Task 4: Interview of State Wildlife Agency Personnel to Review the Status of Changes in Deer Dog-Hunting across the Southeastern States and Texas

Prepared for
USDA Forest Service
National Forests in Mississippi

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Executive Summary

We reviewed and summarized regulatory changes since 1980 as they related to deer hunting with dogs in 9 southeastern states and Texas. In addition, we evaluated which of the regulatory actions were most effective at reducing dog-trespass issues and identified critical lessons learned from our review.

Based on published regulations and dialog with state wildlife officials where dog-hunting currently occurs, we concluded that deer dog-hunting can remain a viable hunting tradition when clearly defined regulations determine when and where these activities occur to minimize conflicts among stakeholders (Table 1). The flexibility of regulations often varied based on local acceptance of deer hunting with dogs and land-ownership patterns. For areas within states with clearly defined areas of acceptance of dog-hunting and relatively large parcels of private land, dog-hunting zones or counties were delineated by states. However, even within these dog-hunting areas, setting aside still-hunting only areas or limiting part of the season to still-hunting appeared to minimize conflicts among hunters. States have allowed deer dogs on public lands based on parcel size; other characteristics of public lands, such as habitats and road access; characteristics of adjacent land ownership; and traditional hunting methods in the area. Even when public lands are large enough to justify deer hunting with dogs, employing a permit system, including display of permits and marking of dogs, aids in making hunters more accountable for keeping dogs on the public property. On private lands, we believe the fewest dog-trespass problems occur when states require a minimum acreage, hunter registration, and information on the dog’s collar and/or body that links it back to a specific permit. Alabama, Florida, and Georgia have adopted these regulations and reported relatively few dog-related conflicts. Texas has few deer-dog related conflicts because of their ban on deer dogs. We believe a total ban on this long-standing tradition is avoidable when considering that other
effective regulatory options exist. In review of our findings, we believe critical lessons learned are as follows: 1) although deer hunting with dogs has declined in popularity, many hunters still feel passionately about this long-standing tradition, and states have worked with hunters and other stakeholders to design regulations to minimize conflicts; 2) the primary conflict occurs when deer dogs travel onto properties where hunters do not have permission to hunt; 3) conflicts will persist unless the responsibility for preventing trespass is placed solely on the dog’s owner/handler, especially when relatively small parcels of land with conflicting objectives (i.e., dog-hunting versus no dog-hunting) are in close proximity. Where dog owners/handlers have been held accountable by regulatory authority, the frequency of conflicts has dramatically declined. These regulations are favored by adjacent landowners that do not want deer dogs on their properties and also by some special interest groups like the Georgia Dog Hunters Association.
Table 1. Regulations adopted by states in the southeastern U.S. during 1985-2018 to minimize dog deer-hunting conflicts.

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<th>LA</th>
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<th>NC</th>
<th>SC</th>
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<td>Allow deer dogs on all private lands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer dogs on private lands by permit only</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer dogs on private lands in specific parts of state</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prohibit deer dogs on some or all public lands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Deer dogs allowed on at least some national forests</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Dog deer-hunting on some public lands by permit only</td>
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<td>Special still-hunting only areas within dog-hunting areas</td>
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<td>Minimum acreage required on private or public lands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allow deer dogs during all of gun deer season in some areas</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Allow deer dogs during part of gun deer season in some areas</td>
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<td>Deer dog-training allowed outside of specific deer seasons</td>
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<td>Prohibit hunting with deer dogs on Sunday</td>
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<td>Prohibit hunting from public roads</td>
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<td>Require registration of hunters or clubs using deer dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Require permit and/or hunter information on dog collar</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Require visible marking of vehicles and/or deer dogs</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Require electronic collars on deer dogs in some areas</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deer dog-related conflicts minimal</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
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Introduction and Methods

A detailed account of the history of deer hunting with dogs in the United States was published in a technical report by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in 2008. Hunting deer with dogs was a popular hunting method and a form of recreation and social interaction in colonial America and the newly established states, particularly Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. However, by the mid-1700s, deer populations were declining in some areas because of unregulated hunting and habitat loss. Deer hunting with dogs was losing favor. Deer dog-hunting was considered too efficient when deer numbers were low and some practices used by dog hunters (e.g., driving deer into water) was considered unethical. In 1738, Virginia passed a law requiring dog owners to keep their dogs tied or kenneled except when on a hunt, to protect deer populations. In 1876, Wisconsin passed a law prohibiting deer hunting with dogs. Deer dog-hunting was prohibited throughout the northeastern states by the 1920s.

During recent times, the use of dogs to hunt deer has been legal in 9 Southeastern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia) and Texas. Among these states, the number of deer hunters using dogs typically has decreased over time. However, in some states, it remains a preferred method of pursuing deer by a segment of the deer-hunting public. Wildlife agencies in each of the above states have had to mitigate, or eliminate, deer dog-hunting opportunities due to conflicting interests of some adjacent landowners and deer hunters that oppose running deer with dogs.
To better understand the evolution of deer dog-hunting in these states, we collected and organized information related to 3 objectives: 1) summarize the chronology of events related to the implementation of deer dog-hunting and the administrative changes taken by state wildlife agencies for all Southeastern states and Texas over time since 1980; 2) summarize the actions that have and have not worked over time to manage deer dog-hunting and reduce or eliminate dog trespass issues (e.g., changes in access, season timing or length, implementation of quota hunts or a permit system, designated hunt areas), and 3) identify the critical lessons learned that rural states should consider and be aware of as they become more populated and if deer dog-hunting issues develop.

We addressed these objectives by interviewing natural resource professionals in each state, and when possible, extracting information from annual hunting regulation publications and wildlife law code books. Some states provided us with copies of their hunting regulation publications for multiple years, whereas, only the current year’s publication was available for other states. In this report, we provided a state-by-state account of our findings and concluded with a summary to highlight important major themes (e.g., non-regulatory actions, regulated open and closed areas, regulated open and closed seasons, regulations specific to hunting from roads, hunter/dog registration and permitting, and regulations requiring dogs to wear remote tracking and correction collars).
Results and Discussion

Alabama

We interviewed Mr. Michael Weathers, Chief of Enforcement, and Mr. Christopher Cook, Deer Program Coordinator for the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. In addition, we extracted information from the 2017-18 and 2018-19 hunting regulations publications (Appendix A), Code of Alabama 220-2-112 (Appendix B) and Alabama Dog Deer Hunting Permit Plans (Appendix C).

Dog trespass onto adjacent lands was the primary factor driving regulatory changes in Alabama. Currently, it is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in all or parts of 25 of Alabama’s 67 counties. It is lawful to hunt deer with dogs during a 60-day season in another 25 of 67 counties, except on some wildlife management areas (WMAs) within those counties. In all or parts of the remaining 17 counties, it is legal to hunt deer with dogs on privately owned or leased lands after applying for and obtaining a special permit. This county permit system was initiated in about 1985 in 2 counties and required that permit holders leased or owned at least 200 acres of land. However, in 2 counties, there was an additional requirement that a group of hunters must have access to at least 20 acres of land per member. In addition, in 2 of the 17 counties, deer dog-hunting was legal without a permit, if the hunter owned the land being hunted. Since then, additional counties have been added to the permit system by county-wide referendum.

Beginning in 2016, all deer-dog hunting permit applicants were required to lease or own a minimum of 500 contiguous acres of hunting land.

It is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on 3 of Alabama’s 4 national forests and all but 3 of the state’s >30 WMAs. Alabama does not issue permits to hunters on any public lands. The
WMAs where deer hunting with dogs is allowed each has a structured-season framework where
dog-hunting is allowed only during certain dates. We were told that deer hunting with dogs on
the Talladega National Forest is currently the most hotly contested hunting issue in the state. To
minimize dog-trespass complaints, portions of that forest were recently closed to dog-hunting.
However, so far, this action has not resulted in fewer dog-related complaints.

The county-based permit system for deer hunting with dogs is credited for saving the
sport in Alabama. Before the permit system was adopted, each year, additional counties were
prohibiting deer dogs. The state wildlife agency hosts at least 2 public forums each year and
deer hunting with dogs always is the most contentious topic. Input from these public forums is
considered when establishing hunting regulations. The permit system was thought to work well
because it puts accountability on the hunters, not on the dogs. Agency representatives thought
the one limitation of the permit system was that it is not well suited for use on public lands.
Public lands are open to general public access and it would be too difficult to permit individual
hunters.

Arkansas

We interviewed Mr. Ralph Meeker, Deer Program Coordinator for Arkansas Game and
Fish Commission (AGFC). In addition, we extracted information from the 1980 through 2018-
19 hunting regulations publications (Appendix D).

Currently, it is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in 11 of 25 deer management zones. It is
lawful to hunt deer with dogs during seasons ranging from 23-46 days in 14 zones. In 1980, it
was unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in 2 zones and lawful during a split 17-day season in 21
zones. The number of days when dogs could be used to hunt deer increased over time to mirror
increases in lengths of the general modern gun deer seasons. We were told that the main reasons for changes in the number of lawful versus unlawful zones was zone restructuring.

The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests were closed to deer hunting with dogs in 2002. As early as the 1970s, parts of the Ozark National Forest were included in the state-managed WMA system, which precluded deer hunting with dogs. This decision most likely was an effort to take pressure off of deer populations in areas with relatively low deer abundance. The prohibition of deer dogs on WMAs probably dates back to the period of deer population reestablishment (1930s-1950s) and likely took several factors into consideration including deer abundance, small size of many WMAs and potential dog-related conflicts with adjacent landowners and other user groups. The Ouachita National Forest currently is not under the WMA system and no special regulations govern the use of deer dogs. However, we were told that the AGFC is getting increasingly more requests from the public to prohibit deer dogs there because of dog trespass issues. So far, the U.S. Forest Service has not requested a restriction on deer dogs on the Ouachita National Forest and AGFC has not pursued it because of the voice of a very active deer dog-hunting group. Until 1985, there was a height restriction (<15-inch shoulder height) on deer dogs in certain zones with mountainous terrain. It is thought that this restriction was established to prevent larger dogs from putting too much pressure on fleeing deer when their escape routes were limited by terrain and the perception that deer hunting with dogs was overly effective in these zones. It is unclear why the dog-height restriction was removed. Since before 1980, deer dogs were required to have identifying information (i.e., owner’s name, phone number, and address). Until 2005, this information could be recorded on the dog’s collar or tattooed in its ear. Currently, all dogs must wear a collar with the information recorded on it. Until 1999, all hunters using dogs were required to purchase a separate hunting dog license and
all hunting dogs were required to wear the license tag on their collars. It is unclear why the dog-license regulation was removed. In 1987 and 1988, laws were passed prohibiting hunting from public roads and their right-of-ways. In addition to the modern gun deer hunting seasons, there is a separate 92-day deer-dog training season on private lands in zones that allow hunting with deer dogs.

In regards to deer hunting with dogs in Arkansas, participation in the sport has fluctuated over time. Participation seemed to drop off during tough economic years (e.g., high fuel prices) with a resurgence during easier years. Currently, there seems to be a trend where deer dog-hunters are switching to hunting feral pigs with dogs. Currently, there are no discussions by wildlife professionals to implement a permit system to regulate dog-hunting in Arkansas.

**Florida**

We received information from Ms. Becky Shuman, Assistant Deer Management Program Coordinator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Mr. Cory Morea, Deer Management Coordinator, FWC, including the legal statutes related to deer hunting with dogs since 2005 (Appendix E). In addition, we extracted information from the 2018-2019 hunting regulations publication (Appendix F).

Since Florida Code §68A-12.007 was adopted in 2005, it has been lawful to hunt deer with dogs in Florida’s 67 counties only after submitting a Deer Dog Permit Application Form (Appendix G) and abiding by the Deer Dog Registration process (Appendix H). This is a way for FWC to monitor participants in the sport and where they are hunting. So far, no applicants have been denied a deer-dog permit. Any privately owned lands registered to the landowner(s), lessee, or other person designated by the landowner(s) are authorized to allow deer dog-hunting
within the property boundaries under their control. An aggregate of private lands, including those under different ownership, can be authorized under a single registration. All hunting dogs must wear a collar or tag, which legibly displays the name and address of the dog’s owner, and the entire FWC-issued permit number specific to the property. In addition, each person taking, attempting to take, trailing, pursuing or molesting deer on the permitted property must have a copy of the dog-hunting registration in their possession. No dog shall be allowed to hunt deer off of the registered property, whether intentionally or negligently. Dogs cannot be used to hunt deer outside of the general gun seasons in each zone (ranging from 14-81 days) except they may be allowed for training purposes to pursue deer from the first Saturday in October and for 19 days thereafter, except in the Northwest Zone when training season begins the last Saturday in October and continues for 19 days thereafter. It is unlawful to possess any gun while training deer dogs during this period.

The FWC considers the use of free-ranging dogs for sport hunting of deer on WMAs based on the following criteria: 1) the level of local and regional interest in dog-hunting versus the level of local and regional interest in other forms of wildlife-oriented recreation.; 2) the local and regional availability of dog-hunting opportunities versus the level of local and regional availability of other forms of wildlife-oriented recreation; and 3) the size of the tract being evaluated (i.e., no tract smaller than 33,000 acres will be considered for unrestricted deer dog-hunting; no tract smaller than 15,000 acres will be considered for restricted [i.e., small dogs only] deer dog-hunting); 4) the shape of the area being evaluated (i.e., no area averaging less than 2 miles in width will be designated as a deer dog-hunt area; no area averaging less than 3 miles in width shall be designated as an unrestricted deer dog-hunt area); 5) adequacy of the road system (i.e., areas to be considered as dog-hunt areas should include a network of passable roads
or areas appropriately accessible by vehicle sufficient to provide 4-wheeled drive vehicular access within 1.5 linear miles of any point on the area; and a passable perimeter road is also highly desirable to facilitate control of dog packs); 6) desired deer and turkey population levels; and 7) surrounding land use. Currently, FWC allows deer hunting with dogs on 28 of the state’s 173 WMAs. Blackwater WMA, located in the Panhandle of Florida, has a long history of deer hunting with dogs and has experienced many regulatory changes since the mid-1960s (Appendix I). Two of the most recent and innovative regulations went into effect on Blackwater in 2014 (i.e., remote tracking collars required on dogs) and 2016 (i.e., remote behavior correction collars required on dogs). Eglin Air Force Base will require remote tracking collars on deer dogs beginning with the 2019-2020 deer season.

Georgia

We interviewed Mr. Charlie Killmaster, State Deer Biologist for Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division (WRD). In addition, we extracted information from the 2009 through 2018-19 hunting regulations publications (Appendix J) and other documents provided by WRD (Appendix K).

Georgia counties allowing deer hunting with dogs has generally declined over time (e.g., 1960 = 74, 1970 = 66, 1980 = 46, 1990 = 45, 2000 to present = 41). The 41 counties where deer dogs are allowed are located in the southern half of the state. These counties were selected for deer hunting with dogs because of larger parcel size, historical use of deer dogs, and current interest in deer dog-hunting by local hunters. Among these counties deer can be hunted with dogs during seasons ranging from 37-86 days.
During the 2002-2003 hunting season, conflicts escalated among landowners, still hunters, and dog-deer hunters related to hunting from public roads, dog trespass and hunter trespass resulting in regulatory proposals to eliminate hunting deer with dogs in 4 counties. Similar proposals were anticipated from 6 additional counties. To prevent the likely loss of 25% of the acreage available statewide for deer hunting with dogs, the Georgia Dog Hunters Association led an effort resulting in regulatory changes. In 2003, House Bill 815 passed and thereby required that properties being hunted with the aid of deer dogs must first obtain a WRD-issued permit, meet minimum acreage requirements (i.e., 1,000 acres of leased land or 250 acres of privately owned land), and post permit numbers on dogs and vehicles used during hunting. The ruling made it possible for the WRD to revoke permits for properties or individuals that were proven to be in violation of the approved guidelines. Since initiation of the deer dog-hunting permit system, public complaints have significantly declined. It appears that landowners, deer dog-hunters, and still hunters are reasonably satisfied with the permitting system. In 2016, WRD policy was approved to increase deer dog-hunting opportunities. Eight counties where it was unlawful to hunt deer with dogs, but with historic use of deer dog-hunting, could apply for a regulatory change, which would legalize the use of deer dogs in the county. To qualify, it must be demonstrated that a supermajority (i.e., 66% within margin of error) of landowners and hunters approved of the regulatory change. In addition, it must be demonstrated that none of the stakeholder groups have strong opposition to the change (i.e., >50% of all opposition). To initiate the regulatory change process, the WRD Director must receive a formal written request from a group of 10-20 local hunters. So far, no additional counties have requested to have dog-hunting legalized.
Currently, no federal lands in Georgia allow deer hunting with dogs. Deer dogs are allowed on select WMAs where the activity is considered reasonable based on acreage and public support.

**Louisiana**

We interviewed Mr. Jonathan Bordelon, Deer Program Manager for Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. In addition, we extracted information from the 2018-19 hunting regulations publication (Appendix L).

Louisiana is divided into 10 Deer Management Areas (herein, Deer Areas), which often have different deer season dates with about 80% of the state being open to deer hunting with dogs on private lands. Currently, it is lawful to deer hunt with dogs on 9 Deer Areas during firearms seasons with dog-hunting opportunities ranging from 30-44 days depending on area. Only 1 Deer Area with unsuitable habitat type (i.e., too much water) and low deer abundance prohibits the use of deer dogs. Even though allowed across most of the state, deer hunting with dogs is not popular among deer hunters (4-5% participation). In a recent survey, 58% of deer hunters had an unfavorable opinion about deer hunting with dogs and it is common for private landowners to prohibit deer hunting with dogs on their lands. Portions of 4 Deer Areas (where deer dogs are lawful) allow only still hunting for deer because of public requests and political pressures to prohibit deer dogs. In addition, because of hunter requests, some of each firearms deer season in Deer Areas with dog-hunting seasons, are reserved for still hunting only. Deer hunting with dogs is unlawful on all of the state’s >50 WMAs and on private lands within their boundaries. Until 2013, deer hunting with dogs was lawful on Louisiana’s only national forest (Kisatchie National Forest, 604,000 acres). The prohibition of deer dogs on Kisatchie was
proposed by the U.S. Forest Service in 2009 based on concerns about public safety, conflicts between hunters and landowners, and dog trespass. The Louisiana Sportsmen Alliance unsuccessfully sued U.S. Forest Service in 2012 and 2016 to prevent and subsequently overturn the deer dog ban.

**Mississippi**

We interviewed Mr. William McKinley, Deer Program Coordinator, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP). In addition, we extracted information from the 2018-2019 hunting regulations publication (Appendix M) and from the guidelines for Hunting with Dogs on Homochitto National Forest (Appendix N). In addition, we interviewed Mr. Bill Meriwether, District Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist at Homochitto National Forest, U.S. Forest Service.

Currently, it is lawful to hunt deer with dogs during a 39-day season on all private lands and all Open Public Lands (including 6 national forests and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers properties) in Mississippi’s 82 counties. Mississippi Statute 49-7-31 requires that deer hunting with dogs be allowed from the Saturday before Thanksgiving through December 1 and from December 24 until a date determined by MDWFP. Open Public Lands have the same deer dog-hunting seasons and regulations as private lands with the exception of Homochitto National Forest, which requires a dog-hunting permit. On Open Public Lands it is lawful to kill only bucks when hunting with dogs. However, deer of either sex may be killed on privately owned lands. There are no acreage requirements for dog-deer hunting on private lands. The state’s >50 WMAs are not considered Open Public Lands and some allow deer hunting with dogs, whereas, some do not. Training of deer dogs is allowed outside of deer-hunting season without permits on
private and Open Public Lands except during the spring turkey season. Training of dogs during the spring turkey season is by permit only. To minimize conflicts between deer hunters using dogs and those not using dogs, Mississippi Statute 49-7-31 established an 8-day (December 16-23) still-hunting only deer season. To further minimize deer dog-related conflicts, on Homochitto National Forest, hunters now are required to use electronic training collars on dogs while hunting. According to MDWFP, this requirement appears to have reduced dog-related conflicts.

**North Carolina**

We interviewed Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Deer Biologist for North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. In addition, we extracted information from the 2009-10 through 2018-19 hunting regulations publications and added year-specific information on deer-dog related legislation back to 1975 (Appendix O). Dr. Shaw also provided us with copies of several North Carolina legislative rules and codes (Appendix P).

In 1979, the North Carolina legislature defined where deer hunting with dogs could occur. In general, it was ruled that the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) could not restrict or prohibit the use of dogs in hunting or the training of dogs, in season or out, except during April 15-June 15 in the area of the state lying east of the newly designated dog-hunting line. West of that line and on Game Lands (i.e., public and private lands managed by WRC), wildlife refuges, and public-hunting grounds, WRC was given authority to regulate the use of dogs taking wildlife with respect to seasons, and times and places of use. It currently is lawful to hunt deer with dogs in all or parts of 50 counties located east of the dog-hunting line during gun deer seasons (52-80 days) and to train deer dogs in those counties year-round except during April 15-
June 15 (303 days). There are no acreage requirements for hunting deer with dogs on private lands east of the dog-hunting line. However, it is unlawful to hunt deer being chased by dogs on private and public lands on Sundays. It is unlawful to hunt or chase deer with dogs anytime in all or parts of 55 counties located west of the dog-hunting line. On state-managed Game Lands, the decision to allow or prohibit deer hunting with dogs is based on parcel size, landowner request (if not owned by WRC), and surrounding landscape use. This is determined on a case-by-case basis. In general, counties west of the dog-hunting line have smaller parcel sizes and lower deer abundance than those counties lying east of that line. In regards to federal lands, there are 4 national forests in North Carolina. Of those, only Croatan National Forest has a season open to hunting deer with dogs during October 31-January 1.

Hunter surveys conducted in 2006 and 2016 suggested that the number of hunters that use dogs to pursue deer where it is allowed in North Carolina has declined over time. When considering conflicts between adjacent landowners and hunting interest groups, Dr. Shaw considers effective communication to be the most useful tool/practice for minimizing conflicts.

**South Carolina**

We interviewed Mr. Charles Ruth, Big Game Program Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). In addition, we extracted information from the 2018-2019 hunting regulations publication (Appendix Q).

We were told that there have been very few regulatory changes over time in South Carolina related to dog-hunting with a few exceptions regarding activities on public roads. Although the topic of deer hunting with dogs comes up in the state’s legislature about every 8-10 years, primarily because of dog-trespass issues, no action has been taken to minimize the
problem. SCDNR was directed by the legislature to participate in 2 large stakeholder reviews (Dog Deer Hunting Stakeholder Working Groups) in the past 10 years to resolve conflicts among dog hunters, still hunters, and landowners. However, the process demonstrated a lack of consensus among those groups and no subsequent regulatory changes have been proposed. Both of the national forests in South Carolina function as state-managed WMAs. Deer hunting with dogs is unlawful on WMAs except for the Francis Marion National Forest and Manchester State Forest. The Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF) is divided into distinct WMAs with their own hunting dates and regulations relative to deer hunting with dogs. The type of firearms and/or ammunition allowed on FMNF depends on individual WMA regulations. It is unlawful to hunt deer by still hunting during any scheduled dog hunt. The Manchester State Forest WMA (owned by the South Carolina Forestry Commission) allows individual hunt masters to apply for a deer dog-hunting permit, which is awarded by lottery drawing and specific to 10 scheduled dates during the hours of 8:00 AM-2:00 PM (Appendix R). In addition to the above WMAs, deer hunting with dogs is lawful on privately owned lands in the 28 coastal counties comprising Game Zones 3 and 4. In Game Zone 3, deer dogs are lawful during the congruent archery and gun seasons from August 15-January 1 (140 days). In Game Zone 4, deer dogs are lawful during the gun deer season from September 1-January 1 (123 days). Deer hunting with dogs is unlawful on private and state-managed lands in 18 Piedmont/mountain counties comprising Game Zones 1 and 2. The use of deer dogs in coastal regions of South Carolina is a longstanding tradition and the prohibition of them in mountainous regions has been that way for many years, too.
We interviewed Mr. Alan Cain, White-tailed Deer Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). He referred us to Mr. Robert McDonald, Regulations Coordinator for TPWD, whom provided us with a copy of the pertinent legal statutes (Appendix S) and his historical perspective on the regulatory process. In addition, we reviewed the 2018-2019 Texas hunting regulations publication, which indicated it was unlawful to “use dogs to hunt deer in this state.” Furthermore, it indicated, “a person who violates this law is subject to a fine of $500-$4,000 and/or a year in jail. Additionally, a person’s hunting and fishing license may be revoked or suspended. No person may possess a shotgun and buckshot or slugs while in the field with dogs on another person’s land during an open deer season” in 10 East Texas counties.

Legislation to prohibit the use of dogs when hunting deer in certain Texas counties was enacted as early as 1925. According to Texas Code §65.17, it was unlawful to use dogs to hunt deer in all but 7 East Texas counties in 1980. From a review of the deer-related legal statutes, it was unclear to us exactly when hunting deer with dogs became unlawful in all counties. However, we found wording, which suggested that the total ban on deer dogs was statewide by about 1985. Before 1983, wildlife law in Texas was a hodgepodge, with some regulations established by the legislature, some by the commissioner’s courts in the counties, and yet more by the Parks and Wildlife Commission (and precursor agencies). In 1997, the legislature passed the Administrative Procedure and Texas Register Act (APTRA) to systematize the process of agency rulemaking. In 1983, the legislature enacted the Uniform Wildlife Regulatory Act, which placed all regulation of wildlife in the hands of a single state agency, TPWD. All issues regarding means and methods since then have been decided by the Commission. Under APTRA, state agencies were allowed to gradually migrate their various rules from whatever
numbering/designation system they had been using as they found it necessary to amend existing rules.

Although the legal statutes related to deer dog-hunting in Texas are convoluted, the general theme is clear. Historically, the sport was mostly practiced in East Texas. Concerns about inadequate deer numbers and public dissatisfaction about dog-related conflicts prompted TPWD to pursue regulations, which made hunting deer with dogs unlawful statewide. However, some hunters in East Texas were reluctant to stop deer hunting with dogs because they had practiced the sport for many generations. They continued to use dogs, finding ways to evade prosecution. Therefore, TPWD extended restrictions in some East Texas counties to exclude hunters from using a dog to trail wounded deer (i.e., blood-track dogs) because law enforcement officials believed hunters were using that activity to disguise their deer dogs. Using 1 or 2 dogs to follow the blood trail of wounded deer currently is lawful in the remaining 244 counties. As mentioned in the above, TPWD also passed legislation to limit possession of certain guns and ammunition when in the presence of a dog on someone else’s land during the deer hunting seasons (September 29-January 20).

