild animals*. Any person may train dogs on, but may not kill free-roaming protected or unprotected wild animals without department approval and:

1. Department lands are restricted as established by sub. (4).
2. Wild bear may only be pursued for dog training purposes July 1 to August 31.

3. Dog training on any wild animal is prohibited May 1 to June 30 north of the highways described in s. NR 10.07 (1) (i).

**Note:** This paragraph clarifies the use of animals which are found in the wild (free-roaming) and not released from captivity at the time of training.

(b) *Licensed animals*. Training hunting dogs with raccoons possessed under authority of a game or fur farm license may be used at any time outside of department lands without a permit provided the animals are kept under control by caging or similar restraint. Except for bear dog training, training hunting dogs on other protected game possessed under the authority of a game farm, fur farm or shooting preserve license may also be used at any time outside of department lands without permit.

(c) *Mammal identification*. Captive raccoons used for dog training shall be tattooed on either ear with a letter-number combination determined by the department unless controlled by leash, cage or similar restraint.

(d) *Care and treatment*. Captive animals possessed for dog training purposes shall be treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper and adequate housing, care, food and fresh water.

(e) *Captive wild bird identification*. All captive wild birds released under the authority of a dog training license shall be marked prior to release around the leg with a permanent band supplied by the department.

(f) *Bird bands*. No person in possession of captive wild birds killed under the authority of a dog training permit shall have on their person any department unused dog training bird bands.

(4) **SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.** (a) *Department lands*. On department lands open to public hunting and not designated open to dog training, dogs shall be controlled by a person using a leash which is no more than 8 feet in length from April 15 through July 31.

(b) *Firearms*. Blank handguns may be used for dog training on wild game without a permit. Special firearm restrictions include:

1. No person may possess any firearm while dog training during the 24-hour period prior to the gun deer season unless hunting on licensed game farms or shooting preserves as established by s. NR 10.09 (2).

2. No person may possess any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun while within the boundary of state-owned lands posted with department signs in Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties as established by s. NR 45.09(5) except:

a. While engaged in hunting in accordance with the open seasons established in s. NR 10.01 (regular small game, big game and waterfowl seasons).

**Note:** This rule prohibits possession of any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun on the above areas during the closed season. This also prohibits hunting unprotected species and crows, grackles, red-winged blackbirds and cowbirds during the closed season.

- b. While at a designated target range.
- c. While training dogs under department permit within designated areas.

(c) *Vaccinations*. The owner of a dog shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian within 30 days after the dog

reaches the age of 4 months and revaccinated within one year after the initial vaccination as established by s. 95.21, Stats.

(d) *Dog pack size.* 1. No more than 6 dogs in a single pack may be used to pursue bear regardless of the dog ownership.

(5) CLASSES OF DOG TRAINING GROUNDS. (a) *Class 1 dog training grounds.* Class 1 dog training grounds are those posted, marked or designated department lands where dog training is a year-round recreational pursuit. Dog trainers may use horses where designated by the department Class 1 dog training grounds include the following:

1. Bong state recreation area – Special use zone.
2. Deansville wildlife area.
3. George W. Mead wildlife area.

4. Lower Wisconsin River wildlife area – Mazomanie unit.
5. Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern and Ottawa units.
6. Pine Island wildlife area.

(b) *Class 2 dog training grounds.* Class 2 dog training grounds are those department lands not established in par. (a) and designated on the permit. At department discretion, entry to Class 2 dog training grounds may be restricted to foot travel year-round and all dog training may be prohibited April 15 through July 31.

**History:** Cr. Register, July, 1977, No. 259, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, April, 1985, No. 352, eff. 5-1-85; am. (3) (b) and (4) (b), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87; am. (1) (intro.) and (3) (c), r. and recr. (3) (a), Register, October, 1987, No. 382, eff. 11-1-87; r. and recr. (5) (a) 3., Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; cr. (4) (d), Register, February, 1993, No. 446, eff. 3-1-93; CR 01-008: cr. (3) (e) and (f), am. (4) (b) 2. (intro.), Register November 2001 No. 551, eff. 4-1-02.