**Virginia**

We interviewed Mr. Matt Knox, Deer Project Co-leader, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). He and Mr. Nelson Lafon, Deer Project Co-leader, VDGIF, provided us with deer harvest data and 2 publications related to the subject of deer dogs, which were written and published by VDGIF. *A Report on Deer Hunting with Dogs* (2016, Appendix T) was written to satisfy a 2015 request by the Virginia Board of Game and Inland Fisheries in preparation for a 2016 Board meeting on issues surrounding deer hunting with dogs, potential
options to address any issues, and a recommended approach going forward. The technical report, *Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward* (2008, Appendix U) was written to provide factual information about the various dimensions of hound hunting relevant to Virginia. It does not include recommendations to address hound-hunting issues. In addition to the above sources of information, we summarized the 2018-2019 Virginia hunting regulations as they affect deer dog-hunting (Appendix V).

Virginia has a longer history of hunting deer with dogs than any other state. Furthermore, in the 56 counties and 3 city jurisdictions where it was lawful during 2017, 54% of the 70,746 deer harvested by hunters were killed with the aid of dogs. Although deer hunting with dogs and practicing restraint from overharvesting immature bucks may seem mutually exclusive to some deer managers, Mr. Knox told us that some of Virginia’s best managed deer populations were found in areas where deer dog-hunting was most popular.

Historically, hunting deer with dogs has been unlawful west of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Legislation drafted as early as 1779 proposed restrictions on deer hunting west of this line specific to the use of dogs (i.e., dog line). Virginia Code §29.1-516 continues to prohibit deer hunting with dogs in all counties (about 1/3 of the state) west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The VDGIF Board has the authority to regulate or prohibit deer hunting with dogs in eastern counties, but cannot legalize deer hunting with dogs west of the dog line. Currently, deer dog-hunting is unlawful in all or parts of 11 counties and 1 city jurisdiction located east of the dog line. Where lawful, deer can be hunted with dogs during the firearms deer seasons (50-61 days). Virginia Code §18.2-136 provides hunters of all game the right to retrieve their dogs when they cross onto prohibited lands as long as they willfully identify themselves to the landowner. The hunters have this right even when the landowner of the prohibited lands has
denied them permission to trespass. Dog and hunter trespass onto prohibited private lands continues to be a very controversial topic in eastern Virginia. Virginia Code §29.1-516.1 authorizes the use of dogs to retrieve wounded or dead deer. Virginia Code §29.1-521 prohibits the use of dogs on Sundays when deer hunting with weapons. Furthermore, VDGIF restricts deer dog-hunting during certain dates east of the dog line, including the first 14 days of firearms deer season in Madison and Green Counties. Deer dogs are prohibited on all or parts of 12 WMAs located east of the dog line. Although Virginia has many federally owned lands, including 2 national forests, VDGIF is unaware of any such lands where deer hunting with dogs is lawfully practiced. As stated in the 2015-24 Virginia Deer Management Plan, it is the goal of VDGIF “to preserve the heritage and tradition of hunting deer with dogs, for both management and recreational benefits, while ensuring that hunting methods are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners and other citizens.” Strategies proposed to address this goal include: 1) identify conflicts; 2) develop and implement educational programs, regulations, guidelines, and recognition programs to reduce conflicts; 3) discourage illegal activities; and 4) establish a dialogue between deer hunters and landowners.

**Summary and Conclusion**

In their 2016 report on deer hunting with dogs, Virginia, recognized the value of exploring non-regulatory approaches to solving deer dog-related conflicts before considering more stringent regulatory/statutory changes. They referred to stakeholder collaboration through county-based hunter/landowner advisory committees and hunter self-governance measures enacted by the Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance. In Georgia, the Georgia Dog Hunters Association advocated for legal restrictions on deer dog-hunting in a last-minute effort to
preserve their privilege of hunting with deer dogs. These examples illustrate the benefits of engaging stakeholders. Regular communication among agencies, deer dog-hunters, still hunters, private property owners, and other stakeholders is essential to minimizing conflicts.

Several states have mitigated dog-related conflicts on private and public lands by prohibiting the use of deer dogs in all or parts of certain counties, deer-management zones, or state-managed lands. For example, North Carolina and Virginia have geographically defined dog lines with deer dogs being lawful on one side of the line, but unlawful on the other. Whereas, Arkansas and South Carolina designated which deer management zones allowed deer dogs, with the zones being inherently linked to geography, public support, and tradition. Alabama determines which counties allow deer dog-hunting based on referendum, and once approved, requires a permit process to manage hunter participation. Louisiana designated portions of some deer management zones for still-hunting only to mitigate conflicts between user groups.

On state-managed lands, particularly WMAs, the opportunities for deer hunting with dogs varies greatly among states. Arkansas and Louisiana prohibit deer dogs on WMAs statewide. Alabama and South Carolina each allows them on a select few WMAs. On the Manchester State Forest WMA in South Carolina, deer dogs are allowed, but hunters must participate in a lottery permit system to be selected to hunt the property. Mississippi allows deer dogs on some WMAs, but the criteria used for determining opportunities is unknown to us. Georgia determines opportunities on WMAs in the southern half of the state based on what they deem “reasonable” after considering acreage and local public support. Whereas, Florida has a list of clearly defined criteria, including minimum acreage requirements and dog size, when considering dog-hunting opportunities on WMAs. Local conditions, the preferences of
stakeholders, and the capacity of management agencies to effectively regulate deer dog-hunting and associated conflicts are the primary factors dictating where the practice occurs.

There is little consistency regarding deer dog-hunting on federally owned lands in the states we examined. For example, national forests in Georgia and Louisiana currently do not allow opportunities for deer dog-hunting. Whereas, in Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, and South Carolina, deer dogs were allowed on some of the states’ national forests, but not others. It was common for national forests to have the same deer-dog rules as the adjacent privately owned lands within that particular deer management zone. Mississippi has an Open Public Lands-policy on its national forests with the exception of Homochitto National Forest, which has an explicit deer dog-permit process.

Some states use season structure as a method of mitigating conflicts between deer dog-hunters and still hunters. Where allowed on WMAs in Alabama, deer dog-hunting is legal only during a relatively short special season. Mississippi enforces separate seasons of gun with dogs and gun without dogs in each of its deer management zones. Arkansas allows deer hunters to use dogs only during a portion of the modern gun season in zones where deer dogs are legal. In North Carolina and Virginia, hunting deer with firearms on Sundays is legal for still hunters only.

Hunting from roadways is a common public complaint when discussing the practices of deer dog-hunting. Several states have passed legislation to reduce or prevent road-related conflicts. In Alabama, it is unlawful to cast, release, or otherwise place a dog, for the purpose of hunting deer, from, upon, or onto, a public right-of-way without the permission of the landowners whose land adjoins the right-of-way within 50 feet of the location of such dog. Similarly, in South Carolina, it is unlawful to hunt from a public road unless the hunter has
permission to hunt the adjacent property. In Arkansas, hunting wildlife is prohibited from or across a city, county, state or federally maintained road or its right-of-way. In Florida, taking or attempting to take most wildlife is illegal on, upon, or from rights-of-way of federal, state, or county-maintained roads, whether paved or otherwise. Casting dogs from rights-of-way is considered attempting to take wildlife and constitutes violation of this regulation. Furthermore, discharging firearms over paved public roads, rights-of-way, highways, streets or occupied premises is prohibited. In Georgia, it is unlawful to hunt or shoot from or across a public road and to discharge a firearm within 50 yards of a public road. Although not clear from our review of the 2018-2019 hunting regulations, Louisiana Statute §56:116.3 declares that it is unlawful to hunt or shoot deer while on a highway or road right-of-way, or stand, loiter, or hunt while on a highway or road right-of-way that is maintained by the federal government, the state government, the state, or any parish, with a gun during open season. Mississippi has declared it unlawful for any person to hunt, if such person is in the possession of a firearm that is not unloaded, on any street, public road, public highway, levee, or any railroad which is maintained by any railroad corporation, city, county, levee board, state or federal entity or in the right-of-way of any such street, road, highway, levee or railroad. In North Carolina, some, but not all, counties prohibit hunting from any public road or its right-of-way. In Texas, it is unlawful to hunt on public roads or their right-of-ways. In Virginia, it is unlawful to discharge a firearm, arrowgun, or archery tackle in or across or within the right-of-way of any public road. Although most states restrict hunting on and near roads in some manner, roads are an integral part of modern deer dog-hunting. Roads provide a means for monitoring and catching dogs to prevent trespass. Roads also offer opportunities for hunters to harvest deer, both legally and illegally depending on the state and location. Given the inherent connection between deer dog-hunting
and roads, managers must design regulations regarding use of roads that are explicit and enforceable to maximize safety and to reduce conflicts.

The most common complaint received by the states we examined was related to dog trespass onto unauthorized lands. To make the owners/handlers of deer dogs more accountable for keeping their dogs within the boundaries of certain properties, Alabama, Florida and Georgia have each implemented a permit system in all regions where deer hunting with dogs is allowed. Specific requirements of these permit systems (e.g., markings on dogs and vehicles) make it easier for law enforcement agents and adjacent landowners to recognize when deer dogs and their associated hunters leave the authorized properties. In addition, on select public lands in Florida and Mississippi, dogs must wear remote tracking collars and/or remote behavior correction collars to further reduce the chances of dog trespass.

In summary, each of the states we examined addressed the issue of deer hunting with dogs in their own way. With the exception of Texas, where deer dogs were banned statewide, each state has tried to maintain the long-standing heritage of pursuing deer with dogs while minimizing impacts on private landowner rights and the interests of other hunting groups. In our opinion, the decision to use a non-regulatory or regulatory approach depends on the willingness of local stakeholders to work together to achieve a reasonable compromise. Both strategies have been effective. In some geographical regions of states with a strong tradition of deer hunting with dogs, most hunters use dogs and they have resolved trespass issues among themselves for generations. Where tolerance among stakeholders is low, the only practical solution might be to segregate dog hunters from still hunters either by separate season frameworks or by authorizing deer dog-hunting only in certain deer management units, or on specific properties. Where trespass issues persist among properties, hunters must either agree to self-regulate their actions or
accept that natural resource agency administrators likely will impose restrictions on their hunting freedoms. To address what appear to be irreconcilable differences in some situations, we believe that compromises/solutions developed jointly by a committee comprised of representatives from each stakeholder group is the most reasonable approach. It has been demonstrated that when faced with prohibition of their sport, deer dog hunters and their organizations have led the way to effective compromises. We conclude that where deer hunting with dogs has already been restricted to specific deer management zones or specific properties, but trespass issues persist, more accountability by deer dog-hunters (e.g., permit system, remote collars, etc.) is warranted.
APPENDIX A

Summary of Hunting Regulations for Alabama as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
2018

- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs where allowed in Zones A, B and C during Nov 17-Jan 15. Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in all of 25 counties except for wildlife management areas (WMAs).
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs by special permit in all or parts of 17 counties during Nov 17-Jan 15.
- Unlawful to hunt deer anytime with dogs (stalk-hunting only) in all or parts of 25 counties.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on U.S. Forest Service lands except on designated areas within Calhoun, Clay and Talladega counties. On U.S. Forest Service lands within these counties, dog deer season is the same as on open permit-public lands (Nov 17-Feb 10). During this open season, hunting can occur on Thursday and Friday until 2:00 PM and on weekends during legal shooting hours. No dog deer hunting on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday unless a holiday falls on those days.
- On WMAs, community hunting areas, public hunting areas and refuges in Alabama it is unlawful to use dogs for hunting, training or any purpose from Mar 4-Aug 31. Deer hunting with dogs is restricted to shotguns using buckshot only. It is unlawful for dog deer hunters to leave stand assigned to them until instructed. The Geneva WMA dog hunt will be limited to 100 standers, registered and permitted through a permit system selected by random selection. Further, it is unlawful for any hunter to release a dog not approved by DCNR personnel on the Geneva WMA during the hunt.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on Blue Spring WMA during Dec 14-15 and Dec 28-29. Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on Geneva State Forest WMA during Dec 7-8. Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on Upper Delta WMA during Nov 19-24, Dec 7-8 and Dec 28-29 after 7:00 AM.

2017

- It shall be unlawful for any person, after having received two written warnings from a Conservation Enforcement Officer, to allow a dog for the purpose of deer hunting to enter onto, cross, or remain upon property of another.

1995

- Unlawful to cast, release, or otherwise place, a dog, for the purpose of hunting deer, from, upon, or onto, a public right-of-way without the permission of the landowners whose land adjoins the right-of-way within 50 feet of the location of such dog.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to utilize a dog for the purpose of deer hunting without the person placing and maintaining on said dog a collar containing the following information clearly stated thereon: the name, address, and telephone number of the person utilizing the dog.
APPENDIX B

Alabama Code Regarding Deer dogs
220-2-.112 Dog Deer Hunting

(a) It shall be unlawful to cast, release, or otherwise place a dog, for the purpose of hunting deer, from, upon, or onto, a public right-of-way, without the permission of the landowner whose land adjoins the right-of-way within 50 feet of the location of such dog.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to utilize a dog for the purpose of deer hunting without the person placing and maintaining on said dog a collar containing the following information clearly stated thereon: the name, address, and telephone number of the person utilizing the dog.

Statutory Authority: §§9-2-7, 9-2-8, and 9-2-12
Code of Alabama 1975

PENALTY: As provided by law.

10/25/1995
APPENDIX C

Alabama Dog Deer Hunting Permit Plans
Permits to hunt deer with dogs in counties where dog deer hunting is only allowed by special permit shall be issued under the following conditions and procedures. Failure to comply with these conditions shall subject the permit to further restrictions, revocation, or delays in processing.

1. Clubs, groups or individual landowners hunting deer with dogs must complete the attached application, submit a list of all their members with names and addresses and date of birth, mark the area to be hunted on a plat map available at the county courthouse and submit copies of all current hunting leases or hunting permission from landowners. (See attached application and information sheet.)

2. Clubs, groups or individual landowners must have a minimum of 200 contiguous acres leased or owned or have permission to hunt on.

3. No dog deer hunting is allowed on OPEN PERMIT-PUBLIC LAND (as defined in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations). Only members of permitted clubs and landowners hunting on their own land and their guests may hunt with buckshot.

4. Each approved permittee shall be assigned a permit number such as EL-1 (Elmore County). This number must appear on the collars of all dogs used on that permittee’s land. The number shall also appear on membership and guest cards to indicate the hunter has permission to be dog hunting on the land.

5. All applications must be received no later than October 15 to be processed by the opening day of deer season. Upon receipt of the completed application and supporting documents, the District Enforcement Supervisor and the local officers in the county shall evaluate each application. The application may be approved, restricted, or disapproved for cause or approved with certain restrictions. Small isolated tracts of land may be restricted to stalk hunting if it is judged that the use of deer dogs constitutes a safety hazard or will significantly impact upon adjacent landowners.

6. It shall be a violation of the conditions of this permit for any person hunting under this permit to:

   1) possess a loaded rifle or shotgun on a public road, right-of-way thereof, or in a vehicle thereon during daylight hours during the gun deer season. A public road shall be defined as a road or way maintained by a governmental entity for use by the general public. Guns must be empty of all ammunition in the barrel, magazine or clip attached and all ammunition be stored in an enclosed compartment, container, box or garment not on the person.

   2) permit dogs to trail or pursue game onto lands not covered by this permit. Upon complaint by the landowner or his agent, a Conservation Enforcement Officer shall document and verify the complaint to the extent possible. The unauthorized presence of dogs on lands of another is sufficient evidence of a violation without the necessity of proving specific intent.
3) be convicted of a deer hunting related violation or any other related criminal offense.

Violation of any of the above conditions by any person hunting under this permit shall subject the permit to suspension, probation, revocation or further restriction. Any restrictive action will be based upon the frequency and severity of the infraction.

7. When complaints of violations are received and the identity of the permittee is known, the investigating officer shall notify the permittee or its representative, in person or by mail, giving a written description of the complaint. Prior to any action to restrict dog deer hunting permit privileges, the permittee or its representative shall be notified of the pending action and shall be given the opportunity to respond.

**Dog Deer Hunting Permit Plan – Chambers and Coosa Counties**

Permits to hunt deer with dogs in counties where dog deer hunting is only allowed by special permit shall be issued under the following conditions and procedures. Failure to comply with these conditions shall subject the permit to further restrictions, revocation, or delays in processing.

1. Clubs, groups or individuals hunting deer with dogs must complete the attached application, submit a list of all their members with names and addresses and date of birth, mark the area to be hunted on a plat map available at the county courthouse and submit copies of all current hunting leases or hunting permission from landowners. (See attached application and information sheet.)

2. Landowners may hunt deer on their own land with dogs without a special permit. Landowners may also invite guests to hunt with them on their land.

3. Clubs must have a minimum of 200 contiguous acres leased or owned or have permission to hunt on. Existing clubs in Chambers and Coosa Counties will remain under the 20 acres per member minimum. New clubs will have to meet this requirement.

4. No dog deer hunting is allowed on OPEN PERMIT-PUBLIC LAND (as defined in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations). Only members of permitted clubs, and landowners hunting on their own land and their guests may hunt with buckshot.

5. Each approved permittee shall be assigned a permit number such as CV-1 (Covington County). This number must appear on the collars of all dogs used on that permittee’s land. The number shall also appear on membership and guest cards to indicate the hunter has permission to be dog hunting on the land.

6. All applications must be received no later than October 15 to be processed by the opening day of deer season. Upon receipt of the completed application and supporting documents, the District Enforcement Supervisor and the local officers in the county shall evaluate each application. The application may be approved, restricted, or disapproved for cause or approved with certain restrictions. Small isolated tracts of land may be restricted to stalk hunting if it is judged that the use of deer dogs constitutes a safety hazard or will significantly impact upon adjacent landowners.
7. It shall be a violation of the conditions of this permit for any person hunting under this permit to:

   1) possess a loaded rifle or shotgun on a public road, right-of-way thereof, or in a vehicle thereon during daylight hours during the gun deer season. A public road shall be defined as a road or way maintained by a governmental entity for use by the general public. Guns must be empty of all ammunition in the barrel, magazine or clip attached and all ammunition be stored in an enclosed compartment, container, box or garment not on the person.

   2) permit dogs to trail or pursue game onto lands not covered by this permit. Upon complaint by the landowner or his agent, a Conservation Enforcement Officer shall document and verify the complaint to the extent possible. The unauthorized presence of dogs on lands of another is sufficient evidence of a violation without the necessity of proving specific intent.

   3) be convicted of a deer hunting related violation or any other related criminal offense.

Violation of any of the above conditions by any person hunting under this permit shall subject the permit to suspension, probation, revocation or further restriction. Any restrictive action will be based upon the frequency and severity of the infraction.

8. When complaints of violations are received and the identity of the permittee is known, the investigating officer shall notify the permittee’s representative, in person or by mail, giving a written description of the complaint. Prior to any action to restrict dog deer hunting permit privileges of a permittee, the permittee’s representative shall be notified of the pending action and shall be given the opportunity to respond.

   **Dog Deer Hunting Permit Plan - Geneva County**

Permits to hunt deer with dogs in counties where dog deer hunting is only allowed by special permit shall be issued under the following conditions and procedures. Failure to comply with these conditions shall subject the permit to further restrictions, revocation, or delays in processing.

1. Clubs, groups or individual landowners hunting deer with dogs must complete the attached application, submit a list of all their members with names and addresses and date of birth, mark the area to be hunted on a plat map available at the county courthouse and submit copies of all current hunting leases or hunting permission from landowners. (See attached application and information sheet.)

2. Clubs, groups or individual landowners must have a minimum of 200 contiguous acres leased or owned or have permission to hunt on.

3. No dog deer hunting is allowed on OPEN PERMIT-PUBLIC LAND (as defined in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations). Only members of permitted clubs, and landowners hunting on their own land and their guests may hunt with buckshot.

4. Each approved permittee shall be assigned a permit number such as GE-1 (Geneva County). This number must appear on the collars of all dogs used on that permittee’s
land. The number shall also appear on membership and guest cards to indicate the hunter has permission to be dog hunting on the land.

5. All applications must be received no later than October 15 to be processed by the opening day of deer season. Upon receipt of the completed application and supporting documents, the District Enforcement Supervisor and the local officers in the county shall evaluate each application. The application may be approved, restricted, or disapproved for cause or approved with certain restrictions. Small isolated tracts of land may be restricted to stalk hunting if it is judged that the use of deer dogs constitutes a safety hazard or will significantly impact upon adjacent landowners.

6. It shall be a violation of the conditions of this permit for any person hunting under this permit to:

   1) possess a loaded rifle or shotgun on a public road, right-of-way thereof, or in a vehicle thereon during daylight hours during the gun deer season. A public road shall be defined as a road or way maintained by a governmental entity for use by the general public. Guns must be empty of all ammunition in the barrel, magazine or clip attached and all ammunition be stored in an enclosed compartment, container, box or garment not on the person.

   2) permit dogs to trail or pursue game onto lands not covered by this permit. Upon complaint by the landowner or his agent, a Conservation Enforcement Officer shall document and verify the complaint to the extent possible. The unauthorized presence of dogs on lands of another is sufficient evidence of a violation without the necessity of proving specific intent.

   3) Possess a centerfire rifle.

   4) be convicted of a deer hunting related violation or any other related criminal offense.

Violation of any of the above conditions by any person hunting under this permit shall subject the permit to suspension, probation, revocation or further restriction. Any restrictive action will be based upon the frequency and severity of the infraction.

7. When complaints of violations are received and the identity of the permittee is known, the investigating officer shall notify the permittee or its representative, in person or by mail, giving a written description of the complaint. Prior to any action to restrict dog deer hunting permit privileges, the permittee or its representative shall be notified of the pending action and shall be given the opportunity to respond.

Dog Deer Hunting Permit Plan - Henry County

Permits to hunt deer with dogs in counties where dog deer hunting is only allowed by special permit shall be issued under the following conditions and procedures. Failure to comply with these conditions shall subject the permit to further restrictions, revocation, or delays in processing.
1. Clubs, groups or individual landowners hunting deer with dogs must complete the attached application, submit a list of all their members with names and addresses and date of birth, mark the area to be hunted on a plat map available at the county courthouse and submit copies of all current hunting leases or hunting permission from landowners. (See attached application and information sheet.)

2. Clubs, groups or individual landowners must have a minimum of 400 contiguous acres leased or owned or have permission to hunt on.

3. No dog deer hunting is allowed on OPEN PERMIT-PUBLIC LAND (as defined in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations). Only members of permitted clubs and landowners hunting on their own land and their guests may hunt with buckshot.

4. Each approved permittee shall be assigned a permit number such as HE-1 (Henry County). This number must appear on the collars of all dogs used on that permittee’s land. The number shall also appear on membership and guest cards to indicate the hunter has permission to be dog hunting on the land.

5. All applications must be received no later than October 15 to be processed by the opening day of deer season. Upon receipt of the completed application and supporting documents, the District Enforcement Supervisor and the local officers in the county shall evaluate each application. The application may be approved, restricted, or disapproved for cause or approved with certain restrictions. Small isolated tracts of land may be restricted to stalk hunting if it is judged that the use of deer dogs constitutes a safety hazard or will significantly impact upon adjacent landowners.

6. It shall be a violation of the conditions of this permit for any person hunting under this permit to:

   1) possess a loaded rifle or shotgun on a public road, right-of-way thereof, or in a vehicle thereon during daylight hours during the gun deer season. A public road shall be defined as a road or way maintained by a governmental entity for use by the general public. Guns must be empty of all ammunition in the barrel, magazine or clip attached and all ammunition be stored in an enclosed compartment, container, box or garment not on the person.

   2) permit dogs to trail or pursue game onto lands not covered by this permit. Upon complaint by the landowner or his agent, a Conservation Enforcement Officer shall document and verify the complaint to the extent possible. The unauthorized presence of dogs on lands of another is sufficient evidence of a violation without the necessity of proving specific intent.

   3) be convicted of a deer hunting related violation or any other related criminal offense.

Violation of any of the above conditions by any person hunting under this permit shall subject the permit to suspension, probation, revocation or further restriction. Any restrictive action will be based upon the frequency and severity of the infraction.

7. When complaints of violations are received and the identity of permittee is known, the investigating officer shall notify the permittee or its representative, in person or by mail,
giving a written description of the complaint. Prior to any action to restrict dog deer
hunting permit privileges, the permittee or its representative shall be notified of the
pending action and shall be given the opportunity to respond.
APPENDIX D

Summary of Hunting Regulations for Arkansas as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on any state-managed wildlife management area (WMA).
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on private lands in Deer Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, 5B, 9 and 16.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on private lands during Nov 11-Dec 3 in deer zone 1A.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on private lands during Nov 10-Dec 2 in deer zones 6, 6A, 7, 8, 8A, 10 and 11.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on private lands during Nov 10-Dec 16 in deer zones 12, 13, 14 and 15.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on private lands during Nov 10-Dec 25 in deer zones 16A and 17.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on the Ozark National Forest and St. Francis National Forest because they are considered part of the state-managed WMA system.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on the Ouachita National Forest during deer hunting season except on WMAs located within the boundaries of the national forest.
- On private lands, dogs may be used to chase deer for training purposes Oct 1-Dec 31 from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset only in deer zones where dogs can legally be used for hunting deer during the modern gun deer season, except during a muzzleloader deer season. Possession of a killing device is prohibited when training dogs to chase deer.
- Each hunting dog must have a collar with its owner’s name, phone number and address.

2005

- The use of dogs during deer season in areas where prohibited now carries a penalty of 12 violation points.
- Owner’s name, phone number and address tattooed in hunting dog’s ear may no longer be substituted for collar bearing owner’s name, phone number and address.

2002

- Dogs are not allowed for deer hunting on the Ozark National Forest WMA during the modern gun hunt.

2000

- Deer zone lines and numbers changed. Dogs cannot be used for modern gun deer hunting in deer zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 5A, 9 and 16.

1999

- AGFC hunting dog license is no longer required.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 1, 3, 5, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 20.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 2, 4 4A, 13 and 19A.
1998

- Using dogs to chase wildlife for pleasure is prohibited from Apr 1-May 15 with these exceptions: night chases for furbearers, hunting within fox and coyote enclosures, and during AKC and UKC sanctioned field trials.
- Some Ozark National Forest lands in deer zones 1, 2, 5, 6, 6A and 9 are now part of a WMA. Dogs are allowed during the modern gun deer season. This does not include Piney Creeks WMA, Mt. Magazine WMA, White Rock WMA and Sylamore WMA.

1988

- You may not hunt wildlife from or across a city, county, state or federally maintained road or its right-of-way.

1987

- It is unlawful to hunt within 50 yards of the center of any city, county, state or federally maintained road during any firearm deer season, except small game hunting using shotguns with shot no larger than #4 common.

1986

- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 during Nov 8-14 and Dec 8-10.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 8, 12, 12A, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20 during Nov 8-16 and Dec 8-13.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 2 and 4.

1985

- It is unlawful to possess any killing or capture device or to allow dogs to enter upon or pursue wildlife in areas designated, marked and posted by the Commission as deer restoration areas.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 during Dec 9-11.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 8, 12, 12A, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20 during Nov 9-17 and Dec 9-14.

1984

- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zone 1, 3 and 9 during Nov 10-18. However, only dogs with shoulder height no more than 15 inches permitted.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 during Nov 10-18.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zones 12, 12A, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 during Nov 10-18 and Dec 10-15.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in deer zone 2.
- No deer hunting in deer zones 4 and 23.
1980

- It is lawful to hunt deer with dogs of any breed or size during Nov 10-22 and Dec 8-13 in deer zones 2A, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10A, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. It is lawful to hunt deer with dogs during Nov 10-22 and Dec 8-13 in deer zones 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10, but dogs must not be more than 15 inches at shoulder height. Dogs prohibited in deer zones 4 and 23.
- It is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs statewide during the Nov 28-29 gun deer season.
- No dogs may be used while hunting deer during the regular archery season, special crossbow season, or the muzzle-loading deer season.
- Certain wildlife management areas are either closed or more restrictive on the use of deer dogs.
- No dogs on islands of Beaver Lake for any type of hunting.
- Deer dog-training season Oct 1-Dec 31 statewide. No killing devices permitted while training deer dogs other than during regular gun deer seasons.
- Any dog, regardless of age or breed, used to take wildlife or during training, afield, must be licensed. Dog must bear collar with current license tag and a plate with the owner’s name and address. Or, owner’s name and address tattooed in the hunting dog’s ear may be substituted for the owner’s nameplate.
APPENDIX E

Florida Legal Statutes Related to Deer Hunting with Dogs
2010

68A-12.007 (Summary of Changes)
Free running-dogs can be trained beginning 35 days prior to the first day of the antlered deer season and closing 19 days thereafter, except in Zone D when the period shall begin the last Saturday of October and continue for 19 days thereafter.

2008

68A-12.007 (Summary of Changes)
Person participating in deer dog training is allowed to possess gun, but cannot take wildlife during the closed season.

2005

68A-12.007 Hunting Dogs; Molesting Game in Closed Season; Training; Field Trials; Prohibited for Certain Hunting.

(1) All dogs used for taking or attempting to take, trailing, pursuing, or molesting wildlife shall wear a collar or tag which shall legibly display the name and address of the owner of the dog. No person shall use any dog to take or attempt to take, trail, pursue or molest wildlife unless such dog is wearing a collar or tag displaying the information required above.

(2) The purpose and intent of this subsection is to empower the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, upon the compliant of a landowner or lessee, to enforce against the unauthorized use of dogs for hunting. No person owning, having the care of, or using any dog shall permit such dog to trail, pursue or molest wildlife on the lands of another person without written permission from the landowner or lessee of said lands. Written permission shall be in the possession of each person using such dog on the lands of another person, and shall be presented for inspection upon request of any Commission wildlife officer or other law enforcement officer as referred to in subsection 68A-3.002(3), F.A.C.

(3)(a) The purpose and intent of this subsection is to implement registration requirements for use of dogs to take deer on private lands.

(b) Registration –
1. No person shall use dogs to take, attempt to take, trail, pursue or molest deer on any privately-owned property unless such property has been registered with the Commission as set forth under this subsection. Privately-owned property shall be registered by the landowner(s), lessee, or other person designated by the landowner(s) via written permission as required under subsection (2) of this section. Individuals may register an aggregate of private lands including different ownerships under one registration. No more than one registration shall be in effect for each parcel of land at any given time. Registration shall not be required for use of dogs on leashes for trailing wounded game.

2. Applications for registering private lands for taking deer with dogs shall be on such form as prescribed by the Commission and shall include: a written description of the property boundaries and map showing property boundaries; total acreage of the property; name, street or physical address, and telephone numbers for the applicant and the landowner; a copy of a lease for hunting rights or written permission as required under subsection (2) of this section where the landowner is not the applicant, and other information pertaining to the proposed activity necessary for registration issuance and enforcement of this rule.

(c) Requirements –
1. Each registration issued pursuant to this subsection shall include a registration number. In addition to requirements under subsection (1) of this section, no person shall use any dog for taking, attempted taking,
trailing, pursuing or molesting deer unless such dog is wearing a collar or attachment to the collar legibly
displaying the entire registration number specific to the registered property where said use of the dog is
occurring.

2. No person using any dog for taking or attempting to take, trailing, pursuing, or molesting deer shall
allow a dog off the registered property, whether intentionally or negligently.

3. No person shall participate in taking, attempted taking, trailing, pursuing or molesting deer on any
privately-owned property unless such person is in possession of a copy of the registration for said privately-
owned property.

4. No person owning or having the care of any dog shall knowingly or negligently permit such dog to
trail, pursue or otherwise molest game during the closed season except as herein provided.

5. Bird dogs may be trained during the closed season for taking quail with the aid of a pistol firing a blank
or a solid ball or as provided by Rule 68A-12.008, F.A.C.

6. Deer dogs may be trained during the closed season for taking deer when such dogs are constantly
attached to a leash or rope in the hands of the trainer. Deer dogs may be allowed to run free for training
purposes only during the period beginning the first Saturday of October and continuing 19 days thereafter,
except in the Northwest Zone when the period shall begin the last Saturday of October and continue for 19
days thereafter. The possession of any gun while training deer dogs is prohibited.

7. No field trials for dogs shall be conducted on any wildlife management area without Commission
permit, except that a permit from the applicable landowner or primary area manager shall constitute sufficient
authorization on wildlife management areas not owned by the Commission and having a designated field trial
area. Participation in organized field trials shall not constitute hunting.

8. During archery or muzzleloading gun season dogs on leash may be used for trailing wounded game
mammals.

9. While archery or muzzleloading gun hunting during special seasons the taking of deer or wild hog by
the use or aid of dogs is prohibited.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 8-1-
79, Amended 6-22-80, 6-21-82, 7-27-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-12.07, Amended 4-11-90, 3-1-94, 7-1-
94, 9-7-97, Formerly 39-12.007, Amended 12-9-99, 8-22-04, 7-17-05.
APPENDIX F

Summary of Hunting Regulations for Florida as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
• Taking or attempting to take wildlife is illegal on, upon or from rights-of-way of federal, state or county-maintained roads, whether paved or otherwise, except reptiles and amphibians may be taken without the use of firearms and raptors may be taken per Rule 68A-9.005, F.A.C. Casting dogs from rights-of-way is considered attempting to take wildlife and constitutes violation of this regulation.

• Dogs may be used as an aid in taking game mammals and game birds, unless otherwise prohibited. Persons owning or using dogs shall not knowingly or negligently permit such dogs to trail, pursue or otherwise molest wildlife during closed seasons. When using archery equipment and muzzleloaders during their respective archery, crossbow and muzzleloading gun seasons, the taking of deer by the use or aid of dogs is prohibited. Dogs on leashes may be used to trail wounded game mammals during all seasons. Hunters, who use dogs for hunting, including bird dogs or retrievers, are required to have their dogs wear collars that identify their owner’s name and address. This regulation also requires dog hunters to possess landowners’ written permission before using their dogs to pursue game on private property.

• Deer dogs can be trained during closed seasons when dogs are constantly attached to leashes or ropes in the hands of their trainers for training purposes. Deer dogs are permitted to run free for training purposes only during deer-dog training seasons. Taking deer or any other wildlife with a gun is prohibited while training deer dogs.

• Deer hunters using dogs on private properties in Florida must obtain a no-cost registration from the FWC. Registration requirements apply to the deer-dog training season and during any open deer hunting season when it is legal to take deer with dogs. Applications must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the final day of general gun season in the hunting zone where the property is situated. To comply with the registration rule, deer-dog hunters on private lands must have registration numbers on their dogs’ collars; possess copies of the registration; and keep their dogs on registered properties.

• Deer general gun season Zone A (Sep 15-Oct 14 and Nov 17-Jan 6), Zone B (Dec 1-Feb 17), Zone C (Nov 3-Jan 20) and Zone D (Nov 22-25 and Dec 8-Feb 17).

• Deer-dog training season Zone A (Aug 11-30), Zone B (Oct 27-Nov 15), Zone C (Sep 29-Oct 18) and Zone D (Oct 27-Nov 15).

• Taking or attempting to take wildlife is illegal on, upon or from rights-of-way of federal, state or county-maintained roads, whether paved or otherwise, except reptiles and amphibians may be taken without the use of firearms and raptors may be taken per Rule 68A-9.005, F.A.C. Casting dogs from rights-of-way is considered attempting to take wildlife and constitutes violation of this regulation.

• Discharging firearms over paved public roads, rights-of-way, highways, streets or occupied premises is prohibited.
APPENDIX G

Florida Deer Dog Permit Application Form
Complete this form for guidance in applying online at http://www.myfwc.com/license/recreational/hunting/deer-dog/. Applications may also be sent via mail/fax to the FWC with supporting documents to the address/fax number listed below.

Please allow 30 days from the time we receive your completed application to get your permit. You may check the status of your application online at the address listed above, via the “Apply for Deer Dog Permit” button. Incomplete applications could result in a delay in the delivery of your permit.

_____ Renewal Application (must provide current DD number) DD - ____________ Any Changes? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ New Application

Applicant Information: Please enter all of the following applicant information.

First Name ___________________________________________ Last Name ___________________________________________
Street Address __________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip _________ E-mail __________________________
Date of Birth ___ / ___ / ______ Social Security Number ____ - ____ - _____ Contact Phone (___) ________ - ______

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) collects social security numbers (SSN) for the issuance of recreational and professional licenses or permits to an individual in accordance with chapter 379 F.S. and 42 USC 666 for the purposes of administration of the Title IV-D program for child support enforcement, use by the commission, and as otherwise provided by law.

Property Information: Please enter the property information.

Primary County ___________________________ Total Acreage __________
Property Name ___________________________________________
Hunt Club Name ___________________________________________

Required Documents: Please check each of the following that you have included with this application.

_____ Map of the property
Maps should be clearly marked with the landowner’s name, total acreage, and labeled with visible boundaries and the nearest streets, roads or highways surrounding the property. Please view sample documents reflecting the map preferences online at http://myfwc.com/media/3831313/mapsample-ad-dd.pdf.

_____ Landowner Permission
If the applicant is not the landowner or the landowner’s legal representative for all of the property identified on this application, the application must be accompanied by written permission from each landowner. See Landowner Information section of this application.

I am the landowner or the landowner’s legal representative for all property identified on this application. _____ Yes _____ No

Applicant Certification Statement:
I hereby swear and affirm by signature that the information contained in this application and supporting documentation is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to criminal penalties. I further state that I will abide by all applicable state, federal, and local laws.

________________________________________  ________________________
Applicant Signature                            Date
Landowner Information Part I: Please complete ONE of the following statements.

☐ I, the applicant, am the landowner for ALL of the property identified on this application.
   (Note: No further landowner information is required)

☐ I, the applicant, am the landowner for ___ some or ___ none of the property identified on this application.
   The amount of acreage identified on this application that I own is __________ acres.

Note: You must provide written permission from each additional landowner.

Landowner Information Part II: Please enter the landowner information for each landowner.

Note: You only need to enter landowner information for each additional landowner other than the applicant.

_________________________ _____________________________
Landowner Contact Name Acreage
_________________________ _____________________________
Contact Phone (______) _______ - ______
City State Zip E-mail

The information provided in this application that pertains to my property is correct. I verify that there are no pending legal disputes regarding the boundary or ownership of the described property and that said property is under my lawful ownership or control. I also hereby authorize the above named applicant as my agent to apply for a Deer Dog permit on the lands identified as my property in this application.

I authorize this permission as [CHECK ONE] ______Annual / ______Recurring

_________________________ _____________________________
Landowner Contact Name Acreage
_________________________ _____________________________
Contact Phone (______) _______ - ______
City State Zip E-mail

The information provided in this application that pertains to my property is correct. I verify that there are no pending legal disputes regarding the boundary or ownership of the described property and that said property is under my lawful ownership or control. I also hereby authorize the above named applicant as my agent to apply for a Deer Dog permit on the lands identified as my property in this application.

I authorize this permission as [CHECK ONE] ______Annual / ______Recurring

_________________________ _____________________________
Landowner Contact Name Acreage
_________________________ _____________________________
Contact Phone (______) _______ - ______
City State Zip E-mail

The information provided in this application that pertains to my property is correct. I verify that there are no pending legal disputes regarding the boundary or ownership of the described property and that said property is under my lawful ownership or control. I also hereby authorize the above named applicant as my agent to apply for a Deer Dog permit on the lands identified as my property in this application.

I authorize this permission as [CHECK ONE] ______Annual / ______Recurring

_________________________ _____________________________
Landowner Contact Name Acreage
_________________________ _____________________________
Contact Phone (______) _______ - ______
City State Zip E-mail
APPENDIX H

Florida Deer Dog Registration Process
A no-cost registration is required for any person using dogs to harvest, attempt to take, trail or pursue deer on private property in Florida. Once issued, the registration number must be on or attached to the collar of any deer dog used on the property identified in the registration.

2018-2019 season applications and renewals can be submitted beginning on July 1, 2018.

What this registration allows:

Use of dogs to take, attempt to take, trail, or pursue deer on the property identified in the registration during the deer dog training season and any open deer hunting season when taking of deer with dogs is permitted and pursuant to Rule 68A-12.007, F.A.C., and the conditions of a valid deer dog registration.

What this registration does NOT allow:

Use of any dog to take attempt to take, trail or pursue deer on property not identified in the registration.

Requirements and conditions:

1. The registration requirement is in addition to all existing rules regarding the use of dogs for hunting including the hunter responsibility and road hunting rules.
2. Registration can be issued to the landowner or any other individual who has rights to hunt the property as designated by the landowner in a hunting lease or by written permission.
3. No person using a dog for taking, attempting to take, trailing or pursuing deer shall allow dogs off the property identified in the registration, whether intentionally or negligently.
4. All persons using dogs to take attempt to take, trail or pursue deer on the property identified in the registration shall be in possession of a copy of the Registration.
5. All dogs used for taking, attempting to take, trailing or pursuing or deer on the property identified in the registration shall have the entire Registration Number legibly displayed on the collar of the dog or on an attachment to the collar of the dog. (NOTE: to keep your same registration number each year, you must register as a Renewal).
6. Failure to comply with these registration requirements would be a violation of FWC rule and may result in a citation.

Information you should have available to apply for this registration:

1. Information about the property being hunted with dogs, including a property description map showing the location of the property and boundaries. All maps should be clearly outlined and labeled with the property name and permit details, including roadways leading to the property.  
   Note: Please review these map samples to better understand the preferred map documentation.
2. Contact information for the landowner(s) is required on the application and landowner permission is required with each year’s application.
3. If the applicant is not the landowner, a copy of a hunting lease or written permission from the landowner for hunting the property is also required.

**When to apply:**

You may apply for deer dog registration online or by mail beginning on July 1 and until 30 days prior to the final day of general gun season in the hunting zone where the property is located.

Read the guidelines below and print out a copy of the application form or apply online using the links at the bottom of the page.

Applicants registering from the prior year will receive the same registration number issued the previous year when registering as a Renewal.

**How to apply for this registration:**

1. Click on *Apply Online for Deer Dog Registration* below. This will take you to a login screen.
2. If you have previously applied online for an FWC deer dog registration or other specialized permit or certification, enter your username and password or other identifying information, then click on your 'DD number' and *Renew*. If you have not previously applied for an FWC permit, click on *Register*. Enter the requested information and create your username and password.
3. Enter your username and password to login.
4. Enter the requested information.
5. Submit your application.

**What happens next:**

1. Your application will be reviewed by FWC staff.
2. If you supplied an e-mail address, you will receive notification of approval for the registration, or a request for additional information. If you do not supply an e-mail address, you will need to return to the site periodically to determine your status.
3. Once your registration is approved, sign on to the application site by clicking the *Apply Online* button below and then print the official registration documentation.
4. After printing the document, sign the registration. **Remember:** A copy of this registration must be in the physical possession of any person who is on the property and using dogs to take deer and must be presented to any law enforcement officer upon request. The registration number must be on or attached to the collar of any dog used for taking deer on the registered property.
5. *On-line helpful hint for previous applicants:* If you have had a Deer Dog registration in the past, your actual permit would have included your permit number. This is what is called your 'DD number' and would have started with DD followed by a series of numbers (example: DD-1234). If you have this DD number, **you never want to create a new permit for the same property**, as this would give you an entirely different DD number and all your previous information will not transfer over. In the online *PermitMe*
system, click on your previous DD permit number and you will then see a **renew** button. Click on it, and your previous information will transfer over and the permit number will remain the same. If you have questions or need assistance, please call 850/488-3641.

**2018-2019 season applications and renewals can be submitted beginning on July 1, 2018.**
APPENDIX I

Summary of Dog Hunting Regulations on Blackwater WMA
1966
- “Hunting” season: November 19 through January 15 (58 days)
- WMA included only those lands west of SR191 and south of SR 4
- Entire area, except Holt Hatchery, open to deer dog hunting
- Dogs must wear a collar with name and address of owner attached
- Use of rifles prohibited

1968
- Season length increased to 65 days

1971
- Season length reduced to 44 days (Nov. 20 through Jan. 2)

1972
- Season length reverts to 65 days (Nov. 11 through Jan. 14)
- WMA expanded to include lands west of SR 191 and north of SR 4, roughly resembling present configuration
- Deer hunting is prohibited in that portion of the area east of SR 191, south of SR 4, and north of US 90.
- Still hunt area created—Dogs, other than “bird dogs used for taking quail”, are prohibited in that portion of the area west of SR 191 and south of SR 4.

1973
- Season length increased to 72 days (Nov. 10 through Jan. 20)

1975
- Fox, raccoon and bobcat season established from June 1 through March in that portion of the area south of SR and east of SR 191.
- Still hunt language revised to read: “Hunting deer with dogs prohibited in that portion of the area west of SR 191 and south of SR 4”.

1976
- Hunter quota created—limited to 2,900 hunters during the first 9 days of “hunting” season; permits available by written application on a first-come/first-served basis.

1978
- Fox, raccoon and bobcat season restricted south of SR 4 and east of SR 191 to June 1 – Sept. 8, Oct. 9 – Nov. 10, and Feb. 12 – March 10; season created north of SR 4 (June 1 – March 11)

1980
- Season length increased to 79 days (Nov. 8 – Jan. 25)
- Deer hunting reopened throughout area

1982
- Season length reduced to 51 days (Nov. 13 – Jan. 2), except in still hunt area which remained 79 days (Nov. 13 – Jan. 30).
- Fox, raccoon and bobcat season shortened (June 1 – Aug. 31 and Feb. 21 – March 18 south of SR 4; June 1 – Jan. 2 and Jan. 31 – March 18 north of SR 4)

1983
- Season length in dog hunt area increased to 53 days and decreased to 67 days in still hunt area.
- Separate quotas established for dog (1000) and still (1200) hunt areas. Quota permits required during the first 11 and last 14 days of season.

1984
- Uniform general gun season dates (53 days: Nov. 22 – Jan. 13) in both of the dog and still hunt areas.
- Road hunting rule created that prohibited the taking of wildlife by use of a gun on or from rights-of-way of SR 4, 191 or 189 or CR 31, 47, 25, 86, 23 or 72.
- Fox, raccoon and bobcat season liberalized (May 1 – March 10 in dog hunt area; and, May 1 – Aug. 31 and Feb. 11 – March 10 south of SR 4).
- Quota hunt permits required during the first 12 and last 11 days of season.

1985
- Season length increased to 58 days (Nov. 16 – Jan. 12)

1988
- Split season format (58 days: Nov. 24-27 and Dec. 10 – Feb. 1) begins.
- Quota hunt permits required during the first 13 days and last 16 days of season.

1990
- SR 2, US 90, CR 180, FR 48, 6 and paved portions of 57, 2 and 9 added to road rule.
- Quota hunt permits required during the first 13 days and last 17 days of season.

1992
- Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat season restricted to dog hunt area only.

1995
- Dog hunt area contracted; additional still hunt area created in that portion of the area north of SR 4 and east of Hurricane Lake Road and Beaver Creek Highway and south of the gas line right-of-way, south of Peaden Bridge Road, east of Sherman Kennedy Road,
north of Mattie Kennedy Road and Kennedy Bridge Road, east of Bullard Church Road and east of Ashburn Fork Fireline.

1996
- Fox, raccoon, opossum and bobcat hunting restricted to still hunt area corresponding to the change made the preceding year.
- Dog hunting language amended from “hunting deer with dogs” to “bird dogs and retrievers.”
- Dog hunt quota reduced from 1000 to 775.

1997
- Hunter Responsibility Rule passed by Commission for NW region due to a growing number of complaints of deer-dog trespass.
- Hunting dogs can only be used on private property where the hunter has obtained the permission of the landowner, and the dogs must have collars bearing the owner’s name.
- Violation is a misdemeanor and punishable by up to a $500 fine and 60 days in jail.

1999
- Dog hunt area again contracted; still hunt area expanded to additionally include that portion of the area west of Mason West Road and west of Simmons Road from its intersection with Mason West Road to Camp Henderson Road.

2002
- Road hunting rule amended to include “Carpenter Road from SR 191 to Juniper Creek”.

2005
- General Gun-Dog and General Gun-Still seasons created.
- Reduced number of days of deer dog hunting from 58 to 44
- Season split into 3 separate hunting periods (with 2 quota periods; 1 during the first 20 days, and 1 during the last 24 days)
- Dog hunt acreage reduced from 78,172 acres to 53,340 acres (24,832 acre reduction)
- Fox hunt acreage reduced from 78,172 acres to 19,589 acres
- General Gun-Dog Quota reduced from 775 each hunt to 400 each hunt.
- General Gun-Still Quota increased from 1,425 to 1,800.
- Require a quota during Fox, Raccoon, Opossum and Bobcat season if hunting during any quota period.

2009
- Quota permits made non-transferable EXCEPT General Gun-Dog
- Guest permits available EXCEPT for General Gun-Dog
2011
- Quota permit no longer required if hunting raccoon and opossum at night during the General Gun-Dog Season.

2012
- Blackwater dog hunters organize the Southeast Dog Hunters Association (SEDHA)
- The association holds funds raisers to fund the construction of a fence to alleviate deer dog trespass issues.
- Fence constructed and no deer dog trespass citations were issued in this area during the deer dog season.

2014
- Prohibit the taking or pursuing of deer, fox or coyote with dogs in that portion of the dog hunt area east of Belandville Road unless each dog is equipped and monitored with devices that allow remote tracking and behavior correction. The device(s) must be attached by a collar or similar means and must be used to prevent dog egress into unauthorized areas. The remote tracking device(s) would include Global Positioning System (GPS) or telemetry tracking. Effective Date: The correction device requirement in this rule shall not take effect until July 1, 2016.
- The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise specific area regulations on Blackwater Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the Northwest Region to address landowner concerns regarding the illegal trespass of hunting dogs onto private property. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources and reduce conflict between hunters and private landowners.

2015
- Prohibit the harvest of wildlife with a gun or archery equipment on the paved portions of Green Road.
- This change was made at the request of private property owners in the area who had concerns regarding dog hunting in the area

2016
- Correction device requirement of collar rule will go into effect
APPENDIX J

Summary of Hunting Regulations for Georgia
as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
2018

- Persons training dogs for hunting must have a valid hunting license unless they are on their own land or land of an immediate relative.
- Unlawful to run deer with dogs except during open seasons for hunting deer with dogs.
- Unlawful to hunt from or across a public road. Unlawful to discharge a firearm within 50 yards of a public road.
- Hunting deer with dogs on private land is by permit only and lawful in all or parts of 41 counties. It is unlawful in 118 counties. Deer hunting with dogs is lawful in all or parts of 33 counties during Oct 20-Jan 13. It is lawful in all or parts of 3 counties during Nov 22-Jan 13. It is legal in all or parts of 5 counties during Dec 8-Jan 13.
- Unlawful to run deer with dogs on WMAs and National Forests unless otherwise specified. Hunters whose dogs are found chasing deer may be appropriately charged. Hunting deer with dogs is not specified on any federal lands.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in designated areas of Dixon Memorial WMA during Nov 17 and Dec 8 with a permit. Only shotguns are allowed and only with buckshot. All dogs must be marked with the selected-hunter’s name and phone number. Area closed to all users without a dog deer-hunting permit. Quota limited to 3 groups of 20 people each.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in designated areas of Paulks Pasture WMA during Nov 30-Dec 1, Dec 7-8, Dec 28-29 with a quota permit. Only shotguns are allowed and only with buckshot. All dogs must be marked with the selected-hunter’s name and phone number. Area closed to all users without a dog deer-hunting permit. Quota limited to 3 groups of 20 people each.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in designated areas of Townsend WMA during Nov 28-29, Dec 12-13, Jan 2-3 with a permit. Only shotguns are allowed and only with buckshot. All dogs must be marked with the selected-hunter’s name and phone number. All vehicles must display permit on the windshield or dash. A copy of the permit must be carried on person while hunting. Area closed to all users without a dog deer-hunting permit. Quota limited to 3 groups of 20 people each.
- All dogs must be removed from hunting area upon departure.
- Unlawful to hunt or shoot from or across a public road.
- Unlawful to discharge a firearm within 50 yards of a public road.

2016

- Policy was approved to allow counties to apply to have deer dog-hunting legalized.
- A separate dog-deer hunting license was no longer required.

2009

- Deer may be hunted with dogs only within authorized seasons and localities. Additionally, deer may be hunted with dogs only on leased properties of at least 1,000 contiguous acres or privately owned properties of at least 250 contiguous acres that are permitted by DNR. Permits are specific to a piece of property. Only one annual permit application per property should be submitted. Applications for a permit must be received at least 30 days prior to hunting deer with dogs. To legally hunt deer with dogs, each hunter 16 years and older must possess a deer dog
hunting license in addition to all other required licenses and permits. The fee for this license is $5 except that Honorary, Sportsmen’s and Lifetime license holders may obtain the license at no charge. Dogs used for hunting deer on such properties must be marked with the assigned permit number during a hunt. The permit number also must be clearly displayed on all vehicles being used during a dog deer hunt.

- In addition to WMAs which allowed deer hunting with dogs in 2018, it was lawful to hunt deer with dogs on designated areas of Rogers WMA during Dec 16, 19, 23 and 26. All dogs must be marked with the selected-hunter’s name and phone number.
APPENDIX K

Public Participation Plan for Consideration of Expanding Opportunity to Hunt Deer with Dogs in Georgia, Including Application Guidelines, Example Documents and Statutes and Rules Pertaining to Hunting Deer with Dogs
Hunting deer with dogs has a rich history of tradition with many Georgia deer hunters. However, changes in land use, decreasing parcel size of landholdings, and the overwhelming popularity of stillhunting has contributed to challenges between landowners and hunters. Because biological factors can be controlled by other means (e.g., either-sex days, season length, bag limits), consideration of additional opportunities to hunt deer with dogs is largely a social issue. As such, the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) will consider expanding opportunities to hunt deer with dogs in select counties if the activity is supported by a supermajority (e.g., 66% within margin of error) of stakeholders. This must include a supermajority of support from landowners and a supermajority of support from hunters, and not have substantial strong opposition (e.g., strong opposition exceeds 50% of all opposition) in either group. In the case of a public initiative requesting additional dog-deer opportunities, WRD may utilize the following public participation plan until additional data or experience warrant modification. The timeline of steps for a public participation plan is outlined in attachments A and B, respectively.

1. Project Initiation:
Persons interested in expanding opportunity to hunt deer with dogs in a specific county may request a copy of the Public Participation Plan for Consideration of Expanding Dog-Deer Hunting Opportunity by contacting any Game Management Section office. This document may be updated periodically and is available for public distribution upon request. The Wildlife Resources Division Director must receive a formal written request from a group of 10-20 sportsmen, including a complete list of names and telephone numbers of all coordinating volunteers, who agree to work with WRD to facilitate county level evaluations. This group must select a head spokesman who will coordinate with the appropriate Game Management regional supervisor and allow participation as a volunteer by any interested person. This letter, due no later than June 1, one year prior to the regulatory cycle, shall indicate support for the process including: public notification, evaluation of public opinion, the need for a supermajority of support from both landowners and hunters absent substantial strong opposition, support from the local State Legislators, and majority support of the process from County Commissioners. A sample letter of request is attached (Attachment C). Upon initiation of this public participation effort, the group’s spokesman will be notified of their acceptance into the process if WRD decides to proceed with the evaluation process. In this event, a certified letter will be sent from WRD’s Game Management region supervisor to the County Sheriff, State Court Judge, Probate Judge, Chairman of County Commissioners, County Extension Agent, and local State Legislators explaining the process and advising them of its current status in their respective county. A sample of the letter to county officials is attached (Attachment D).

2. Information and Education:
WRD will ensure publication of a minimum of two articles in a local newspaper not less than least 2 weeks prior to conducting the required public meeting. At least one public meeting will be advertised and held in the appropriate county. Game Management Section staff will coordinate, schedule and proctor the meeting and will make a presentation on the process, the pros and cons of hunting deer with dogs and answer questions. All WRD publicity and speaking opportunities will be balanced giving both positive and negative impacts of hunting deer with dogs. Members of the initiating group and the general public will be provided an opportunity for comments and input at the scheduled meetings. The public meeting and
publication requirements will be coordinated and administered by WRD and will be completed by August 15, one year prior to considering any regulatory proposals. Copies of all informational materials distributed to the public and media outlets by the initiating group of sportsman must be forwarded to WRD prior to distribution.

3. Compatible Areas:
Hunting deer with dogs is a traditional recreational activity, but is not biologically appropriate and/or is not compatible with other recreational opportunities and land use in all counties. Eligible counties were determined based on historic use of this method of hunting, compatibility with predominant land use, and availability of parcel sizes suitable for dog-deer hunting. A list of eligible counties is attached (Attachment E).

4. Evaluation:
A. WRD will obtain names from county tax records for a landowner survey. Attitude and opinion surveys consistent with accepted scientific methodologies will be used to survey landowners who own 20 acres or more based on the most recent electronic digest available in the respective county. Surveys will be conducted during September.

B. Assuming successful completion of the landowner survey, WRD will distribute and advertise sign up sheets (Attachment F) to obtain names and addresses of resident hunters who would like to express their opinion on this hunting opportunity. Only sign-up sheets provided by WRD will be used and they will be delivered to cooperating license agents and any other sites designated by the Game Management regional supervisor. Sign up sheets will be available by Oct. 10 and retrieved by WRD by 4:30 PM, November 30 if applicable. Public attitude and opinion surveys consistent with accepted scientific methodologies will be used to survey resident hunters. Surveys must show a supermajority of support by landowners and a supermajority of support by resident hunters. In addition, strong opposition must not be substantial for landowners or resident hunters. Respondents expressing “no opinion” shall not be included when determining rates of support by landowners or hunters. Survey responses shall be tallied only after the established deadline for submission. Deadlines imply receipt by close of business (4:30 PM) on the established date or by close of business on the next business day if the deadline falls on a Sat., Sun. or state holiday. The cooperating sportsman’s group shall provide WRD with a certified or cashier’s check for $3000 by September 1st for expenses. The money is non-refundable because funding for intensive county level attitude surveys is not available within WRD. To the extent permitted by law, names and/or addresses of landowners or hunters participating in the survey shall not be disclosed.

5. Regulation Phase:
If public opinion surveys are all favorable, meet the established criteria and significant biological concerns are absent; WRD will decide whether to announce proposed regulations consistent with the Statutes and Rules for Hunting Deer with Dogs (Attachment G) and these will be publicly noticed consistent with the Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13) in March, preceding the effective season. Public meetings will be conducted as part of the routine 2-year process for changing hunting regulations. Deer herds will be monitored at the regional levels as done currently.
ATTACHMENT A
IMPACTS OF EXPANDING DOG-DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

PRO
1. Maintains a long-standing, traditional style of hunting where friends and families may all hunt together.

2. Effective means of harvesting deer, especially in dense understory vegetation.

3. May be viewed as more exciting or action-packed than still hunting.

4. Many enjoy the process of training dogs and hearing the chase.

CON
1. Acreage minimums must be met for a property to be eligible for dog-deer hunting.

2. Dogs may sometimes venture off the permitted property and disrupt hunters on adjacent land.

3. Conflicts between neighboring properties may arise, whether complaints are legitimate or not.

4. Obtaining evidence of trespass by dogs may be difficult.

ATTACHMENT B
TIME LINE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS TO CONSIDER EXPANDING DOG-DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Accomplished by:

June 1 - Sportsman’s group contacts WRD with letter of intent. Notification letters mailed to state and local officials.

August - Public meeting and articles describing dog-deer hunting and the process at the county level.

Sept. 1 - Sportsman’s group submits $3000 for survey expenses or submits notification of intent to terminate the process.

September - Landowner opinion survey conducted.

October - Sign-up sheets distributed by WRD to cooperating locations.

Nov. 30 - Sign-up sheets collected by WRD.

December - Hunter opinion survey conducted.

Jan. 31 - Analysis of survey completed and recommendation formulated.

Mar. 15 - Regulations proposed to Board of Natural Resources as applicable.
May 30 - Regulations formally addressed as applicable.

Aug. 15 - Regulations published as applicable.

ATTACHMENT C

Mr. Dan Forster
Director
Wildlife Resources Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2070 U.S. Hwy 278, S.E.
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

Dear Mr. Forster:

This letter is an official request from ___________ County for implementing a public participation plan to evaluate expanding dog-deer hunting opportunity.

We understand and agree that there are two critical elements that must be accomplished before the program will work. The first is that the County Commissioners and local State Legislators must support this process.

Number two involves general public support of this program. We understand that a strong majority of people must be in favor of the program for it to work. For that reason, a scientific survey of hunters and landowners, conducted by WRD, must show a supermajority (e.g., 66% within margin of error) of support and not have substantial strong opposition (e.g., strong opposition exceeds 50% of all opposition) from landowners and hunters. Failure of either survey to meet these criteria ends the process. We understand that our sportsmen’s group is responsible for submitting a certified or cashier’s check for $3,000.00 (nonrefundable) payable to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to cover the expense of conducting this survey.

With this letter, we request the process to continue as described in Wildlife Resources Division’s Public Participation Plan for Consideration of Expanding Opportunity to Hunt Deer with Dogs. Again, our citizen group is ready and willing to provide assistance and help coordinate any public information-gathering effort.

Sincerely,

__________________________
Spokesperson for citizens group

(Name and telephone numbers of sportsman group attached)

ATTACHMENT D

Dear Sir or Madam (County Sheriff, State Court Judge, Probate Judge, County Commission Chairman, State Legislators, and County Extension Agent):
This letter is to inform you of the fact that the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (DNR/WRD) has received from a citizens group a request to implement the *Public Participation Plan for Consideration of Expanding Opportunity to Hunt Deer with Dogs* for __________ County. This is a an initiative that may expand opportunities to hunt deer with dogs by establishing such a season in a new county or by expanding existing opportunity within a county. Attached for your review, is a copy of the public participation plan used by DNR/WRD to determine if the landowners and hunters desire this style of management. DNR/WRD supports this recreational activity where compatible with other recreational opportunities, where conflicts are minimal and where it is biologically appropriate. These were the primary considerations for the counties that currently have this opportunity. However, if a supermajority (e.g., 66% within margin of error) of landowners and a supermajority of hunters desire this hunting opportunity in a new county, regulations may be recommended to the Board of Natural Resources.

There are two critical elements that must be accomplished before WRD will consider developing regulatory proposals for the opportunity to hunt deer with dogs. The first is that the County Commissioners and local State Legislators must support the process for this opportunity. If this support does not exist the program would be considered infeasible and stopped at that point.

Number two involves public support of this program. An overwhelming majority of hunters and landowners must favor this program to result in success. For that reason, separate scientific surveys of landowners (owning 20 acres or more) and hunters will be conducted. A supermajority (e.g., 66%) within margin of error) of each group must be in favor of such regulation. Additionally, strong opposition (e.g., strong opposition exceeds 50% of all opposition) must not be substantial in either group. Survey results not meeting these criteria would stop the program. A group of sportsman from ______________ County has agreed to work cooperatively with the Game Management Section to fund these surveys and assist with coordination of public meetings.

Again, this letter serves as notification that this public participation plan has been initiated in ______________ County. There will be newspaper articles explaining the activity of hunting deer with dogs and the process published in the local newspaper. In addition, there will be a public meeting held on ____________ at ____ PM at ____________________. This meeting will be designed to discuss the pros and cons of hunting deer with dogs and the process for implementation. The main goal of this meeting is to educate and inform the public of this process and style of management. At that time, input from the public will be received relative to this effort.

I welcome any questions or comments you might have. You may contact me at anytime at the above numbers. Please reply in writing with your support or opposition for this effort.

Sincerely,

Regional Supervisor, Game Management Section
**ATTACHMENT E**

Eligible counties include all counties, and portions thereof, that had a season for hunting deer with dogs in effect with the official 2014-2015 hunting regulations (41 counties) and the following counties (8) based on a historic use of dog deer hunting:

Appling  
Bacon  
Coffee  
Dodge  
Jeff Davis  
Telfair  
Toombs  
Wilcox

**ATTACHMENT F**

DEER HUNTER OPINION SURVEY (Georgia Residents Only)

The undersigned hunt in ____________ County and wish to be surveyed regarding hunting deer with dogs in ____________ County.

**PLEASE PRINT - ILLEGIBLE NAMES WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM SURVEY**

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<th>NAME</th>
<th>STREET ADDRESS</th>
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Vendor’s Signature________________________ Vendor’s Name________________________

Sheet #______ Auth. WRD Signature __________ WRD POC: __________ Tel. __________
§ 27-3-17. Hunting deer with dogs; seasons; permit required

(a) It shall be unlawful to hunt deer with dogs except during such special open seasons for the hunting of deer with dogs as may be designated by the board on a state-wide, regional, or local basis.

(b) In accordance with subsection (a) of this Code section, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing an open season for the hunting of deer with dogs as may be appropriate based on sound wildlife management principles.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer with dogs on any tract of real property unless a permit for hunting deer with dogs has been issued by the department for such tract to the owner or owners of such tract or the lessee of deer hunting rights for such tract. A permit for hunting deer with dogs shall not be issued to a lessee of deer hunting rights for any tract of real property that is less than 1,000 contiguous acres or to the property owner or owners for any tract of real property that is less than 250 contiguous acres. Any application for a permit for hunting deer with dogs shall be on such form as prescribed by the department and shall include a written description of the tract boundaries and a map showing key features such as public roads or streams on or bordering the tract and occupied dwellings on adjacent properties. The application must be signed by all persons owning any portion of the tract of real property or an authorized agent thereof.

(d) The owner of any dog that is used for hunting deer must cause such dog to be identified at all times during the hunt with the permit number for the tract being hunted.

(e) Any person operating a motor vehicle used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display in the front or rear windshield of such motor vehicle a decal or card showing the tract permit number in numerals not less than two inches high.

(f) The department shall thoroughly investigate for validity any complaints from adjacent property owners regarding hunting deer with dogs in violation of this title or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this title. The commissioner may take action against a permit as provided by Code Section 27-2-25 for violations of the provisions of this title or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this title occurring on the tract of real property for which the permit was issued.
(g) Any person 16 years of age or older, including without limitation any person hunting on his or her own property, who hunts deer with dogs must obtain and possess a deer-dog hunting license in addition to all other required hunting licenses and permits. The license fee for such deer-dog license shall be $5.00 for a one-year period, except that there shall be no charge for any holder of a valid honorary hunting license, sportsman's license, or lifetime sportsman's license issued pursuant to this title.

(h) In addition to the provisions of subsection (f) of this Code section, the commissioner may revoke a deer-dog license for any hunter who, within a single hunting season, commits two or more violations of dogs off of permitted property.

391-4-2-.17 Hunting Deer With Dogs.

(1) Permit Requirements. An owner or owners of such eligible tracts of land or lessee of deer hunting rights for such eligible tracts desiring to hunt deer with dogs may do so only if said owner or lessee shall have first applied for and been issued a permit by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. The hunting of deer with dogs subsequent to the receipt of said permit shall be strictly in accordance with the conditions of that permit and shall be authorized only during times and locations as described in 391-4-2-.26(6).

(2) Definitions. As used in these Rules and Regulations, the following terms are defined as follows:

(a) “Contiguous acres” means a single unit of land described on an application for a permit to hunt deer with dogs that may include multiple ownerships and may be transected by public roads, creeks, rivers, or rights-of-way of any public service corporation.

(b) “Eligible tracts” are those tracts of real property that contain a minimum of 1000 contiguous acres or a minimum of 250 contiguous acres owned by the applicant; provided, however, that any eligible tract or any part thereof which was included in an application for a permit pursuant to this Chapter which has been the subject of a revocation or non-renewal pursuant to O.C.G.A. §27-2-25 shall not be eligible for inclusion in any subsequent application for a permit for a period up to 2 years regardless of a change in the name or membership of the applicant until the expiration period of revocation or non-renewal.

(c) “Hunting deer with dogs” shall include the act of placing, releasing or in any other manner causing or procuring the cause of dog(s) to be, or attempting to be, in the pursuit of running, trailing or baying deer, whether such act results in a taking or attempted taking or not. Once the owner of the dog(s), his agents, or permittees place, release or otherwise cause dog(s) to be in the pursuit of running, trailing or baying deer, then the owner, his agents or permittees shall be deemed to be “hunting deer with dogs” until such time that the dog owner, his agents or permittees have regained physical possession and control of the dog(s), or the dog(s) have otherwise ceased in the pursuit or attempted pursuit of running, trailing or baying deer.
(3) Application for Permit.

(a) The applicant must be the landowner or lessee of deer hunting rights, if applicable, for the eligible tract being considered for a permit.

(b) An application must be on a form provided by the Department. Completed forms must include:

1. Name, social security number or federal identification number if the applicant is a corporation or other entity, address and telephone number of applicant;

2. List of hunters who are allowed to hunt on the permitted property;

3. Printed name and signatures of all persons owning any portion of the eligible tract or an authorized agent thereof. Copies of notarized leases with wording authorizing the use of dogs for hunting deer may substitute for respective signatures on the application form;

4. A written description of the eligible tract boundaries and associated acreage. Acceptable documents are limited to certified plats, recorded deeds, surveys, tax maps or notarized leases;

5. A map showing key features including the boundary of the eligible tract; public roads, streams and rights-of-way on or bordering property, occupied dwellings on adjacent property, and the points of access from public roads that are to be used by hunters and guests.

(4) Issuance of Permits.

(a) Complete permit applications must be received at least 30 days prior to the first day for hunting deer with dogs on an eligible tract.

(b) The following occurrences shall be a violation of this Chapter:

1. Entry into or exit from, the permitted property for any purpose other than points of access from public roads marked on the application map without the express written permission of the adjacent landowner upon whose land entry or exit is made. The express written permission of the adjacent landowner or a copy thereof must be carried on the person making the entry or exit.

2. Failure to control hunting dogs to keep them on the permitted property.

3. Interference with the right of any person to freely and in an unrestricted manner, travel any public road or stream transecting or bordering the permitted property.

(c) Based on the factors set forth in subparagraph (b) above, a permit shall contain
limitations or conditions on the following:

1. All hunters authorized under the permit must insure that all dogs used in hunting deer remain on the permitted property at all times.

2. Permittee, hunters, and guests may not enter upon properties not covered under the permit while hunting or retrieving hunting dogs without the express written permission of the landowner. The express written permission of the adjacent landowner or a copy thereof must be carried on the person making the entry or exit.

3. All permittees, hunters, and guests must abide by all applicable rules, regulations and laws governing hunting.

4. Any person not included on the membership list provided with the application for the permit and hunting under the authority of the permit shall be considered a guest of the permittee and must possess written permission on his or her person from the permittee.

(5) Hunting Deer with Dogs on Permitted Tracts.

(a) Any person 16 years of age or older who is engaged in the activity of hunting deer with dogs must possess a valid deer-dog hunting license.

(b) The owner of any dog that is used for hunting deer must cause such dog to be identified at all times during the hunt with the owner’s name and permit number for the tract being hunted;

(c) Any person operating a motor vehicle used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display in the front or rear windshield of such motor vehicle a decal or card showing the tract permit number in numerals not less than two inches high. Motor vehicles that lack front or back windshields being used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display the tract permit number in numerals not less than two inches high in a prominent and visible location on the front or back of the vehicle.

(6) Expiration of Permit. The permit will expire on 30 June next following the date the permit is issued or by the date specified, whichever comes first.

(7) Violation of Permits. Violation of any of the terms and/or conditions of a permit or of this Chapter, including the submission of false information on said application, shall make said permit invalid and deer hunters hunting under authority of that permit may be considered to be hunting in violation of the Rules and Regulations authorizing the hunting of deer with dogs.

(8) Revocation and Denial of Permits and Licenses.

(a) The commissioner may take action against a permit as provided in O.C.G.A §27-2-
25 for violations of the provisions of O.C.G.A Title 27 or of rules and regulations issued pursuant to O.C.G.A Title 27.

(b) The commissioner may revoke a deer-dog license of any hunter who, within a single hunting season, commits two or more violations of paragraph (4)(b)(2) of this Chapter.

(c) For purposes of this Chapter only, a serious violation or habitual violations of laws, rules and regulations or conditions of a permit while engaged in deer hunting with dog activities on or commencing from permitted tracts provide justification for revocation and or denial of permitted activities.

(d) The Commissioner, pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-13-18(c)(1) may, upon a finding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, incorporate such a finding into his order and order a summary suspension of a permit pending proceedings for revocation or other action, which proceeding shall be promptly instituted and determined. Evidence of physical harm or threats of physical harm to adjacent landowners, interference with the free and unrestricted travel of public roads or streams, significant destruction of the property of adjacent landowners or multiple violations of a permit in a single season shall be sufficient for a finding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

(e) Revocation or denial of a permit shall be for an eligible tract in its entirety, regardless of size and shall be in effect for a period of up to two years.

APPENDIX L

Summary of Hunting Regulations for Louisiana as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
2018

- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on any state-managed wildlife management area (WMA).
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on private lands enclosed within the boundaries of a WMA.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs or train deer-hunting dogs on U.S. Forest Service lands.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on private lands during primitive firearm and archery deer-hunting seasons.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in Deer Areas 1 and 4 during Dec 8-Jan 6.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in Deer Area 2 during Dec 6-Jan 13.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in Deer Areas 3 and 8 during Dec 1-Jan 6.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in Deer Areas 5, 6 and 9 during Dec 8-Jan 20.
- Lawful to hunt deer with dogs in Deer Area 7 during Nov 26-Dec 30.
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in Deer Area 10.
APPENDIX M

Summary of Hunting Regulations for Mississippi as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
• Lawful to hunt deer with dogs during Nov 17-Dec 1 and Dec 24-Jan 16 in all 82 counties. Either-sex on private land and legal buck only on open public land.
• Wildlife management areas (WMAs) are not considered Open Public Land. Some of the 50+ WMAs allow deer hunting with dogs and some don’t.
• Corps of Engineers lands and USDA National Forests are considered Open Public Lands, so they follow the same season dates and regulations as the zones in which they are located, with the exception of Homochitto National Forest, which requires a dog hunting permit.
• Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on each of the 6 national forests during open season for their respective deer zones, except WMAs located within the boundaries of each forest might, or might not, allow dogs.
• To hunt deer with dogs on Homochitto National Forest, participants must apply for a Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks-issued permit at https://xnet2.mdwfp.com/Permitting/Public/DogClubPermit
• It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, if such person is in the possession of a firearm that is not unloaded, on any street, public road, public highway, levee, or any railroad which is maintained by any railroad corporation, city, county, levee board, state or federal entity or in the right-of-way of any such street, road, highway, levee or railroad.
APPENDIX N

Hunting with Dogs on Homochitto National Forest
1. From Nov 1-Jan 31, all dog hunting groups or individuals hunting with dogs must obtain a permit to use dogs to hunt any animal or to train dogs on areas open to deer hunting with dogs.

2. There is no cost for the permit. A permit will be issued to the dog hunting group.

3. All hunters hunting with this group must be listed on the permit prior to hunting, except youth 15 years of age and younger.

4. All hunters hunting with dogs or with the dog hunting group must have the permit on their person while hunting.

5. Five (5) guest permits will be available in addition to the individuals listed on the permit. Guest permits will be valid for 4 consecutive days and must be filled out with the date, hunter’s name, hunting license number, and signed by the hunter prior to use.

6. All guests must have the permit on their person while hunting.

7. Guest permits must be turned in to the USFS Meadville office for replacement guest permits to be issued.

8. Permit numbers must be visually displayed on the back window of all vehicles in the hunting group.

9. A permit number will be provided with each individual permit issued. Hunters must display this permit number using 3-inch block numbers in contrast to the background color.

10. Permits will be available from the U.S. Forest Service Meadville office.

11. Dogs must wear a functional tracking collar and be identified at all times with the permit number and the owner’s contact information. Dogs must be kept on the Homochitto National Forest lands that allow deer hunting with dogs.

12. A person who violates any of the provisions of this regulation is guilty of a Class III offense, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than twenty five ($25) nor more than one hundred ($100) dollars.

13. In addition thereto, an administrative review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials may, upon two (2) convictions or documented evidence of two
violations of this regulation within a 3-year period, revoke the dog hunting permit for a period of twenty (20) days open to hunting deer with dogs. Upon three (3) convictions or documented evidence of three (3) violations of this regulation within a 3-year period, the dog hunting permit may be revoked for a period of one (1) year.

14. Any person who files a false affidavit in justice court alleging a violation or violations of this rule, provides false information regarding a violation of this rule, or facilitates a situation which will cause a violation of this rule to occur may be subject to prosecution for perjury and, if found guilty, punished under Mississippi code and/or be subject to a civil suit for false prosecution by the person accused of the violation.

History: Updated May 2014
Source: MISS. CODE ANN.§ §49-1-29, 49-7-31 and 49-7-41.
APPENDIX O

Summary of Hunting Regulations for North Carolina as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
On private lands it is lawful to hunt on Sundays with certain restrictions but unlawful to use firearms to take deer that are chased by dogs.

Unlawful to hunt or chase deer with dogs at any time in all or parts of 55 counties located mostly in the western half of the state.

Lawful to hunt deer with dogs during open gun season (Oct 1-Nov 30 or Nov 17-Jan 5) in all or parts of 50 counties located mostly in the eastern half of the state. In these counties, the Wildlife Resources Commission may not restrict or prohibit the use of dogs in hunting or the training of dogs, in season or out, except during the breeding and raising seasons for game during the period Apr 15-Jun 15.

The Croatan National Forest (Craven, Carteret and Jones Counties) is the only national forest in North Carolina that allows deer hunting with dogs. Dogs can be used during the modern gun deer season (Oct 13-Jan 1).

Deer dogs can be trained to run deer anytime as long as the dogs are accompanied by their owner. This applies only to counties where hunting deer with dogs is allowed. It is unlawful to allow dogs not under the control of the owner or the individual in possession of the dogs to run or chase deer during the closed deer season.

Unlawful to intentionally remove or destroy an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner to maintain control of the dog.

Deer dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed on Game Lands (public and private land managed by the state) located west of I-95 from Apr 1-Aug 15 and on those located east of I-95 from Mar 15-Jun 15. It is unlawful to allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in 4 counties from Mar 1 to about Oct 15. It is unlawful to allow dogs to run unleashed on Game Lands located west of I-95 on dates when hunts are scheduled for the Disabled Sportsman Program.

Dogs shall not be trained on wildlife conservation areas except during open hunting seasons. Dogs are not allowed to enter any wildlife conservation area designated as a colonial waterbird nesting area during Apr 1-Aug 31.

Any dog which trails, runs, injures or kills any deer on any wildlife refuge, sanctuary or management area that is managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission during the closed season for hunting with dogs is declared a public nuisance. These dogs may be destroyed by an agent or employee of the Wildlife Resources Commission. This law was passed in 1951.

On public hunting grounds, the Wildlife Resources Commission may impound dogs found running at large without supervision or means of identification. This law was passed in 1951.

The Wildlife Resources Commission may not restrict the number of dogs used in hunting or require that a particular breed of dog be used in hunting. This law was passed in about 1979.

Some counties prohibit hunting from any public road or its right-of-way.

In the 2009-10 through 2017-18 hunting regulations publications it indicated it was unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during archery and blackpowder seasons. However, Dr. Jonathan Shaw revisited existing rules and state laws and clarified there is no dog hunting restriction during archery
and blackpowder seasons in eastern North Carolina, in areas where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has no authority to regulate hunting deer with dogs.

2015
- Hunting on Sunday became legal on private lands with firearms except when hunting deer with dogs.

2011
- Statewide, if a hunter kills or wounds a big game animal during legal shooting hours, the hunter may use a portable light source and a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving the dead or wounded big game animal.

2005
- It is unlawful to intentionally remove or destroy an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner to maintain control of the dog. Before this year, this law only applied to some counties.

2001
- It is unlawful to take deer with dogs in Durham County.

1995
- It is unlawful to take deer with dogs in Richmond County west of the Little River and to that portion of Richmond County east of the Little River and bounded by Highway 73 to the north, by Hough Road to the east, and by Grassy Island Road to the south.

1987
- During the season for hunting deer with firearms in Anson County, deer may be hunted with the aid of dogs east of North Carolina Highway 742 only during the last five weeks of the season. The hunting of deer with dogs in Anson County west of Highway 742 continues to be prohibited.

1981
- It is unlawful to hunt deer by any means other than still hunting in that part of Chowan County south of U.S. Highway 17 and U.S. Highway 17 Business and east of a line drawn from the intersection of the western city limits of the Town of Edenton and U.S. Highway 17 Business and extending due south to the Albemarle Sound.

1979
- It is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take or kill deer or foxes with dogs in all of Alamance County. A line was established in North Carolina where Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) has no authority to regulate hunting with dogs east of that line. The WRC does not allow hunting deer with dogs west of that line where it has authority to do so.
Additionally, there are local laws passed prior to and after 1979 by the NC Legislature that prohibit hunting deer with dogs in counties or parts of counties east of that line.

1977

- Prevent hunting deer with dogs in Wayne County.

1975

- It shall be unlawful to allow dogs to chase deer, or to hunt or attempt to take deer with the aid of dogs at any time in Johnston County
APPENDIX P

Legislative Rules and Codes Related to Hunting Deer with Dogs in North Carolina
§ 67-14.1. Dogs injuring deer or bear on wildlife management area may be killed; impounding unmuzzled dogs running at large.

(a) Any dog which trails, runs, injures or kills any deer or bear on any wildlife refuge, sanctuary or management area, now or hereafter so designated and managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission, during the closed season for hunting with dogs on such refuge or management area, is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, and any wildlife protector or other duly authorized agent or employee of the Wildlife Resources Commission may destroy, by humane method, any dog discovered trailing, running, injuring or killing any deer or bear in any such area during the closed season therein for hunting such game with dogs, without incurring liability by reason of his act in conformity with this section.

(b) Any unmuzzled dog running at large upon any wildlife refuge, sanctuary, or management area, when unaccompanied by any person having such dog in charge, shall be seized and impounded by any wildlife protector, or other duly authorized agent or employee of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(c) The person impounding such dog shall cause a notice to be published at least once a week for two successive weeks in some newspaper published in the county wherein the dog was taken, or if none is published therein, in some newspaper having general circulation in the county. Such notice shall set forth a description of the dog, the place where it is impounded, and that the dog will be destroyed if not claimed and payment made for the advertisement, a catch fee of one dollar ($1.00) and the boarding, computed at the rate of fifty cents (50¢) per day, while impounded, by a certain date which date shall be not less than 15 days after the publication of the first notice. A similar notice shall be posted at the courthouse door.

(d) The owner of the dog, or his agent, may recover such dog upon payment of the cost of the publication of the notices hereinbefore described together with a catch fee of one dollar ($1.00) and the expense, computed at the rate of fifty cents (50¢) per day, incurred while impounding and boarding the dog.

(e) If any impounded dog is not recovered by the owner within 15 days after the publication of the first notice of the impounding, the dog may be destroyed in a humane manner by any wildlife protector or other duly authorized agent or employee of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and no liability shall attach to any person acting in accordance with this section.

(1951, c. 1021, s. 1.)

§ 103-2. Method of take when hunting on Sunday.
(Excerpts related to hunting deer with dogs)

(a) Any landowner or member of the landowner's family, or any person with written permission from the landowner, may, subject to rules established by the Wildlife Resources Commission, hunt wild animals and upland game birds with the use of firearms on Sunday on the landowner's property, except that all of the following limitations apply:
(3) The use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs on Sunday is prohibited.

(a1) Any person may, subject to rules established by the Wildlife Resources Commission, hunt wild animals and upland game birds with the use of firearms on Sunday on public lands of the State managed for hunting, except that the following limitations apply:

(2) The use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs on Sunday is prohibited.

§ 113-291.1. Manner of taking wild animals and wild birds.
(Excerpts related to hunting deer with dogs)

(d1) Except in areas closed to protect sensitive wildlife populations, and subject to conditions and restrictions contained in rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission, hunters may train dogs during the closed season:

(2) If reasonable control is exercised to prevent the dogs from running unsupervised at large and from killing wild animals and wild birds;

(3) On land owned or leased by the dog trainer or upon which the person has written permission to train dogs;

§ 113-291.5. Regulation of dogs used in hunting; limitations on authority of Wildlife Resources Commission; control of dogs on game lands; control of dogs chasing deer; other restrictions.

(a) Except as provided in G.S. 113-291.4, in the area described below, the Wildlife Resources Commission may regulate the use of dogs taking wildlife with respect to seasons, times, and places of use. The area covered by this subsection is that part of the State in and west of the following counties or parts of counties: Rockingham; Guilford; that part of Alamance and Orange lying south of Interstate Highway 85; Chatham; that part of Wake lying south of N.C. Highway 98; Lee; Randolph; Montgomery; Stanly; Union; and that part of Anson lying west of N.C. Highway 742.

(b) In the area of the State lying east of that described in subsection (a), the Wildlife Resources Commission may not restrict or prohibit the use of dogs in hunting or the training of dogs, in season or out, except during the breeding and raising seasons for game during the period April 15 through June 15.

(c) On game lands, wildlife refuges, and public hunting grounds the Wildlife Resources Commission may regulate the possession and use of dogs and may impound dogs found running at large without supervision or, if unsupervised, without means of identification.

(d) The Wildlife Resources Commission may not by its rules anywhere in the State restrict the number of dogs used in hunting or require that any particular breed of dog be used in hunting.
(e) It is unlawful to allow dogs not under the control of the owner or the individual in possession of the dogs to run or chase deer during the closed deer season.

(f) Nothing in this section is intended to require the leashing or confining of pet dogs. (1979, c. 830, s. 1; 1987, c. 827, s. 98.)

**15A NCAC 10B .0109 CHASING DEER BY DOGS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES**

It is unlawful to allow dogs to run or chase deer or to attempt to take deer with dogs at any time in Alamance County south of I-85; Orange County south of I-85; Chatham County; Lee County; Wake County south of NC 98; and in and west of Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph and Montgomery Counties and that part of Anson County west of NC 742. Note: See 15A NCAC 10D .0103 which prohibits any hunting with dogs on game lands during the season for hunting deer with guns in and west of these counties.

**15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)**
(Excerpts related to hunting deer with dogs)

Open Seasons (Archery) for hunting deer:
(2) Restrictions
   (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the archery season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Archery) for hunting deer:
(2) Restrictions
   (B) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the blackpowder firearms and archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

Open Season (Urban Season) for hunting deer:
(3) Restrictions:
   (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the urban season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

**15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS**
(Excerpts related to hunting deer with dogs)

(f) Hunting with Dogs on Game Lands. Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.
(g) Bear Sanctuaries. Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15 on bear sanctuaries in and west of the counties and parts of counties described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
   (D) On the Singleterry Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.

(8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County
   (B) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(13) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties
   (G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.

(15) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
   (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.

(16) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
   (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(26) Dare Game Land in Dare County
   (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.

(28) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
   (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders during scheduled permit hunts.

(33) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
   (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.

(38) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
   (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
      (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
      (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
(45) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties
   (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.

(49) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
   (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(56) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
   (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(69) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
   (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(73) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties
   (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(78) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
   (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

(85) Tillery Game Land in Halifax County
   (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(88) Vance Game Land in Vance County
   (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the Nutbush Peninsula tract.

(91) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
   (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:
   (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

15A NCAC 10J .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE OF CONSERVATION AREAS
(Excerpts related to hunting deer with dogs)

(e) Training Dogs. Dogs shall not be trained on designated wildlife conservation areas except during open hunting seasons for game animals or game birds thereon. Dogs are not allowed to enter any wildlife conservation area designated and posted as a colonial waterbird nesting area during the period of April 1 through August 31.
APPENDIX Q

Summary of Hunting Regulations for South Carolina as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on wildlife management area (WMA) lands unless otherwise specified. The Department may permit deer hunting with dogs on WMA lands not located in Game Zones 1 & 2.

On private lands in Game Zones 1 & 2, it is unlawful to pursue deer with dogs.

On private lands in Game Zones 3 & 4, it is lawful to pursue deer with dogs.

Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on Hellhole WMA Francis Marion National Forest during Nov 3 and Dec 1. Unlawful to hunt deer with a rifle or by still hunting during these dates. Buck only.

Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on Northampton WMA Francis Marion National Forest during Sep 29, Oct 10-11, Nov 17, Nov 23-24, Dec 8 and Dec 28. Unlawful to hunt deer by still hunting during these dates.

Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on Santee WMA Francis Marion National Forest during Sep 14-15, Oct 20, Oct 24-25, Nov 23 and Dec 8. Unlawful to hunt deer by still hunting during these dates.

Lawful to hunt deer with dogs on portions of Wambaw WMA Francis Marion National Forest during Sep 28, Oct 13, Nov 10, Nov 14-15, Dec 8 and Dec 26-27. Unlawful to hunt deer with buckshot or by still hunting during these dates.

Unlawful to hunt from a public road unless the hunter has permission to hunt the adjacent property. A person convicted of unlawful road hunting forfeits hunting privileges for 1 year.
APPENDIX R

South Carolina Forestry Commission
Manchester State Forest Wildlife Management Area
2018 Public Lottery Dog-Hunt Application
Applications must be postmarked by **Friday, August 17, 2018** to be eligible for lottery. A non-refundable application fee of $10.00 made payable to SC Forestry Commission must be enclosed with the application and mailed to: **Manchester Dog Hunt, 6740 Headquarters Road, Wedgefield, SC 29168** to be considered for draw. A random drawing to fill all slots will be conducted by the SC Forestry Commission and the applicants will be notified of successful or unsuccessful draw. The lottery will be for the hunt master only. Hunt masters may only apply once. **The Hunt Master is responsible for making sure that each participate is aware of all information below.**

**Hunt Information**

1. **Roster** – If successfully drawn, Manchester State Forest will mail you a roster to fill out and return with a check for $100.00 made payable to SC Forestry Commission to: **Manchester Dog Hunt, 6740 Headquarters Road, Wedgefield, SC 29168** by 2:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to scheduled hunt. Total participates will be limited to 50 adults and 20 youth. Once the roster and check are turned in, it is final. The name on the roster must match name on hunting license. Hunters under the age of 16 are consider youth and must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older with a valid hunting license and be within arm’s reach of the adult.

2. **Compartments** – Manchester State Forest is divided into 5 compartments. Compartments are labeled 1 through 5, and each compartment will be assigned a date. Manchester State Forest reserves the right to substitute one compartment for another.

3. **Limits** – WMA limits will apply. **Hunters Must Use Their Individual Deer Tags Issued By SCDNR.**

4. **Hunt Hours** – Hunting hours will be from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm.

5. There will be no transfers of hunt slots or substitutions. Hunt Master must be present during hunt.

6. **All Wildlife Management Area rules and regulations apply.**

**Hunt Master Name**  
**License # / Customer ID #**  
**Mailing Address**  
City ___________ State _______ Zip _________

**Phone Number**  
**Email Address**

**Hunt Dates:** *Saturday*

- October 29, 2018 – Comp 2
- November 03, 2018 – Comp 3
- November 05, 2018 – Comp 4
- November 10, 2018 – Comp 5
November 12, 2018 – Comp 1
December 01, 2018 – Comp 2
December 03, 2018 – Comp 1
December 08, 2018 – Comp 3
December 15, 2018 – Comp 4
December 22, 2018 – Comp 5
APPENDIX S

Legal Statutes Related to Deer Hunting with Dogs in Texas
The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in a duly noticed meeting on August 22, 2013, adopted an amendment to §65.19, concerning Hunting Deer with Dogs, without changes to the proposed text as published in the July 12, 2013, issue of the Texas Register (38 TexReg 4501).

The amendment removes 12 counties from the applicability of the rule's prohibition of the use of dogs in hunting, pursuing, or taking deer in certain counties, the effect of which is to make it lawful in those counties for a person to use not more than two dogs to trail a wounded deer.

In 1990 the department promulgated rules prohibiting the use of dogs to trail wounded deer in Angelina, Bowie, Camp, Fannin, Franklin, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Hunt, Jasper, Jefferson, Lamar, Liberty, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Red River, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Titus, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Washington, and Wood counties. The rulemaking was necessary because the department determined that dogs were being used unlawfully to hunt deer, which was causing depletion of the resource and in the process denying others an equitable and reasonable privilege to hunt deer. The rulemaking was based on the department's statutory duty to prevent the depletion of deer populations and to provide for the most equitable and reasonable privilege to hunt (Parks and Wildlife Code, §61.002 and §61.055).

In 2000, the department determined that the practice of using dogs to hunt deer had declined to the point of being nonexistent in Bowie, Camp, Fannin, Franklin, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Rockwall, Titus, and Wood counties. In 2001, the department removed those counties from the list of counties where the use of dogs to trail wounded deer was prohibited.

In 2005, the 79th Texas Legislature enhanced the department's authority to address hunting with dogs with the enactment of House Bill 1959 (HB 1959) (Regular Session), which added Parks and Wildlife Code, §62.0065, to stipulate that a person may not recklessly use a dog to hunt or pursue a deer in this state. Parks and Wildlife Code, §62.0065 also authorized the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to prescribe by rule the type of firearm that may be possessed during an open deer season by a person who is in actual or constructive possession of a dog while in the field on another person's land or property in 22 listed counties. In a 2005 rulemaking, in addition to implementing provisions of HB 1959, the department removed the prohibition on the use of dogs to trail wounded deer in Hunt and Washington counties.

After discussions with department biologists and law enforcement staff, the White-tailed Deer Advisory Committee recently recommended that it be lawful for a person to use not more than two dogs to trail wounded deer in additional counties where the department has determined that hunting deer with dogs is no longer widespread or problematic. Department staff identified 12
counties (Harris, Harrison, Houston, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Panola, Polk, Rusk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker) that meet the criteria.

The rule as adopted will function by enumerating those counties where it is lawful to use dogs to trail wounded deer and those counties where it is not.

2005 (Adopted)
Excerpted from §65.19
Section 65.19 was amended to remove Hunt and Washington counties from the list of counties where it is unlawful to use dogs to track wounded deer. The department has determined that the practice of hunting deer with dogs, which originally prompted a ban on the use of dogs in some counties, has declined in the named counties to the point that the regulation is no longer required.

2005 (Adopted House Bill 1959)
(Copied in its entirety)
Senate Research Center
79R17867 E
C.S.H.B. 1959
By: McReynolds (Armbrister)
Natural Resources
5/17/2005
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Many Texans consider hunting a basic foundation to their way of life. People spend precious resources and time maintaining and cultivating good hunting habitats. Unfortunately, there are people in this state who choose to violate Texas laws which spoil the sport for others. Twenty years ago, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted rules outlawing hunting deer with dogs in all Texas counties. Dogs can still be used in trailing a wounded deer in all but 24 East Texas counties. Although these rules exist, East Texas has been continually plagued with incidents of hunting deer with dogs. Due to restricted visibility of East Texas forests, it is difficult for game wardens to enforce and charge violators who hunt deer with dogs. Without adequate enforcement tools, outlaws will continue to spoil deer hunting for those who abide by existing law.

C.S.H.B. 1959 codifies Title 31, Rule 65.19 of the Texas Administrative Code (Hunting Deer with Dogs) into a new section of the Parks and Wildlife Code. It grants the Parks and Wildlife Commission additional authority to adopt rules as to the type of firearms that can be used during open deer season when a person is in possession of a dog on property other than their own in the 24 East Texas counties. C.S.H.B. 1959 also enhances the penalty for people who continue to hunt deer with dogs. This new penalty is consistent with other violations of the Parks and Wildlife Code.
RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in SECTION 2 (Section 62.0065, Parks and Wildlife Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Sets forth legislative intent regarding the unlawful hunting of deer with dogs.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Parks and Wildlife Code, by adding Section 62.0065, as follows:

   Sec. 62.0065. HUNTING DEER WITH DOGS. (a) Prohibits a person from recklessly using a dog to hunt or pursue a deer in this state, except as provided by Subsection (d).

   (b) Authorizes the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (commission), by rule, subject to Subsection (a), to prescribe the type of firearm that may be possessed during an open deer season by a person who is in actual or constructive possession of a dog while in the field on another person's land or property in specific counties.

   (c) Provides that it is not a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a) or to prosecution for violation of a rule adopted under Subsection (b) that the defendant was not the owner or in immediate possession of the dog or that the offense or violation was committed without the effective consent of the dog's owner.

   (d) Authorizes the commission, by rule, to authorize the use of dogs to trail wounded deer.

SECTION 3. Amend Sections 62.013(b) and (c), Parks and Wildlife Code, as follows:

   (b) Provides that a person who violates specific sections, including Section 62.0065, or a rule adopted under Section 62.0065 commits an offense that is a Class A Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor, unless certain specific conditions are met. Makes conforming changes.

   (c) Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 4. Amends Sections 62.017(a) and (c), Parks and Wildlife Code, as follows:

   (a) Provides that if a person is finally convicted of an offense under specific sections, including Sections 61.022, 62.0065, or a violation of a rule adopted under Section 62.0065, the court entering judgment of conviction is authorized to order any weapon or other personal property used in the commission of the offense or violation destroyed or forfeited to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

   (c) Provides that this section does not apply to a vehicle, aircraft, vessel, or dog.
SECTION 5. Amends Sections 12.5015(a), (b), and (c), Parks and Wildlife Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 6. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 7. Effective date: September 1, 2005.

1996 (Adopted)
Excerpted from §65.19

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) 'actual possession of a dog' means the physical control of a dog;

(2) 'constructive possession of a dog' means having the power and intention to have and control a dog but without direct control of the dog, the actual presence of physical restraint upon the dog, or the actual presence of the dog at exactly the same place as the person having the dog.

(b) It is unlawful to use a dog or dogs in hunting, pursuing, or taking deer in all counties.

(c) It is lawful to use not more than two dogs in trailing a wounded deer in all counties, except in Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, and Tyler counties, where dogs may not be used to trail wounded deer.

(d) In Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, and Tyler counties, it is an offense for any person, during an open deer season, to be on property that the person does not own while:

(1) in possession of a shotgun and buckshot or a slug; and
(2) in actual or constructive possession of a dog or dogs.

(e) The penalties for a violation of this section are prescribed by Parks and Wildlife Code, §62.013.

Source Note: The provisions of this §65.19 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 5303; amended to be effective June 3, 2002, 27 TexReg 4712; amended to be effective July 10, 2005, 30 TexReg 3997; amended to be effective October 18, 2005, 30 TexReg 6768; amended to be effective October 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 7114

1989 (Adopted)
Excerpted from §65.33

Section 65.33 was amended by shortening the season for running deer with dogs in the Pineywoods of east Texas by one day.
1986 (Adopted)
Excerpted from §65.33
Special exemption: In Hardin, part of Harrison, Jasper, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Sabine, San Jacinto, and Tyler Counties only, hunting deer with dogs is permitted only during the period beginning December 7 through the first Sunday in January.

1981 (Emergency Rule)
Excerpted from §65.17
Morris and Shelby Counties were added to the list of counties that could not use dogs to trail wounded deer.

1980 (Adopted)
Excerpted from §65.17 (127.70.01.316)
It is unlawful to use a dog or dogs in hunting, pursuing, or taking deer in all regulatory counties, except Hardin County; that portion of Harrison County south of Interstate Highway 20 and east of State Highway 43; Jasper, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, and Tyler Counties.

It is lawful to use not more than two dogs in trailing a wounded deer in all regulatory counties except, Bowie, Camp, Fannin, Franklin, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Hunt, Jefferson, Lamar, Liberty, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Red River, Rockwall, Rusk, San Augustine, Titus, Trinity, Walker, Washington, Winkler, and Wood Counties

A wounded deer is defined as one leaving a blood trail.
APPENDIX T

A Report on Deer Hunting with Dogs
Introduction

On October 15, 2015, the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries requested a report for the January 2016 Board meeting on issues surrounding deer hunting with dogs, potential options to address any issues, and a recommended approach going forward. This request followed input provided by several members of the Virginia Landowners Association who attended the October 15 meeting. **This report does not recommend any regulatory or legislative actions.**

The Virginia Deer Management Plan directs VDGIF to preserve the heritage and tradition of hunting deer (including with dogs), for both management and recreational benefits, while ensuring that hunting methods are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners and other citizens (VDGIF 2015). Deer hunting with dogs is an important tradition and deer population management tool in eastern Virginia, but it can generate concerns from other hunters and landowners regarding “trespassing” dogs, trespassing hunters, and hunting from or near roads (VDGIF 2015).

This report borrows heavily from work done by VDGIF and Virginia Tech during the 2007-2009 *Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward* process. Products from the process included a 121-page peer-reviewed technical report written by Department staff (VDGIF 2008a), survey and written comment summaries by Virginia Tech (Kozlowski et al. 2008, McMullin et al. 2008), and recommendations by a Stakeholder Advisory Committee. As of 2015, no regulatory or statutory changes have been made as a result of this process.

Description of the Issues

Deer may be hunted with dogs east of the “dog line” (Figure 1). The most recent data available indicated that 29% (approximately 55,000) of deer hunters in Virginia used dogs at least once during the season (VDGIF 2008b); 44% of deer hunters used dogs in regions of Virginia where dogs may be used to hunt deer (VDGIF 2005). In the Tidewater region, 73% of deer hunters used dogs (VDGIF 2005) and accounted for 86% of all deer harvested regionally during the general season (VDGIF 2006; unpublished harvest data). In the Southern Piedmont, approximately half of the deer harvested during the general season were taken by hunters who used hounds (VDGIF 2006; unpublished harvest data). It is not known how many of these hunters used dogs exclusively.

Figure 1. Areas open and closed to deer dog-hunting in Virginia, demarcated by the “dog line.”
The economic impact attributable directly to deer hunting with hounds is unknown. However, the pursuit of this sport involves purchasing special equipment, in addition to purchasing and maintaining hunting hounds. An informal survey by Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance estimated that each member of deer-dog hunt clubs in the southern Piedmont spent an average of $3,000 a year for fuel, dog care, equipment, and other hunting-related expenses (VDGIF 2008a).

Due to the distances covered during deer chases, high visibility, and frequent interactions with landowners and other outdoor users, deer hunting with dogs can be controversial at times. The Department receives complaints from residents and other hunters about trespass, violation of privacy, and interference from deer hunters who use dogs. Changing land uses, demographics, and societal attitudes are exerting pressures on the sport not seen a generation ago.

Under the pretext of other legal pursuits, some deer hunters who use dogs may engage in activities that lead to conflicts with other citizens or that are viewed as objectionable by the public (VDGIF 2008a). For example, some hunters may chase game or disturb other citizens on prohibited lands under the guise of retrieving hunting dogs (Code of Virginia §18.2-136), chase deer out-of-season during year-round fox chase seasons (Code of Virginia §29.1-516), or road-hunt under laws or ordinances which vary considerably by locality. A number of states permit retrieval of hunting dogs without landowner permission under certain conditions (e.g., on unposted properties), but Virginia appears to be one of only two states where hunters can lawfully retrieve dogs even when access has been expressly denied by the landowner. In Minnesota, the other state with a similar dog-retrieval law, dogs cannot be used to hunt deer.

Deer chase characteristics, land use and demographic trends, hunter opinions, public comments, documented dog-related complaints made to VDGIF, and similar experiences in other states provide context for these issues.

Characteristics of deer chases. Deer hunting with dogs typically requires large tracts of land due to the extent of the chase. In studies of unconstrained, traditional hunts conducted in 5 southeastern states, the average deer chase lasted 11-33 minutes and extended 0.8-2.4 miles (VDGIF 2008a). Historically, hound-hunts for deer took place on farms with contiguous areas in excess of 20,000 acres. Today, most deer clubs have access, through ownership, leases, or informal agreements, to areas 1,000-5,000 acres in size, much of which is fragmented. In 2008, Virginia Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) properties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains where hounds were used averaged 3,400 acres, while still-hunt only properties averaged 1,300 acres (VDGIF 2008a).

Land use and demographic changes. Growing at a rate of 1.4% each year since 1960, the estimated population in Virginia now exceeds 8 million people. The growth in human populations has not been uniform across the state, and some high-growth urban and suburban areas are open to deer hunting with dogs (e.g., Richmond, Hampton Roads). Byproducts of human population growth that impact deer hunting have been changes in land use, parcel size, and cultural norms. Land development fragments and reduces the land base available for hunting, intensifying competition among land uses and activities on remaining undeveloped lands (VDGIF 2008a).
Between 1959 and 2012 in Virginia, the total farmland acreage and the total number of farms have decreased by 36% and 54%, respectively. In 1959, 52% of Virginia’s land area was in farmland compared to only 33% in 2012.

Land ownership patterns of forested habitats have also changed over recent decades. In 1992 timber companies owned 11% of the forested land area in Virginia, but by 2012 they only owned approximately 1% (VDOF 2014). Most of Virginia’s forestland (76%) is privately owned as nonindustrial private forest land (NIPF), but the NIPF component is even greater (>80%) in dog hunting areas of the southern Piedmont and Coastal Plain (Rose 2007). These NIPF holdings average less than 75 acres in size, with 90-95% of the forest landowners owning less than 100 acres. Between 1978 and 2004, Virginia’s private forest owners with landholdings that were greater than 1,000 acres declined from nearly 30% to less than 10%.

These trends of increased land development, reductions in forested parcel size, and decreased agricultural uses will undoubtedly continue to strain the compatibility of traditional hound-hunting with changing cultural expectations (VDGIF 2008a). These changing ownerships and land uses can also undermine the traditional relationships that hunters have nurtured with landowners in their community (VDGIF 2008a).

Public comments. Dog hunting issues were prominent during the 2015 public review of the draft 2015-2024 Virginia Deer Management Plan. Concerns about hunting deer with dogs were among the top three specific issues mentioned, along with antlered deer quality and urban deer management (VDGIF 2015).

During the biennial processes to amend hunting regulations, VDGIF receives public comments from hunters and other citizens regarding potential regulatory issues during a “scoping” period before regulation proposals are made. During the most recent regulation period (2014-15), 36 (32%) of 113 comments received about deer hunting pertained to deer hunting with dogs - more than any other topic. During 2007, the web forum for VDGIF regulations recorded 928 “hunting with dogs” comments from 254 individuals, representing 44% of all individuals providing comments, and 38% of the total comments received.

During the 2007-2009 process to develop Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward, VDGIF and Virginia Tech received public input via letters and emails (Kozlowski et al. 2008) as well as responses to an informal (non-random) survey (McMullin et al. 2008). With more than 3,500 comments received, the sharp divide between pro-dog and anti-dog advocates was confirmed by the relatively even split in opinions. Hound “trespassing” (i.e., hounds on lands of another without permission) and hound interference with other non-hound hunters were the two chief concerns noted.

Dispatch Complaints to VDGIF. Although the DGIF Communications Center tries to accurately capture data on all calls it receives, the exact number and nature of dog hunting-related complaints can be difficult to establish due to the design of the system. For example, many codes for hunting violations calls (e.g., human trespassing) are identical whether a dog is involved or not; a dispatcher can only conclude that such is the case if the caller specifically
mentions a dog in their description. In addition, hunting complaints made directly to Conservation Police Officers or other VDGIF staff by local law enforcement agencies, other state or federal agencies, or citizens are often not captured in the complaints database. For these reasons, dispatch data should be viewed as a conservative reflection of all dog-related complaints received by VDGIF.

Notwithstanding the limitations of these data, it appears that most dog-related hunting complaints occur in areas of Virginia where deer hunting with dogs is allowed (Figure 2, Appendix 1). On a statewide basis, dog-based complaints averaged 4.9% of all hunting complaints, with a couple of counties exceeding 20%. Out of 28 different complaint types, dog-related complaints were the 6th most common hunting complaint following, in order of frequency, calls about trespassing, hunting during closed season, baiting or feeding wildlife, spotlighting, and road hunting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dog-related Complaint Rate (%) of all hunting complaints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 - 25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6 – 9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 – 6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 – 2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Dog-related hunting complaint rates in Virginia, July 2014-June 2015. See Appendix 1 for number of complaints and complaint rates by county.

Hunter opinions. The most recent data regarding hunter disturbance by deer dogs during the deer firearms season come from the Department’s 2008-09 hunter survey (VDGIF 2009). Statewide, hunters reported being disturbed most frequently by other hunters (41%), followed by hunting dogs (28%), and then by other outdoor users (25%). Disturbances from other hunters were most frequent in all regions of the state (28-53%), while disturbances from other outdoor users were reported more frequently than disturbances from hunting dogs in the mountains (28% vs. 23%). However, hunter disturbances from hunting dogs were more frequent (29%) than disturbances from other outdoor users (20%) in the dog-deer hunting areas of the state (i.e., in the Piedmont and Tidewater regions).
In a 2006 survey, 62% of hunters supported Sunday hunting, but 59% of hunters opposed hunting deer with dogs on Sunday - more than opposed hunting any other game species with dogs on Sunday. The average opposition to Sunday hunting for all game species combined was 34% (VDGIF 2007). Although Sunday hunting was legalized in 2014, the use of dogs in deer hunting with weapons on Sundays is forbidden (§ 29.1-521).

**Experiences in other states.** Besides Virginia, eight other states in the Southeast (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina) allow deer hunting with dogs. In a 2008 nationwide survey conducted by VDGIF, 70% of the states with deer dog hunting reported that problems between landowners and hound-hunters (of any game) were a serious concern; only 6% of the states that do not allow deer hunting with dog (but allow other forms of hound-hunting) indicated serious concerns with this issue (VDGIF 2008a). In this survey, road-hunting was a serious concern for 60% of the states with deer dog hunting, but only 19% of the states that do not allow deer hunting with hounds reported serious road-hunting problems. Conflicts of trespass and interference with other users have been the primary factors leading to restrictions on deer hunting with dogs in the Southeast (VDGIF 2008a).

**Approaches Used to Address Issues in Virginia and Other States**

Options for addressing issues pertaining to deer hunting with dogs can best be understood by looking at approaches that have been used in Virginia and other states. This was the topic of Chapter 6 of the *Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward* technical report (VDGIF 2008a). The sections below summarize and update approaches described in the technical report, which should be consulted for more complete descriptions. Approaches used to address the issues have ranged from non-regulatory (e.g., education, hunter self-governance, stakeholder collaboration, property access management) to regulatory/statutory (e.g., dog/hunter/club registration or permits, dog management laws, more effective road-hunting laws, closures by season or area, complete prohibitions; VDGIF 2008a).

**Non-regulatory**

Non-regulatory approaches have been the most common means to address conflicts, and have often preceded more stringent measures. Before the 2007-2009 *Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward* process, deer hound-hunting issues were addressed in Virginia on a case-by-case basis. With assistance from VDGIF, governing bodies in the counties of Accomack (1997), King George (1986), Richmond (2004), and Westmoreland (1996) chartered hunter/landowner advisory committees to develop non-regulatory solutions to hunter-landowner conflicts, mostly related to hunting deer with dogs (VDGIF 2008a). Since 2013, a committee of landowners and hunters created by the Accomack County Board of Supervisors has met to collaborate on potential solutions to conflicts. In 2011, the Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance developed a Hunting Dog Owner’s Code of Ethics to encourage all hunters who use dogs to respect landowners, care for their dogs, and practice safe and ethical hunting (Appendix 2). Then newly-revised 2015-2024 Virginia Deer Management Plan includes several strategies for educating landowners, hunters, and other citizens to reduce conflicts (VDGIF 2015).
Closures by Specific Area – Private Lands

As a result of landownership patterns, geography, and attitudes about the use of hounds for hunting, several states do not allow hound-hunting in specific areas. Some of these local or regional closures are simply the result of different traditions, while others are more recent and reflect conflicts and changing public attitudes about the use of hounds (VDGIF 2008).

In Virginia, hunting deer with hounds has been prohibited by state law west of the Blue Ridge Mountains since 1948 (§ 29.1-516) and in 11 counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (or portions thereof, e.g., west of Rt. 29) by regulation (4VAC15-90-260). Other states provide similar examples (Southeast Deer Study Group members, personal communication; hereafter SEDSG). The hunting of deer with dogs has been prohibited on private lands in 16 of Alabama’s 67 counties, and partially closed in 13 counties. Arkansas is regulated by zone, with some zones having dog hunting and some zones without. In Georgia, the number of counties open to deer hunting with dogs was reduced from 63 to 46 counties between 1950 and 1980, primarily due to biological impacts and the lack of interest or tradition in the areas being closed. From 1980 to 2003, five additional Georgia counties were closed primarily due to conflicts between dog deer hunters and landowners or still hunters, as well as changes in land use and ownership. Deer hunting with dogs has been traditionally prohibited in western North Carolina under authority of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. In eastern North Carolina, hunting with dogs can be prohibited through local laws passed by the NC General Assembly; some counties are closed to deer hunting with dogs and some are closed during certain time periods (SEDSG). Timber companies in the Southeast, including in Virginia, who lease thousands of acres to hunt clubs, have increasingly restricted the use of deer hounds (VDGIF 2008a).

Closures by Specific Area - Public Lands

Hound-hunting closures on state and federal lands in Virginia and other states, mostly related to deer hunting, have been based on land purchase restrictions, incompatibility with managed hunts, conflicts between hunters in high use areas, or concerns about hunter and/or hound encroachment onto adjacent properties (VDGIF 2008a). In Virginia, deer hunting with dogs is prohibited by regulation on Amelia, Chester F. Phelps, G. Richard Thompson and Pettigrew Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs; 4VAC15-90-260) and by WMA rules on Cavalier, Featherfin, Mattaponi, and Merrimac WMAs (4VAC15-40-280). The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has operated under guidelines developed in 1990 for where and when to allow deer hunting with dogs on public lands: (1) separation of hound-hunting spatially and temporally from other types of hunting and outdoor recreation, (2) consideration of regional demand for deer hunting with dogs and opportunity on other lands nearby, (3) requirement of a 33,000-acre minimum for all types of deer dogs and a 15,000-acres minimum for small dogs only (which cover less area), and (4) a good road system to facilitate interception and retrieval of dogs. In 2012, the U.S. Forest Service closed the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana to hunting deer with dogs due to chronic conflicts between hunters who use dogs, still hunters, and adjacent landowners (Louisiana Sportsmen Alliance vs. Vilsack et al. No. 13-31260 5th Circuit U. S. Court of Appeals 2014).
Closures by Time Period

For a variety of reasons, temporal closures or reductions for deer hunting with dogs have been implemented in some states (VDGIF 2008a). In Virginia, dogs are prohibited when hunting deer on Sundays (with a weapon, § 29.1-521), during the early archery and early muzzleloader seasons (4VAC15-90-70, 4VAC15-90-80), and during the first 14 hunting days of the open deer season in Greene and Madison counties (4VAC15-90-260). For several decades in Mississippi, dogs have been prohibited during portions of the deer season to allow still hunters an opportunity to hunt without disruptions by dogs. Prior to the establishment of the deer dog hunting permit program in Georgia in 2003, dog-hunting conflicts were addressed by closing counties or portions of counties where problems were most intense, reducing the length of deer season when dogs could be used, or a combination of both. In 2002, a proposal to reduce the length of the deer dog hunting season in Georgia counties with the most intense conflicts was not adopted, but precipitated the law resulting in a permit system (VDGIF 2008a).

Of the nine states (including Virginia) that allow deer hunting with dogs in the Southeast, three states provide deer chase/training opportunities outside the deer hunting season (Alabama, Arkansas, and Florida), three states provide general periods where various game (including deer) may be chased during the closed season (Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina), and three states have no provisions for legal deer dog training outside of the open deer hunting season (Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia (SEDSG)).

Hunting From or Near Roads

The release of dogs on adjacent prohibited lands, interference with traffic, and a poor image of hunting are aspects of hunting from or near roads that have led to complaints about deer hunting with dogs (VDGIF 2008a). States address road-hunting in different ways. For example, Alabama law prohibits the release of deer hunting dogs from public roads or rights-of-way without permission of adjacent landowners (220-2-.112). Louisiana law (56:116.3A(1)(b)) prohibits hunting or shooting deer while on a public highway or right-of-way, further specifying it is unlawful to “stand, loiter, hunt, or shoot” game from a public road or right-of-way. In South Carolina, it is unlawful to hunt from a public road or railroad right-of-way if the person does not have permission to hunt immediately-adjacent land; it is also unlawful to hunt from any road, right of way, property line, boundary, or property when a hunting dog has entered prohibited property nearby (SC Code 50-11-760 and 50-11-770). Other southeastern states (e.g., Arkansas, Florida, and Mississippi) have statewide prohibitions on hunting from or near public roadways; Virginia and North Carolina have varying state and local laws regarding road-hunting (SEDSG).

Permit/Registration Programs for Dog Hunters

To encourage deer hunters to keep dogs on properties where they have permission, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida have developed permit or registration systems to increase accountability of deer hunters using dogs. These states have implemented programs that require special permits or licensing for deer hound-hunters or hound-hunting clubs using private lands in those counties where allowed. A permit has also been established on one National Forest in Mississippi (Table
In 2006, a movement was supported by an association of deer dog hunters in Arkansas to implement a permit system like that in Georgia, but it never materialized (SEDSG).

Permit systems for deer hunting with dogs have been developed only after other approaches failed, and complaints have generally declined following establishment of these programs (SEDSG). Because proposals threatened to eliminate deer hunting with dogs in Georgia, the Georgia Dog Hunters Association promoted a law to protect both landowner and deer dog hunting interests in 2003, resulting in the Georgia permit system (VDGIF 2008a).

Table 1. Basic attributes of permit programs for hunting deer with dogs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Affected Properties</th>
<th>Minimum Acres</th>
<th>Permittee/Registrant</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>All or part of 15 (of 67) counties*</td>
<td>200 (in 14 cos.); 400 (in 1 co.)**</td>
<td>Landowner, lessee</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Private lands where lawful</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Landowner, lessee</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Private lands where lawful</td>
<td>250 (owned) 1000 (leased)</td>
<td>Hunter license; Landowner permit</td>
<td>$5 dog hunter license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Homochitto National Forest</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Individual property owners in 2 of these 15 counties may hunt with dogs on their own property without a permit.

** Minimum acreage restriction is not in effect for landowners in the two counties with the landowner exemption.

**Regulatory Authority of the VDGIF Board**

Chapter 5 in the 2007-2009 *Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward* technical report contains a detailed summary of the various state and local laws and regulations pertaining to hunting with dogs in Virginia, as well as some discussion of laws of other states (VDGIF 2008a).

The Board has broad authority to pass regulations in the area of hunting. This includes hunting with dogs. No regulation, however, can contradict the terms of a statute in the Code of Virginia. There are several sections where the Code establishes rules for hunting with dogs that cannot be changed by Board regulations and could only be changed through General Assembly action:

- §18.2-136 of the Code of Virginia, often called the “right to retrieve” law, provides:

  “Fox hunters and coon hunters, when the chase begins on other lands, may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls but may not carry firearms or bows and arrows on their persons or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent. Any person who goes on prohibited lands to retrieve his dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls pursuant to this section and who willfully refuses to identify himself when requested by the landowner or his agent to do so is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.”

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• §29.1-516 (Deer) makes it illegal to hunt deer with dogs in the counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Board may regulate or even prohibit deer hunting with dogs in eastern counties, but it cannot legalize deer hunting with dogs in western counties.

• §29.1-516 (Fox) establishes “a continuous open season for hunting with dogs only” for fox. Thus, the Board cannot prohibit the use of dogs in fox hunting or close the season, but it may still have some authority to regulate how dogs are used in fox hunting.

• §29.1-516.1 authorizes the use of tracking dogs to retrieve wounded or dead bears or deer.

• §29.1-521(A)(1) forbids the use of dogs in deer hunting with weapons on Sundays.

• Since the Department can only issue licenses that are set in the Code, a separate license/permit for dogs or dog hunting would require General Assembly authorization.

Aside from these limitations, the Board generally has authority to regulate the use of dogs in hunting. As with all regulations, any amendment would have to be advanced through the proper regulatory process and reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General to ensure that it is consistent with the authority granted to the Board by the Code of Virginia.

**Recommended Approach**

Based on the Recreation Goal in the newly-revised 2015-2024 Virginia Deer Management Plan (VDGIF 2015), the goal of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries going forward is to *preserve the heritage and tradition of hunting deer with dogs, for both management and recreational benefits, while ensuring that hunting methods are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners and other citizens.*

The sixth objective of the Recreation Goal in the Deer Plan (p. 81) provides several potential strategies to address conflicts between deer hunting with dogs and private property owners:

a. *Using surveys and other methods, identify and describe deer hunting activities (e.g., when, where, frequency), including hunting with dogs, that may result in conflicts with landowners and other Virginia citizens.*

b. *Develop and implement educational programs, regulations, guidelines, and recognition programs to reduce conflicts between deer hunters and other Virginia citizens.*

c. *Discourage illegal activities that fail to respect the interests and rights of landowners and other citizens through law enforcement, incentives, and other deterrence strategies.*

d. *Establish a dialogue between deer hunters and landowners who experience problems or conflicts with deer hunters.*
Guided by the Deer Plan, a recommended approach is outlined below. This approach focuses on deer hunting with dogs, although some discussions and solutions could involve hunters of other game species.

(1) Survey landowners and hunters in the area of Virginia where deer hunting with dogs occurs to characterize interactions and impacts (positive and negative) associated with deer hunting dogs or hunters who use dogs. Although a variety of information currently exists (e.g., complaints, public comments), there are limitations with these data. In addition to providing better information on the distribution, timing, frequency, and types of interactions/impacts, surveys should be designed to illustrate the motivations, values, and expectations of the different parties involved. Such information could explain why interactions become conflicts and provide a clearer articulation of the issues. Representative samples of private landowners and hunters (who hunt deer with dogs or who may be impacted by deer hunting with dogs) should be of sufficient size to allow analysis at relevant geographic scales. Hunters and landowners should be involved in the development of questionnaire topics and pre-testing of the survey.

(2) Convene a deer dog hunter/landowner stakeholder group to:

   a. Establish an ongoing dialogue among stakeholders;
   b. Vet questions for the survey described above;
   c. Identify and define issues;
   d. Review and research strategies that have been used to address similar issues in Virginia and elsewhere;
   e. Make recommendations for non-regulatory or regulatory solutions; and
   f. Perform other duties, as needed.

The stakeholder group will be composed of deer hunters who use dogs, deer hunters who do not use dogs, and private landowners who are impacted by deer hunters. Members of the group will be selected and invited by VDGIF based on their demonstrated ability to represent their concerns constructively, tolerate disparate perspectives, and resolve problems through teamwork. VDGIF should establish a vision for the group, but members of the group should help develop specific objectives, meeting schedules, and ground rules. Minutes of group meetings will be maintained and made available upon request. This group will remain active for as long as it is deemed productive by a majority of the group and/or VDGIF.

(3) If progress is not achieved through surveying and collaborating with stakeholders, as outlined above, other plans of action could be considered. This could include non-regulatory actions (e.g., education, changes in policy), regulatory amendments, and working toward legislative solutions. Options could include strategies identified by the deer dog hunter/landowner stakeholder group, preferences based on survey results, and options that already have been used in Virginia or other states.
**Literature Cited**


VDGIF. 2007. A summary of Virginia hunters’ opinions on Sunday hunting. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Richmond, VA.


VDGIF. 2008b. Virginia survey of hunter harvest, efforts, and attitudes – 2007-08. Richmond, VA.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Dog Complaints</th>
<th>Total Complaints</th>
<th>Complaint Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensville</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mecklenburg</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powhatan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisa</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>77</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Hanover</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>77</td>
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<td>Halifax</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King and Queen</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunenburg</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottoway</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckingham</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
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<td>Mathews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesapeake</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westmoreland</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
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1. I will provide proper care for my dogs including food, water, medical care and shelter and will firmly insist other hunting dog owners do the same.
2. I will provide proper identification and contact information on all of my dogs.
3. I will diligently work to retrieve my dogs by the end of the hunt recognizing it is my moral and ethical responsibility to retrieve every dog as quickly as possible. If I cannot locate a dog by the end of the hunt, I will do my best to retrieve it as quickly thereafter as reasonably achievable.
4. I will only release my dogs on property on which I have permission to hunt and will not tolerate others releasing dogs on property where they do not have permission to hunt.
5. I will find a proper home or shelter for any dog that I determine I cannot or will not keep. I will not abandon any dog and will not tolerate any one who does.
6. I will consider myself a guest of the landowner, whether private, state or federal, always seeking permission upfront, and will conduct myself so I will be welcome in the future.
7. I will do my best to tread lightly while afield, to carefully use only established roads and trails, to leave any gates as I find them (open or closed), and foremost to leave no litter.
8. I will promote fair chase of game animals and ethical treatment of hunting dogs.
9. I will strictly follow the rules of safe gun handling, obey all game laws and regulations and will report those who violate game laws and regulations.
10. I will actively encourage young and new hunters to participate in and enjoy the thrill and camaraderie of hunting with dogs.
11. While Virginia’s “Right to Retrieve” law gives me legal standing to retrieve my dogs from any property, I will practice the “Right of Respect” toward landowners with whom I come into contact and their property. I will admonish my fellow hunters to do the same.
12. I will always be mindful that I am the public face of all dog hunters when afield or in the community. I will strive to hold myself and others to the highest standards of behavior when hunting with my dogs so we all reflect well on the ancient and honorable tradition of hunting with dogs.”
APPENDIX U

Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward
HUNTING WITH HOUNDS IN VIRGINIA: A WAY FORWARD

Photo Credit—Kim Needham Echols

TECHNICAL REPORT

HOUND-HUNTING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE,
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

NOVEMBER 2008
The Technical Report provides factual information about the various dimensions of hound-hunting relevant to Virginia: history, status, trends, values, concerns, and legal aspects. This report does not include recommendations to address hound-hunting issues. Recommendations will be presented through other components of the Hunting with Hounds: A Way Forward process.

Specific objectives of this report are to (1) provide technical information to complement values input provided by public stakeholders, (2) separate evidence from conjecture, (3) identify issues relevant to hound-hunting in Virginia, and (4) inform all parties involved in the Hunting with Hounds process.

Primary users of information contained in this report include the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, the general public, decision makers, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) and Virginia Tech, and other wildlife professionals and organizations in the United States.

The Hound-Hunting Technical Committee (Appendix 1) produced this report in its entirety and is solely responsible for the content. The report relies on a number of information sources. Sources are cited in the text by author and year (e.g., Allen 1984, VDGIF 2002) and listed alphabetically at the end of the report. Sources included scientific literature, unpublished technical data, popular literature, the worldwide web, and personal communication.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Technical Committee acknowledges the assistance of numerous individuals in developing this report. We recognize the continuing support and assistance of Sarah Lupis Kozlowski and Steve McMullin of Virginia Tech, who have exceeded their roles as process facilitators to provide information and reviews for this report. Brooke Wright and Kaylee Severen of Virginia Tech assisted with literature and other information. Brooke and Sarah also reformatted this entire report to be consistent with other documents produced as part of the Hunting with Hounds process.

We are grateful to the wildlife agency personnel in all 50 states and Ontario, Canada who completed our email survey (Appendix 2) and/or responded to follow-up calls or emails for more information. For providing information, kind remarks, useful reviews, and/or comments on draft versions of this report, we wish to thank the following people, in no certain order: Joe McCauley, Don Schwab, and Sandy Spencer, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Rolf Gubler and Gordon Wissinger, National Park Service; Mark Duda, Responsive Management; John Bowers, Greg Nelms, and Charlie Killmaster, GA Wildlife Resources Division; Chris Ryan and Rich Rogers,
Also, we wish to thank the following VDGIF staff who are not members of the Technical Committee for their assistance during development of this report: Bob Duncan, Bob Ellis, Marc Puckett, John Rohm, Rick Reynolds, Ray Fernald, Jonathan Sleeman, Kent Burtner, Jerry Sims, Jim Bowman, Ray Davis, Kevin Clarke, Tony Fisher, David Dodson, Jay Howell, Robert Schmidt, Phil Smith, Gary Norman, Wanda Wilson, and Karen Austin.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hunting with hounds is an important tradition in Virginia, but modern challenges demand solutions. A proactive approach to resolving issues is best for all parties. To ignore the issues is to invite a reactionary response that may preclude more reasonable solutions. Therefore, the goal of the Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward process initiated by VDGIF and Virginia Tech in 2007 is: “To provide diverse opportunities for hunting with hounds in Virginia in a manner that is fair, sportsmanlike, and consistent with the rights of property owners and other citizens.”

Hounds have been used to hunt black bears, white-tailed deer, gray and red foxes, raccoons, rabbits, and other species throughout Virginia’s history. Today, at least 30% of all hunters in Virginia likely use hounds. Benefits of hound-hunting range from wildlife population control, to individual hunter satisfactions, to community benefits. Significant sociological values exemplified by hound-hunting include tradition and heritage, companionship and community, challenge of the sport, and specific hound- and horse-related values. Hound-hunters assist with wildlife research, wildlife damage abatement, public safety incidents involving wildlife, invasive species control, and land conservation. The economic contribution of hound-hunting is difficult to measure but considered significant.

Although hound-hunting is still viable in many areas, changing land uses, demographics, and societal attitudes are exerting pressures on hound-hunting not seen a generation ago. These modern trends are a recipe for conflicts involving hunters and other citizens. Due to relatively large acreage requirements, high visibility, frequent interactions with landowners and other outdoor users, and hunting methods that some people find unacceptable, hunting with hounds can be controversial.

Demonstrated by numerous public surveys, ballot initiatives, and other legal actions across the United States, the use of hounds for hunting has been a source of concern among hunters, landowners, and other citizens. While most Americans support hunting in general, the use of dogs has generated concerns about fair chase, animal welfare, conflicts of interest, and objectionable behavior by hunters. Deer and bear hunting with hounds have fueled much of the debate. Concerns about bear hunting tend to focus more on fair chase and animal welfare issues, whereas deer hunting issues focus more on conflicts of interest, such as landowner trespass and disturbance to other hunters. As currently regulated, hound-hunting poses little threat to wildlife populations, although potential influences on behavior and movements of individual animals cause concern for some citizens.

Addressing conflicts through increased enforcement in Virginia is hampered by inadequate staffing levels and certain laws that are difficult to enforce. At present, Virginia employees an average of only 1.2 VDGIF Conservation Police Officers per county. Unethical hunters may take advantage of certain laws to engage in activities that lead to conflicts with other citizens or that are viewed as objectionable by the public; e.g., chasing game or disturbing other citizens on prohibited lands under the dog retrieval law, chasing deer and bears out-of-season under year-
round fox or raccoon chase seasons, and road-hunting under inconsistent laws or ordinances. A number of states permit retrieval of hunting dogs without landowner permission under certain conditions (e.g., on unposted properties), but Virginia appears to be one of only 2 states where hunters can lawfully retrieve dogs even when access has been expressly denied by the landowner. Assistance from other state and local law enforcement agencies varies across Virginia. In some areas, significant resources are devoted to highway safety and animal control issues related to hound-hunting. Definitive data on complaints and violations relating to hunting with hounds is lacking, but new systems under development offer improved methods for coordinating enforcement and reporting of such incidences.

Approaches used to address hound-hunting issues in Virginia and the United States have included nonrestrictive, voluntary measures (e.g., education, codes of ethics, multi-stakeholder guidelines), increased restrictions on hound-hunting (e.g., permits, pack size limits), closures during certain times or in certain areas, and complete prohibitions on hound-hunting. The diversity of approaches that have been used to address hound-hunting conflicts demonstrates the importance of considering the unique aspects of each situation. Although some approaches have reduced opportunities for hound-hunters, restrictions were often designed to mitigate the public’s desire to eliminate certain hound-hunting practices.
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CHAPTER 1—INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Hounds have been used to hunt black bear, white-tailed deer, gray and red fox, raccoon, rabbit, squirrel, wild turkey, and other species throughout Virginia’s history. Each type of hound-hunting has a distinct history, tradition, and culture. Hunting with hounds remains important today as a traditional recreational activity and as a means to harvest challenging quarry. Hound-hunting also contributes substantially to wildlife population management in many areas. Today, 40% of all hunters use some type of dog while hunting and at least 30% of all hunters likely use hounds (Jagnow et al. 2008).

The Virginia of today is very different from the Colony where hunting with hounds evolved and flourished. Changes in land uses, demographics, and societal attitudes are exerting pressures on hound-hunting that were largely unknown just 50 years ago. These modern trends are a recipe for conflicts involving hunters and other citizens. Due to relatively large acreage requirements, high visibility, frequent interactions with landowners and other outdoor users, and hunting methods that some people find unacceptable, hunting with hounds has become controversial in some parts of the United States and in other countries. However, hound-hunting still occurs in many areas with few conflicts.

To address issues associated with hound-hunting, a variety of strategies have been used across the United States. Recent restrictions in other states were a primary motivation for VDGIF to look more closely at hound-hunting in the Commonwealth, in hopes of finding solutions that would be acceptable to hound-hunters, landowners, and other affected citizens. Hound-hunting in Virginia is viable and popular, but increasingly difficult in our modern landscape. To date, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) has addressed hound-hunting issues on a case-by-case basis, recently using guidance found in the Virginia Bear and Deer Management Plans. In 2007, VDGIF initiated the *Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward* process, in conjunction with Virginia Tech, to address the issues more comprehensively. The goal of this process reflects a proactive endeavor aimed at benefiting all parties: “To provide diverse opportunities for hunting with hounds in Virginia in a manner that is fair, sportsmanlike, and consistent with the rights of property owners and other citizens.”

HISTORY AND TRADITION

Identifying a way forward for hound-hunting in Virginia today begins with understanding the roots of the tradition. At the crossroads of a plantation culture and the Appalachian frontier, Virginia played a prominent role in developing America’s hound-hunting traditions. Founding fathers, explorers, and backcountry settlers contributed to the diversity of hound breeds and hunting styles. As wildlife populations were decimated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by habitat destruction and unregulated hunting, Virginia joined other states in enacting hunting laws to conserve wildlife. The different hunting regulations in eastern and western Virginia...
today reflect not only a difference in physical geography but also a historical divergence in culture and tradition that continues to impact hound-hunting to this day.

**Domestication of the Dog**

Recent genetic analysis clearly demonstrates that the domestic dog is a descendant of the wolf and is the oldest of all domesticated species (Wayne and Vila 2001). Archeologists have discovered 15,000 year old European cave paintings depicting humans using dogs to hunt wild animals (Cornwell 1966). A primary reason man domesticated the dog was to assist in securing food (i.e., hunting) in addition to its value as companion and protector (Cornwell 1966, McInteer 1968). Dick Dietz of the Washington News Bureau noted, “the man-dog partnership is probably one of the oldest ever developed and certainly one of the most successful” (McInteer 1968:7).

**Early Records on Hunting with Hounds**

*Early Development of Hounds*—In the centuries following domestication, hunting hounds were bred into two general categories: sight, or coursing, hounds (e.g., Greyhound, Afghan Hound, etc.) and scent hounds (e.g., Saint Hubert Hound - ancestor to the modern Bloodhound - and Southern Hound) (BF 2007). Sight hounds were typically sleek, long legged, and silent and were generally used in open, arid environments where dogs could hunt fox, red deer, hare, and other game by sight. In contrast, scent hounds were heavier bodied, more durable, and had deep, rich musical voices. They were developed to hunt bear, boar, deer, and other large game in the thicker, temperate forests of Europe (BF 2007).

*Hound-Hunting from Medieval Europe to Colonial America* – In the 1600s when North America was colonized, the Europeans brought the tradition of hunting with hounds to the New World in the form of an English hound. One of the earliest importations of hunting hounds into Colonial America was a pack brought by Robert Brooke to Maryland in 1650 (BF 2007, FFF 2007). Hounds had been used to hunt foxes for hundreds of years, but the modern foxhound did not emerge until the early- to mid-18th century in England. It was created by crossing the Greyhound and the Southern Hound (BF 2007).

Hound-hunting was an integral part of plantation life in Colonial Virginia. George Washington’s personal diaries indicate fox hunting from horseback was his favorite sport (Wilson 1960). U. S. Congressman John Randolph, of Roanoke, was known to stride onto the House of Representatives floor with riding boots, riding crop, and a pack of hounds yelping behind him (Pitch 1990).

**The American Hound-Hunting Tradition**

*Subsistence and Social Recreation*—In contrast to the aristocratic European hunting tradition, hunting was not limited to the wealthy or nobility in Colonial America (Robinson and Bolen 1989). In Europe, wildlife was the private property of the upper class. However, in America, a model developed where wildlife is a publicly-owned resource. This distinction afforded the common man the right to hunt in America (Bean 1983, Marks 1991). Whereas the wealthy
hunted with hounds for recreation and social interaction (Wilson 1961), hound-hunting in North America before the wildlife conservation movement in the late 19th century could best be described as subsistence hunting practiced by the common man (Marks 1991). This subsistence hunting lifestyle was best embodied by the Appalachian culture of the Scots-Irish immigrants who poured into the backwoods of Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and western Virginia in the mid-1700s (BF 2007, Fischer 1989).

Development of American Hound Breeds—From the first English hounds, American hound-hunters would develop an assortment of new trailing and treeing hounds over the next 250 years, particularly suited for the specific species they pursued. The diversity of hounds included the trailing foxhounds (e.g., July, Trigg, and Walker strains), the treeing coonhounds (e.g., English, Redbone, Bluetick, Black and Tan, and Treeing Walker), and the all purpose trailing and treeing hounds (e.g., Plott - a German import – Cur, and Leopard Hound). Today there are about 400 breeds of dogs worldwide. The AKC recognizes 23 registered breeds of hounds, although a number of unique strains exist within the breeds (AKC 2008).

Historical Restrictions on Dog-Hunting

For the majority of Colonial Americans, agriculture and subsistence hunting were the most important means of survival. As a result of habitat loss and unregulated subsistence and market hunting, many wildlife populations were reduced to the brink of extinction over much of the eastern United States by 1900 (Reeves 1960, Dickson 2001). Restrictions were put in place on hunting, especially certain hunting methods that were very effective even at low game densities, like hound-hunting. In 1876, Wisconsin outlawed hunting deer with dogs (Trefethen 1961). One of the most famous battles to restrict hound-hunting was the Adirondack Deer Law (Ives Act) passed in New York in 1888 (Trefethen 1961). Proponents of the Ives Act were concerned about deer population impacts from hound-hunting as well as unsportsmanlike practices, such as driving deer into the water with hounds so they could be easily captured. By the 1920s, the use of hounds for hunting deer was prohibited throughout the northeastern United States (Mattfeld 1984).

Timeline of Important Hunting Laws and Regulations in Virginia

Following are some of the laws or regulations that have either directly or indirectly impacted hound-hunting in Virginia since settlement (Reeves 1960, Peery and Coggin 1978):

1632—First “hunting” law passed to protect feral hogs released when the colony was settled in 1607
1639—First hunting trespass law enjoined public not to hunt or shoot on another’s property
1699—First closed season for deer hunting: February 1 – July 31
1738—First law passed to restrict hunting with dogs: owners to keep dogs tied or kenneled except when on the chase, to protect the declining deer population.
1792—New legislation to protect landowners against trespass
1849—First closed deer season west of the Blue Ridge: January 1 – August 1
1920s—Counties west of Blue Ridge closed to deer hunting
1950s, 1960s—“Dog line” established for deer hunting as western counties that had been closed and stocked with deer were reopened; dogs prohibited primarily due to overharvest concerns (see Figure 4 in Chapter 2 for “dog line”).

1957—Deer and bear season separated west of Blue Ridge to minimize bear harvest and to keep bear hounds out of deer season (hounds illegal for hunting deer west of Blue Ridge)

1960—Deer and bear season run concurrently again, but bear hounds not allowed during the first week

1974—Sixty-seven counties with a low bear density are closed to hunting.

MODERN TRENDS IMPACTING HOUND-HUNTING

Changing land uses (e.g., development, shrinking parcel sizes, land ownership turnover, property access restrictions), changing demographics (e.g., population growth, urbanization, hunting participation declines), and changing societal values present challenges to hunting, including hunting with hounds. Hunting practices used for generations in rural Virginia (e.g., hunting multiple land ownerships where permission was not required, intercepting chases via country roads) are less accepted in some modern communities where members often do not know the hunters and/or are not familiar with hound-hunting. However, hound-hunting is still practiced in many areas with few conflicts.

Development

Land development is occurring rapidly in Virginia and many parts of the nation. Development subdivides and shrinks the land base available for hunting, thereby intensifying competition among land uses and activities on undeveloped lands (Miniter 2008). From 1960 - when the average hunter in Virginia was born (Jagnow et al. 2008) - until 2000, the total acreage in farmland decreased 36% and the number of farms in Virginia decreased 54% (USDA 2008). A total of 770,000 acres – an area larger than the Jefferson National Forest – was developed from 1982 to 1997 in Virginia (VDGIF 2005). Over 27,000 acres of forestland were developed during 2007 alone (VDOF 2007). Corporate timber companies have been selling off large portions of their holdings in Virginia since 1992; over 300,000 acres have been purchased by investment organizations whose long-term goals to maximize profit likely will result in further subdivision and development of formerly consolidated timberland (VDOF 2007).

Land is being developed in Virginia at more than 3 times the rate of population growth (VDOF 2007). In just one decade (1990-2000), the number of occupied housing units in Virginia increased 18%, from 2,291,830 to 2,699,173 (USCB 2000). Nationwide, each person added to the population during 1992-1997 resulted in over 1.2 acres of land becoming developed, more than double the rate that occurred during the previous 50 years (USDA 2000).

The trend toward more land developed per capita is related to exurban residential growth, outside of urban and suburban areas, among working farms and forests. More Americans were added to exurbia during the 1990s than to urban, suburban, or rural areas (Storm et al. 2007). “Large lot” subdivisions and dispersed housing in rural areas impact larger portions of the landscape than traditional, compact residential developments. Exurbia is a challenging landscape for hunting,
and in turn, for wildlife population management (Harden et al. 2005). Forms of hunting that require large areas, such as hunting with hounds, are impacted most by exurban growth.

**Parcel Sizes and Land Ownership Turnover**

As land development increases, average parcel size decreases, further reducing lands conducive to hound-hunting and other traditional wildlife and forest management uses (Kendra 2003). The average parcel of nonindustrial private forest land (NIPF) in Virginia is less than 30 acres; the number of forested parcels over 100 acres have decreased significantly in recent decades (Birch et al. 1998). As forested parcels in Virginia get smaller, they become more vulnerable to sale and development (VDGIF 2005). Nearly half of the NIPF owners in the United States are over 65, so much of their land will likely be subdivided or sold by their heirs in the near future (DeCoster 2000). Rapidly changing ownerships can undermine relationships hunters have nurtured with landowners in their community.

**Property Access**

*Private Land Restrictions*—The amount of private land available for wildlife and outdoor recreation in the United States has decreased as landowners have adopted more restrictive access policies and altered traditional land uses (Siemer et al. 1990). Nationally, there has been a steady increase in the amount of private land that is posted (WMI 1983). In Pennsylvania, approximately 70% of landowners now post their land (Jagnow et al. 2006). In southern Illinois, less than 20% of exurban landowners permit deer hunting (Storm et al. 2007). Rural landowners with urban backgrounds may have negative views of hunting, a factor that appears to be of growing importance in decisions to restrict access (Wright et al. 1990). Largely due to complaints by neighboring landowners and other recreationists, several timber companies in Virginia have either prohibited hunting deer with dogs or increased scrutiny of lease contracts with deer hunt clubs, a recent trend observed throughout the Southeast (GON 2004).

*Public Land Restrictions*—Demands for access to public land have increased from hound-hunters, still hunters, and nonhunting-recreationists. Public land acreage open to hound-hunting has remained relatively stable across Virginia over the last several decades. Several hound-hunting closures, mostly related to deer hunting, on state Wildlife Management Areas and federal military installations have been based on land purchase restrictions, incompatibility with managed hunts, conflicts between hunters on areas with high use, or concerns about hunter and/or hound encroachment onto adjacent properties (VDGIF Regional Wildlife Managers, personal communication). Elsewhere in the Southeast, wildlife managers have recognized that generally more still hunters than hound-hunters can be accommodated on a given area (Marchinton 1970). In Florida, hunting deer with hounds was recognized as “preemptive” of (i.e., compromising opportunity for or incompatible with) other recreational uses, resulting in recommendations to separate hound-hunting from other recreational pursuits and establish minimum acreages for public areas open to hound-hunting (FGFWFC 1991:17). Population growth across the Southeast places a premium on public land for hunting and other uses.
Population Growth and Urbanization

From 1980 to 2007, Virginia’s population has increased 45% from 5.3 to 7.7 million (USCB 2000, CC 2008). Population growth is not only driving land development, it is also urbanizing Virginia. Approximately 70% of Virginians now live in Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Tidewater (CC 2008, Figure 1). This population shift impacts all Virginias, regardless if they live or hunt in this area, because of the growing political influence of urban areas (CP 2008). Increasing vehicle traffic creates more opportunities for motorists to encounter hunters pursuing game or retrieving dogs along roadways. From 1968 – when the average hunter in Virginia would have likely started hunting - to 2006, annual vehicle miles traveled on Virginia roadways increased 217% from 25.6 to 81.1 billion (Virginia Department of Transportation, VDOT unpublished data).

![Map of Virginia showing high impact growth areas](image)

Figure 1. High impact growth areas in Virginia consisting of 2000 census block groups with at least 50 people/mi2 and populations projected to grow by at least 15% by 2009 (USCB 2000).

Participation in Hunting

While Virginia’s population has increased 45% since 1980, the number of resident hunters has decreased 38% (F. Boswell, VDGIF, unpublished data). Therefore, hunters represent an even smaller segment of the population: 6.7% of Virginians purchased a resident hunting license in 1980 compared to only 2.9% in 2006. Approximately 13% of Virginia residents consider themselves hunters (RM 2005). Given that some 30% of hunters use hounds, 4-5% of Virginians likely hunt with hounds.
Nationwide, participation in all types of hunting declined from 1996 to 2006, but only some types declined from 2001 to 2006 (USFWS 2006). Big game hunting has remained relatively stable but there were substantial declines for small game hunting (12%) and migratory bird hunting (22%; USFWS 2006). Former hunters consistently say the main reason they have stopped hunting is because they have nowhere to hunt (Miniter 2008). Urbanization, a decline in rural culture and direct contact with nature, lack of access to land, and more types of recreation competing with hunting have all been implicated in the decline in hunting (Organ and Fritzell 2000).

Changing Attitudes about Hunting and Wildlife

Attitudes about Hunting – Most Americans generally have a positive view of hunting. A recent nationwide survey found that 78% of Americans approve of legal hunting (Duda and Jones 2008). Moreover, support for legal hunting in the United States has increased slightly in the United States over the last decade (Duda and Jones 2008). From 2000 to 2005, general public approval of legal hunting increased slightly from 75% to 81% in Virginia (McMullin et al. 2000, RM 2005).

Public support for hunting varies with methods used, species pursued, and reasons given for hunting (RM/NSSF 2008). The public supports hunting for food or wildlife population control more than hunting for “the sport” or “a trophy” (Duda et al. 1998, Organ and Fritzell 2000, RM/NSSF 2008). Surveys have also shown little public support for hunting bears or deer with dogs (Lafon et al. 2003, RM 2004, 2006), hunting predators, and hunting over bait (Duda et al. 1998, RM/NSSF 2008). Hunters and their family members are the most supportive of hunting; the least supportive include those without a hunting family member, younger Americans, and urban residents (Duda and Jones 2008). Although a large majority of Americans approve of hunting, they appear to have a less favorable opinion of hunters (Duda and Jones 2008). Sixty-four percent of Americans agreed that hunters violate laws or behave unsafely while hunting (Duda et al. 1998).

Attitudes about Wildlife Use — Trends in wildlife-related recreation and public attitudes toward wildlife use have implications for hunting, including hunting with hounds. Nonconsumptive wildlife recreation (e.g., wildlife viewing) has increased significantly over the last several decades (Duda et al. 1998), and advocates of animal rights and animal welfare have begun to exert more influence on wildlife management decisions (Muth et al. 2002). Accepting most uses of animals, individuals concerned with animal welfare focus on treating animals with compassion and avoiding cruelty. However, animal rights proponents advocate equal moral and legal rights for all species with a motive to end any exploitation or human use of animals (Cockrell 1999, Muth and Jamison 2000).

Major social, cultural, and demographic changes in modern society have given rise to the animal protectionist movement. Chief among these shifts is an urban world view, brought about as people migrated from farms to cities and lost direct contact with nature (Muth and Jamison 2000). Opposition to traditional wildlife management and consumptive uses of animals is
greater among urban than rural residents (Brown et al. 2000). Densely-populated areas, and those with little reliance on agriculture, have been most supportive of restrictions on hunting methods (Jones 1996, in Minnis 1998).

RATIONALE FOR ADDRESSING HOUND-HUNTING IN VIRGINIA

Changing land uses, demographics, and attitudes in modern America are a recipe for controversy involving hunters who use hounds. At the same time, hunting with hounds remains an important tradition and wildlife management tool. State agencies must be proactive and anticipate such conflicts that involve important user groups or resources. To ignore these issues is to invite a reactionary response that may preclude more reasonable solutions. Agency intervention through education or public involvement can prevent legislated or litigated decisions that exclude input from wildlife professionals and primary users of wildlife resources (Minnis 2001).

Hound-Hunting Controversies

The past several decades have witnessed challenges to hound-hunting across the United States and in Europe. Whereas historical regulations addressed protection of depleted wildlife populations and fair chase (e.g., the Adirondack Deer Law, Trefethen 1961), recent restrictions have addressed citizen conflicts, animal welfare, and fair chase (Minnis 1998, Peyton 1998).

National Challenges—Hunting, including several types of hound-hunting, has generated opposition, manifested in ballot initiatives, legislation, litigation, and nonregulatory restrictions. During the 1990s in Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington, public ballot initiatives banned hunting with hounds for bears and wild felines, along with other aspects of hunting and trapping (Minnis 1998). Similar voter initiatives in Maine, Michigan, and Idaho failed, and hound-hunting for bears continues in these states.

Conflicts of trespass and interference with other users have been the primary factors leading to various restrictions on deer hunting with dogs in the Southeast. Following failed attempts to compromise between landowners and deer hunters, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department prohibited hunting deer with dogs in 1990 (Campo and Spencer 1991). Alabama, Georgia, and Florida wildlife resource agencies have since developed permit or registration systems and minimum acreage requirements to increase accountability of deer clubs using dogs. South Carolina has considered similar measures and is currently using a stakeholder involvement process to attempt to resolve issues. Timber companies in the Southeast, who lease thousands of acres to hunt clubs, have begun to restrict or prohibit the use of deer hounds (GON 2004). A large timber corporation in South Carolina lost a lawsuit on the grounds that deer hound-hunting on its property created a nuisance for a neighboring landowner (GON 2004).

Recent Developments in Virginia—As seen elsewhere in the Southeast, several timber companies in Virginia have either prohibited hunting deer with dogs or increased scrutiny of lease contracts with deer hunt clubs. Reflecting the trend in other states and a distinct possibility in the future, one timber company has disallowed the use of dogs during deer season on its leases in Accomack County, Virginia.
Other events during 2006-2007 also prompted VDGIF to examine issues of hound-hunting more closely. A 2006 survey of Virginia hunters regarding Sunday hunting indicated greater opposition to bear and deer hunting with hounds than any other types of hunting (VDGIF 2007b). Prior to and during the 2006 regulations scoping process, VDGIF Wildlife and Law Enforcement Division staff discussed recent incidents and recognized the need for an internal VDGIF committee to explore hound-hunting issues for multiple species concurrently (in essence, the current Technical Committee). In March 2007, a Gloucester County resident made a presentation to the VDGIF Board expressing concerns about the impacts of deer hunting with hounds on landowners. During April-June 2007, the VDGIF regulations web forum recorded 928 “hunting with dogs” comments – both pro and con - from 254 individuals. These 254 people represented 44% of all individuals providing comments, and provided 38% of the total comments received (P. Smith, VDGIF, unpublished data). At the VDGIF Board meeting in July 2007, the Wildlife Division Director presented a proposal for a public involvement process, to be facilitated by Virginia Tech, that would address these emerging issues while ensuring a future for hound-hunting. The Board unanimously endorsed the Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward project.

Addressing Hound-Hunting Conflicts in Virginia

VDGIF considered all of the above factors (e.g., citizen dissatisfaction, recent restrictions on dog-hunting in other states, the move by timber companies to disallow hound-hunting) in making the recommendation to address this critical issue during 2007-2008. The Hunting with Hounds process is the most comprehensive approach used to date in Virginia to address hound-hunting issues. Case-by-case solutions in several Virginia localities and 2 statewide management plans provided the foundations for this process.

Case-by-Case Approaches—Several conflicts involving hunting with hounds have been addressed on a local, case-by-case basis in Virginia. With assistance from VDGIF, governing bodies in the counties of Accomack (1997), King George (1986), Richmond (2004), and Westmoreland (1996) chartered hunter/landowner advisory committees to develop nonregulatory solutions to hunter-landowner conflicts, mostly related to hunting deer with dogs. During 2004-2005, VDGIF facilitated collaboration between bear hunters and landowners in Roanoke County to resolve conflicts and develop mutually agreeable guidelines for all parties. This multi-stakeholder decision-making process was in keeping with direction provided in the newly approved 2001-2010 Virginia Bear Management Plan, which called for “foster[ing] communication about concerns and solutions between bear hunters, landowners, and other affected citizens through conflict resolution strategies” (VDGIF 2002:77).

Guidance in Virginia Bear and Deer Management Plans—The Virginia Bear and Deer Management Plans both identify issues associated with use of hounds, contain goals and objectives to maintain hound-hunting while ensuring hunting ethics and respect for citizen rights, and identify strategies to address these objectives (VDGIF 2002, 2007a).
The 2001-2010 Virginia Bear Management Plan contains 3 goal areas relevant to hunting with hounds (VDGIF 2002). The first goal states: “Provide a diversity of black bear hunting opportunities in Virginia as a management tool and recreational experience, while discouraging or prohibiting activities that prevent attainment of black bear population objectives.” A specific objective in this goal area is to maintain a minimum number of hunter-days of bear hunting, including hunting with and without dogs, and training with dogs. Another goal was written to “Ensure that black bear hunting methods in Virginia, including chase and take, are fair and sportsmanlike.” A third goal reads: “Ensure that bear hunting activities are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners and other Virginia citizens.”

The 2006-2015 Virginia Deer Management Plan contains a goal to “Provide opportunities for all citizens to safely and ethically enjoy diverse deer-related recreational experiences and traditions (including observation and hunting) consistent with deer population and damage goals.” Relevant guidance is to: (1) maintain a minimum number of hunter-days of deer hunting, both with and without dogs, (2) ensure that deer hunting methods are fair and sportsmanlike, and (3) ensure that deer hunting is consistent with and respects the rights of property owners and other Virginia citizens (VDGIF 2007a).

The Virginia Deer and Bear Management Plans are fundamental to the Hunting with Hounds project. In fact, the goal of the project was derived directly from goals in these plans. Both the Deer and Bear Management Plans were developed with substantial involvement from hound- and Nonhound-hunters, landowners, nonconsumptive-recreationists, corporate landowners, land management agencies, and other stakeholders; therefore, direction provided in these plans is already based on input from many key stakeholders.

_Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward_ –This project was initiated in 2007 by VDGIF, in cooperation with Virginia Tech. It began with a clearly articulated goal founded upon significant stakeholder investment during development of the Bear and Deer Management Plans: “To provide diverse opportunities for hunting with hounds in Virginia in a manner that is fair, sportsmanlike, and consistent with the rights of property owners and other citizens.”

This process focuses on hunting with hounds, rather than all hunting dogs, because issues of concern are associated primarily with hound-hunting. However, because some species commonly hunted with hounds may also be hunted with other dogs, and because Virginia hunting laws reference “dogs,” not “hounds,” the Hunting with Hounds process does not totally exclude any type of dog-hunting.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Hunting with hounds is an important tradition in Virginia, but modern challenges demand solutions. A proactive approach to resolving issues is best for all parties. To ignore these issues is to invite a reactionary response that may preclude more reasonable solutions. The Hunting with Hounds process will attempt to identify a way forward for an important tradition in a modern world.
INTRODUCTION

Hunting with hounds continues to be an important aspect of the hunting culture across the United States. In recent years, the strong tradition of hound-hunting has been challenged by negative public sentiment and changing land uses less conducive to the practice (see Chapters 1 and 4). An understanding of current hound-hunting practices is fundamental to resolving these conflicts.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUND-HUNTING IN THE UNITED STATES

A recent survey (Appendix 2) revealed that all 50 states allow some wildlife species to be hunted or chased with hounds. Hunting with hounds for wildlife species classified as small game (e.g., rabbits, squirrels) and furbearers (e.g., foxes, raccoons) is allowed throughout nearly all of the United States. Hunting with hounds for big game species (e.g., black bear, white-tailed deer) is more restricted and regional in nature. Eighteen (18) states allow the use of hounds for hunting or chasing bears (Figure 2). Deer hunting with hounds is legal in 11 states (Figure 3) and in Ontario, Canada.
Trends in Hound-Hunting Participation: Regional Examples

Trend data for hound-hunting participation and effort are limited. Many states survey hunters to determine participation and effort, but survey questions specifically designed to address hound-hunting are rare (M. D. Duda, Responsive Management, personal communication). A review of various hunter participation and effort surveys yielded no information specific to hound-hunter participation and effort (RM 2008).

Some anecdotal observations regarding hound-hunter participation and effort have been made in conjunction with other data collection efforts. While reviewing raccoon hunting and dog training regulations, Rogers (1995) noted that raccoon hunting levels had decreased in recent years. In South Carolina, data collected as part of the Antlerless Deer Quota Program indicated that enrolled acreage being dog-hunted has decreased 89% and the number of dog-hunting clubs enrolled has decreased 94% since 1986 (Ruth 2007). These data should be viewed with caution, as these studies were not designed specifically to investigate hound-hunter participation or effort.
One trend in hound-hunting has been the reduction in number of states, or areas within states, open to big game hunting with hounds. Citizen initiatives in Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington have prohibited bear hunting with hounds in those states (Minnis 1998). Texas eliminated deer hunting with dogs in 1990 (Campo and Spencer 1991). In Alabama, the number of counties open to dog-hunting for deer has been reduced in recent years (C. Hill, AL Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, personal communication). In Georgia, the area open to dog-hunting for deer has decreased from 63 counties in 1949 to 41 counties, or parts thereof, in 2004 (Bowers et al. 2007). Based on license sales, it is estimated that 10,000-12,000 deer hunters (approximately 4%) use dogs in Georgia (J. Bowers, GA Wildlife Resources Division, personal communication).

Contemporary Overview of Hound-Hunting in Virginia

Today, approximately 40% of hunters in Virginia use dogs to pursue game (Jagnow et al. 2008). Of those who hunt with dogs, 65% hunt deer, 33% hunt rabbits, 11% hunt raccoons, 7% hunt bear, and 5% hunt foxes. Other popular game species hunted with dogs include waterfowl (9% of dog-hunters), squirrels (8%), and quail (7%). Statewide, 30% of deer hunters in Virginia use dogs; however, more than 65% of deer hunters in the Tidewater region (roughly east of Interstate 95) use dogs. Approximately 35% of bear hunters in Virginia use dogs (Jagnow et al. 2007, 2008). At least 90% of raccoon and rabbit hunters likely use dogs. Fox hunter participation is being investigated through the 2007-2008 annual hunter survey (a survey mailed to a random sample of licensed hunters following each season).

Most modern hound-hunters use an assortment of equipment to facilitate the chase and the retrieval of their hounds. Like other hunters, houndsmen use four-wheel drive trucks and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to access hunting locations, but they may also use these vehicles to monitor or intercept the chase and to retrieve dogs. Hound-hunters often use CB radios to communicate between vehicles. Radio-telemetry collars are used on hounds to monitor the chase, to permit more timely retrieval of hounds, and to improve safety for hounds and humans through reduced accidents. Truck-mounted dog boxes and dog-handling gear are used for transporting hounds and restraining those not actively involved in the chase. Equipment unique to specific types of hound-hunting is mentioned within species sections below (e.g., horses for foxhunting, lights for raccoon hunting).

HOUND HUNTING FOR BEARS

While most bears in Virginia are harvested opportunistically by deer hunters, hunting bears with hounds is the traditional method for hunters who exclusively hunt bears (Higgins 1997). Currently, hound-hunting for bears is allowed along and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (with a few exceptions; e.g., Floyd County) and in select counties in southeastern Virginia (see below). A nonharvest bear hound-training season is open in the majority of counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and in 7 counties in the Piedmont and Tidewater regions.
Bear Hunting Styles and Techniques

Description of a Typical Hunt – A bear hunt using hounds has 3 segments: (1) find a trail fresh enough for the dogs to follow, (2) locate the bear and chase it, and (3) tree the bear to allow hunters to catch up (Elowe 1990). Bears are located by using “strike dogs” trained to indicate when a bear trail is present. Hunters either put the strike dog on an elevated area of a vehicle while driving or walk it on a leash. Hunters search along roads (typically low-speed forest roads) for signs of bear crossings (Elowe 1990). Once the strike dog detects a scent, dogs are released on the trail with the goal of treeing a bear. Hunters maintain contact with their dogs using radio-telemetry and/or by listening to the chase. Distinctive baying of the hounds signal that the bear has been treed.

Not all bears chased will be treed. In Virginia, hound-hunters chased bears on 53.1% of their hunts and treed 30.7% of the bears chased (Higgins 1997). Feeding of bears was permitted at the time of this research, which may have influenced chase success. An average pack of hounds that has been trained by knowledgeable handlers may tree 30% of the bears they run, whereas an exceptional pack may tree 80% (Elowe 1990). When a bear is treed during the training season, dogs are removed from the area and the bear is allowed to leave. During the hunting season, the bear may be harvested if it meets the legal requirements; i.e., at least 100 pounds live weight with no cubs present (VDGIF 2007c).

Primary Purposes—Hound-hunters in Virginia are shifting their emphasis from harvesting to chasing bears (Higgins 1997). In Michigan, harvesting a bear was much less important for bear hunters using hounds than for still hunters, bait-only hunters, and generalists. Seeing and hearing one’s dogs work was a very important factor for hound-hunters (Grise 1994). The bond between hunter and dog, being outdoors, the admiration for the bear as a quarry, and the adventure of the chase are important values to bear hunters using hounds (Davenport 1951, Beck et al. 1994, Grise 1994).

Types of Dogs Used—Hound breeds commonly used to hunt bears in Virginia include Plotts, Treeing Walkers, Blueticks, Redbones, and Black and Tan coonhounds (see Table 1 for descriptions).

Bear Hound Training Methods—Virginia bear hunters may train their hounds legally during bear hound training season. Additionally, many Virginia bear hound-hunters take advantage of year-round chase opportunities in North Carolina. Other training methods may include bear-baying field trials where hounds are competitively scored. Virginia houndsmen have designed and fabricated mechanical bears to simulate baying, treeing, and racing opportunities for bear hounds. The use of tethered, live bears for bear baying is legal only in South Carolina.
Timing and Scale of Bear Hunts

Seasonal and Daily Timing of Hunts—The bear-hound training season in Virginia currently is open from mid-August to late September in the western part of the state and 3 cities around the Great Dismal Swamp (Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach). In these areas, hound training is allowed on Sunday. Sunday chase is not allowed during the 2-week, early-December bear hound-training season in Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Brunswick, and Greensville Counties. During the training season, hunting hours extend from ½ hour before sunrise until 4½ hours after sunset (an extension effective July 1, 2008; VDGIF 2007c). Bear hunting during the harvest season occurs from late November through early December in the western part of state and during October and November around the Great Dismal Swamp. Hunting hours during the bear hunting season are ½ hour before sunrise through ½ hour after sunset (VDGIF 2007c).

Duration and Spatial Requirements of Hunts—The number of hounds released can determine the amount of ground covered (Elowe 1990). In Virginia, the average length of a chase ranged from 0.1 to 4.6 hours (Higgins 1997). Willey (1980) found that bear chases with hounds averaged 2-3 hours but ranged between 1 minute and 8 hours. Allen (1985) reported an average chase time of 3.2 hours, ranging from 10 minutes to over 12 hours and average chase distance of 4.0 miles (range 0.3 miles to 14.4 miles).

Party and Pack Sizes—During a study on bear hound-hunting in western Virginia, the average number of hunters ranged from 4.5 to 12.3 per hunt, and the average number of hounds used per hunt ranged from 2.5 to 20.5 (Higgins 1997). During the same study, a mail survey of bear hound-hunters indicated the average hunting party consisted of 10.4 hunters and 8.4 hounds. During the 1970s, bear hound-hunters in Virginia owned a median of 4 hounds, had 11 hunters in their hunting party (range 1-75), and used 8 hounds per chase (range 2-35) (DuBrock et al. 1978).

Bear Hunter and Harvest Statistics in Virginia

Hunter Participation—The 2006-2007 hunter survey indicated approximately 20,000 resident bear hunters spent nearly 130,000 days pursuing black bears in Virginia (Jagnow et al. 2008). In Virginia, the percentage of resident bear hunters using dogs has remained relatively constant at 35% during the past 3 years (Jagnow and Steffen 2005, Jagnow et al. 2007, 2008). At least 4,300 hunters participated in the 2006-2007 bear dog training season (Jagnow et al. 2008).

Harvest—Hound-hunting is considered a selective hunting method that offers the hunter an opportunity to examine a bear before it is killed (Litvatis and Kane 1994). In Virginia, bear hunters using hounds reported being selective in their harvest, only harvesting 24% of the bears they treed (Higgins 1997). Check card data indicate that bears taken by hound-hunters in Virginia compose approximately 32% of the total statewide harvest of approximately 1,500 bears. Further, the proportion of female bears harvested by hunters using hounds averages approximately 32% whereas the proportion of female bears harvested by nonhound-hunters averages approximately 50%. Although hound-hunters in Virginia apparently select male bears,
it does not appear that they select older bears. The age structure of bears harvested by hound-hunters and Nonhound-hunters is similar (J. Sajecki, VDGIF, unpublished data).

HOUND HUNTING FOR DEER

Virginia deer hunting is characterized by 2 distinct zones of tradition and regulation: east and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (VDGIF 2007a). Deer hunting east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, where use of hounds is allowed during a 7-week general firearms season, is rooted strongly in a private land hunt club tradition practiced by organized hunt clubs and small groups. Deer hunting with hounds, effective at low deer densities, was important as deer populations recovered in eastern Virginia during the mid-1900s. Hounds may only be used during the general firearms season in counties where it is allowed, not during archery and muzzleloader seasons. Conversely, west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, hunting deer with hounds is prohibited by state law, hunt clubs are less common, nearly 2 million acres of public lands are available for hunting, and the general firearms season is 12 days long in most counties. Eight southwestern Piedmont counties (or portions thereof) east of the Blue Ridge Mountains were incorporated into the “western” framework during the 1950s and 1960s (Figure 4, Peery and Coggin 1978). Historically, bag limits and either-sex deer hunting opportunities in western Virginia have been more conservative than those in eastern Virginia.

Deer Hunting Styles and Techniques

Description of a Typical Hunt—There are 2 general styles of hunting deer with hounds. The more traditional deer hunt with hounds involves placing hunters on stands around the area to be hunted and leading hounds into the cover. Once a deer has been “jumped,” hounds are released and the chase begins with the hope of moving the deer toward or past waiting hunters (Hanenkrat 1974).
Once the hounds have pushed the deer out of the area being hunted, more hounds may be released into the area, or the club may move to another area to begin the process over again. Hounds are collected at the end of the day with the assistance of radio tracking collars.

Some hunters prefer using vehicles to follow hounds. Again, the hounds are led into cover to “jump” and chase the deer. As the chase progresses, hunters coordinate their efforts via radios describing where the chase is heading and possible points of interception. This style of hunt may be used throughout the entire season but is used frequently on weekdays when few hunters are available to hunt large tracts of land with numerous deer crossings (G. Askins, VDGIF, personal communication).

Hunters often use a combination of these styles. Some hunters are assigned to “stand” at likely crossing points, and hounds are released into the area. If the chase proceeds out of the area being hunted, several hunters may continue to follow the hounds, while the standers wait for the next pack of hounds to be turned out into the original area.

**Harvest Methods**—For most deer hound-hunters, a shotgun is the weapon of choice due to its versatility. Hunters cite the relative safety of shotguns during group hunts and their effectiveness for harvesting moving game. In Virginia, 29 counties (all of which are open to hound-hunting) only allow a shotgun for hunting deer during the general firearms season (VDGIF 2007c).

**Types of Dogs Used**—Hounds used to hunt deer in Virginia include American Foxhounds (especially Walkers), Plotts, Black and Tans, Redbone, Blueticks, Beagles, and Bassett Hounds (see Table 1 for descriptions). Several nonhound breeds are used primarily for jumping, moving, and driving deer: German Shorthaired and Wirehaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Irish Setters, and English Setters (AKC 2008).

**Deer Hound Training Method**—Many deer hound owners train their puppies in foxhound training enclosures, where young hounds learn to find and follow a track. There is no deer hound-training season outside of the hunting season; however, some individuals train their hounds during continuous open chase seasons for foxes and raccoons.

**Timing and Scale of Deer Hunts**

**Seasonal and Daily Timing of Hunts**—The general deer season, during which the use of hounds is legal in many areas east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, begins in mid-November and extends through early January. The cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach have a general deer season which runs from October 1 through November 30. Statewide, legal hours for hunting deer during any season are ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset (VDGIF 2007c).

**Duration and Spatial Requirements and Hunts**—Historically, hound-hunts for deer took place on farms with continuous areas in excess of 20,000 acres (Gooch 1990). Today, most deer clubs
have access (through ownership, leases, or informal agreements) to areas 1,000-5,000 acres in size, much of which is fragmented (Shumaker 2007). A sample of 149 properties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains enrolled in Virginia’s Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) indicated that those properties where hounds were used averaged 3,400 acres while those only still-hunted averaged 1,300 acres. Organized deer hunting with dogs is practiced on various-sized acreages, sometimes as small as 20 acres (J. Hackett, deer hunter, personal communication).

The average deer chase lasted 33 minutes and extended 2.4 miles in Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina (Marchinton et al. 1970, Sweeney et al. 1971); 24 minutes and 1.0 mile in Texas (Campo et al. 1987); and 11 minutes and 0.8 miles during a contained chase in Virginia (Gavitt et al. 1975). Shorter chase times were likely due to hounds switching trails, a situation where hounds lose the initial deer being chased and begin chasing another (Sweeney et al. 1971, Gavitt 1973). Hounds switched trails during 90% of the chases in the Texas study (Campo et al. 1987). In contrast to hunting red deer with hounds in Europe, white-tailed deer in the United States are pursued over much shorter distances and time periods and are very infrequently “brought to bay” or captured by the hounds (Marchinton et al. 1970, Corbett et al. 1971, Sweeney et al. 1971, Gavitt et al. 1975, and Campo et al. 1987, Bateson and Bradshaw 1997, Burns et al. 2000).

*Party and Pack Sizes*—Deer hunting parties vary in size depending on the number of members in a hunt club and the amount of land being hunted. Although the number of dogs released varies depending on the number of hunters, land being hunted, weather, etc., hunters in eastern Virginia will typically release 3-4 packs of 4-8 hounds each in different parts of the property hunted (Howlett 2008).

### Deer Hunter and Harvest Statistics in Virginia

*Hunter Participation*—During the 2006-2007 hunting season, nearly 57,000 deer hunters (30% of all firearms deer hunters in Virginia) used dogs at least once during the season (Jagnow et al. 2008). In the Tidewater, Southern Piedmont, and Northern Piedmont regions, 65%, 36%, and 32% of deer hunters used hounds during the 2005-2006 season, respectively (Figure 5; Jagnow et al. 2007). The average number of days hound-hunters participated in the general firearms deer season was 14.2 days, compared to 10.8 days for all deer hunters combined (Jagnow et al. 2007).

*Harvest*—During the 2005-2006 hunting season, deer hunters who indicated they used dogs harvested 45% of all deer taken during Virginia’s general firearms season (n = 143,000 total; C. Jagnow and M. Knox, VDGIF, unpublished data). It is not known how many used dogs exclusively. In the Tidewater region, 86% of all deer harvested during the general season were taken by hunters who used hounds. In the Southern Piedmont of Virginia, 50% of does and 48% of bucks harvested during the general season were taken by hunters who used hounds. In the Northern Piedmont of Virginia, 28% of does and 46% of bucks harvested were taken by hunters who use hounds (C. Jagnow, VDGIF, unpublished data). These regional percentages should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes for some regions (n = 57-123).
The sport of pursuing foxes with hounds has been a tradition in the Commonwealth since the arrival of the first Europeans. The earliest record of foxhounds in America was from Robert Brooke when he arrived in Maryland with his family and hounds in 1650. Much of what is known about the early history of fox hunting in Virginia comes from the writings of George Washington and Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax. Lord Fairfax established the first organized hunt in 1747 for the benefit of a group of fox hunters in Northern Virginia. Washington was in part responsible for developing what is now considered the American foxhound by crossing French and English foxhounds (MFHA 2008).

The type and style of fox hunting in Virginia and North America have maintained much of the old English traditions, but are different in several ways. One of the most notable differences is the general emphasis of an American hunt on the chase versus the kill. A hunt usually ends when the fox goes to ground or tree and is “accounted for” (MFHA 2008).

Though the red fox is the primary quarry, foxhounds will also chase gray foxes, bobcats, and coyotes. The species chased by foxhounds varies regionally. Fox hunters in northern and central Virginia chase more red foxes, whereas hunters in southern and western Virginia report chasing more gray foxes and bobcats. Many fox hunters report chasing an increasing number of coyotes (E. Wykel, personal communication).

Regardless of the style of hunt, the primary purpose is usually the chase. The tradition of rearing and training foxhounds, and listening to and watching the chase, is deeply rooted in Virginia.

Figure 5. Regions of Virginia referenced in this report (VDGIF administrative regions).
culture. For mounted hunters, much emphasis is placed on the hunting customs and the cooperative nature of the pack of hounds while hunting. For the nonmounted-hunter, the focus is on the sounds of the chase and the individual ability of the hounds (Mackay-Smith 1988, White and Foster 1984).

Fox Hunting Styles and Techniques

*Mounted Fox Hunting*—There are 3 distinct styles of fox hunting/training in Virginia. The oldest and often most visible style is mounted fox hunting. Mounted hunts are patterned after the old English style and consist of a Hunt Master(s), huntsman, whippers-in, and the field of hunters (Mackay-Smith 1988). The Hunt Master is responsible for leading the hunt and overseeing the care of the hounds. The huntsman, who is sometimes also the Hunt Master, is responsible for the care and hunting of the hounds. The whippers-in are responsible for keeping the hounds in their defined territory. The field of hunters observes the hunt and follows the chase. Mounted hunts are formal and have a well-defined hierarchy where everyone answers to the Hunt Master. The dress code consists of black leather boots, traditional riding breeches, black hat, tie or stock tie, and riding coat. Members who have been awarded colors, particularly hunt staff (huntsmen, whippers-in, and masters), wear a scarlet coat called a “hunting pink” to distinguish them from the rest of the field (Ellet 1981, MFHA 2008).

*Nonmounted Fox Hunting*—Nonmounted fox hunters are less formal and do not use horses to follow their pack of hounds. Like mounted fox hunters, chase is the primary goal, but the techniques and purpose of the hunt are quite different. Rather than using one pack of hounds from a single club or owner, as mounted hunts generally do, nonmounted hunts often consist of hounds from different owners that are bred and trained to hunt individually rather than cooperatively as a pack (Mackay-Smith 1988). Some nonmounted hunters also participate in foxhound field trial events where individual dogs compete and are judged on their desire, trailing ability, speed, and endurance (White and Foster 1984).

*Foxhound-Training Enclosures*—There are currently 31 active foxhound-training enclosures, also called “fox pens,” in Virginia (D. Waller, VDGIF, unpublished data). Fox pens are fenced enclosures where foxes are released to provide a higher density of foxes than would naturally occur. The primary purpose of these enclosures is the training of foxhounds. Most foxhound field trails are also held in enclosures. Pens are required to have 1 dog-proof escape area (natural or artificial) per 20 acres of enclosure to minimize fox mortality. These enclosures provide an opportunity to contain the chase, ensuring that hounds do not stray onto adjacent properties, into roads, or chase nontarget quarry (e.g., deer) and hunters can more easily retrieve their hounds.

In 2001, 88% of nonmounted clubs used fox pens compared to 13% of mounted hunts (R. Farrar, VDGIF, unpublished data). On average, a nonmounted club will use a fox pen for 32 hunts per year, which is typically more than half of their total hunting effort. Nonmounted hunters use fox pens for training, chasing during the hunting season, and field trial competitions (R. Farrar, VDGIF, unpublished data). The relatively few mounted fox hunters who use pens use them to train and exercise their dogs.
Equipment and Dogs Used—A 2001 survey indicated Virginia fox hunters spent over $10 million per year in support of their sport (R. Farrar, VDGIF, unpublished data). Much of the money spent by fox hunters is for the care of their hounds and horses (see Chapter 3). For mounted fox hunters, horse trailers and tack accompany every hunt. Fox hunters in Virginia use a variety of strains of the American Foxhound: Walker, Trigg, July, Goodman, Penn-Marydel, and American-English cross (see Table 1 for descriptions). The American Foxhound is the state dog of Virginia (VTC 2008).

Foxhound-Training Methods—Hound-training begins in the spring and early summer for young hounds. They are trained on foot to listen and respond to commands (J. Fendley, personal communication). Fox pens are used for training young hounds by both mounted and nonmounted hunters. Hunters may train and work with their hounds on live quarry year around because of the continuous open chase season.

Timing and Scale of Fox Hunts

Seasonal and Daily Timing of Hunts—Except for certain public lands in western Virginia, there is a continuous open season for chasing foxes with dogs. The statewide season for hunting foxes with firearms runs from the beginning of November through the end of February, but is closed in several Northern Piedmont counties. Foxes may be legally chased or hunted during any hour of the day (VDGIF 2007c). However, the daily timing of a hunt depends largely on hunting style. Mounted hunters chase foxes during the early morning and midday to watch the hounds and quarry and safely navigate terrain on horseback. Nonmounted hunters are more flexible. Surveyed in 2001, 66% of nonmounted hunters reported hunting during daylight hours and 64% hunted at night (R. Farrar, VDGIF, unpublished data).

For mounted hunts, the year begins in August with an informal “cubbing” season. The “cubbing” season is designed to train young dogs and exercise the older dogs, horses, hunters, and quarry for the hunting season. Most mounted hunts begin hunting 2-3 times a week and will continue to hunt with that frequency throughout the season (J. Fendley, personal communication). September and October begin the general hunting season which usually runs through the month of March.

Duration and Spatial Requirements of Hunts—During warm summer months, hunts average about 1.5 hours in length. As the weather cools and the hounds develop better conditioning, hunts become longer. An average hunt in the fall is about 3 hours but may be as long as 5 hours (J. Fendley, personal communication). The area covered during a chase depends on the species being pursued. Where the red fox is the primary quarry, clubs prefer to hunt a minimum of 2,000 continuous acres and may hunt as many as 5,000 acres (J. Fendley, personal communication). Where red foxes are less common, clubs chase gray foxes and bobcats more frequently; these 2 species cover less area so clubs chasing them may hunt on parcels of 600 acres (E. Wykel, personal communication).


Chapter 2—Hound-Hunting Today

Party and Pack Sizes—During the formal fox hunting season in the fall, hunts typically involve 14-30 hounds and include 5-15 hunters, but may have as many as 30-50 hunters (Mackay-Smith 1988).

Fox Hunter and Harvest Statistics

Hunter Participation—Virginia’s 2006-2007 hunter survey indicated 2.1% of all Virginia hunters hunted foxes with dogs (Jagnow et al. 2008). The Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America lists 28 different mounted hunts in Virginia, more than any other state in the United States (MFHA 2008). Not all mounted fox hunters are registered with MFHA. A few unregistered clubs, referred to as “farmer packs,” also exist in Virginia, but there are likely less than 10 of these clubs in state (D. Foster, MFHA, personal communication).

Nonmounted fox hunters do not follow their hounds on horseback but monitor the chase from key listening points in the area. Based on the number of field trial permits issued by the VDGIF in 2007, there are at least 27 nonmounted fox hunting clubs in Virginia. The 106 applications for fox field trials in 2007 (D. Waller, VDGIF, unpublished data) attest to the popularity of this form of competition.

Harvest—The primary focus of fox hunting with hounds is on chasing rather than harvesting. Perhaps 95% of the foxes chased during hunting season end up in their den (Ellet 1981). The combined 2005-2006 harvest from all methods of take (hound-hunters, hunters with calls, incidental take by other hunters, and trappers) was 20,474 red foxes and 28,784 gray foxes (Jagnow et al. 2007).

Gray Fox, Coyote, and Bobcat Hunting

The red fox is the preferred quarry of most fox hunters because of its tendency to run larger, straighter patterns across open fields (particularly during the breeding season), making the chase more visible. Gray foxes run smaller, less linear patterns that often cover half the acreage of red fox chases. Gray foxes also tend to use thicker cover and are capable of climbing trees, making the chase shorter.

As the numbers of coyotes in Virginia increases, they are an increasingly important quarry for fox hunters. The coyote generally runs a straight pattern similar to the red fox, but covers a much larger area. Because of the greater distances, many clubs pull their dogs off of a chase if it is determined to be a coyote (E. Wykel, personal communication). Although not permitted in Virginia, the demand for putting coyotes in fox pens has increased across the United States. Coyotes are preferred by some fox pen operators because they are more active during the day and offer more daylight chase opportunities. They also cover larger areas during a chase and are more visible to judges during organized field trial events (M. Fies, personal communication).

Very little is known regarding the hunting of bobcats with hounds in Virginia. Few hunters are believed to intentionally pursue bobcats with hounds. Hunting bobcats with hounds is likely more common in the western mountains of the state.
HOUND-HUNTING FOR RABBITS

Rabbit hunting with hounds is a popular activity in Virginia. Beagles of varying size and color are the predominant hound used for rabbit hunting. The cottontail is the most widespread and commonly hunted rabbit or hare species in Virginia.

Rabbit Hunting Styles and Techniques

Description of a Typical Hunt—Rabbit hunters enter likely rabbit habitat behind the hounds. A rabbit’s primary method of protection is hiding, as a rabbit emits little scent and is difficult to locate until it moves. Thus, hunters and hounds traverse the area attempting to jump a rabbit. Once a rabbit is jumped, the hounds will begin the chase. Most hounds will then follow a rabbit by scent trailing. Seldom do the hounds see the rabbit, and often the hounds are a substantial distance behind the rabbit. As the chase progresses, hunters spread out to get in position for a shot.

Some rabbit hunters in the Northern Piedmont are organized in groups called hunts. These hunts are similar in structure and formality to mounted fox hunts. These groups collectively maintain packs of beagles and/or basset hounds (J. Fendley, Virginia Foxhound Club, personal communication). Members have duties and titles such as huntsman and whippers-in. The hunts assemble regularly from early fall to late winter. Rabbits are rarely harvested during these hunts. Numerous fenced enclosures exist in Virginia for the purpose of rabbit chasing and field trials. These running grounds range in size from several acres to more than 50 acres. Virginia regulations allow rabbits to be trapped on private lands for release or restocking purposes, including the stocking of rabbits into enclosures. Small enclosures are used for training puppies. Larger enclosures are often used for field trial events. A well established field trial network exists, governed by national organizations such as the American Kennel Club (AKC 2008).

Types of Dogs Used—The rabbit dog of choice is the beagle, although a few hunters use basset hounds (see Table 1 for descriptions).

Rabbit Hound-Training Methods—A variety of methods are used to train hounds to hunt rabbits (Fisher 1992). An established training method is to expose puppies to rabbits and allow the dogs’ natural instincts to take over. During summer and early fall, many puppy trainers locate rabbits feeding in the open during the morning or evening hours and allow the puppies to chase the rabbits. For puppies, trial and error, combined with positive reinforcement, will be sufficient to train them to chase rabbits.

Some enclosure owners train beagle puppies through the introductory stages of rabbit hunting for a fee. This process is called “starting” a hound. Enclosures offer an opportunity for puppies to access rabbits and to run for prolonged periods without direct supervision. A primary benefit of enclosures for training is that hounds are typically not exposed to deer or foxes, which they may choose to run if not properly trained. Typically, started dogs are offered further training by allowing the puppies to chase rabbits with older experienced dogs.
Timing and Scale of Rabbit Hunts

Seasonal and Daily Timing of Hunts—Virginia allows hunters to pursue rabbits year round during daylight hours on private property. Beagle owners often train throughout the year. Additionally, hunters will use enclosures, also called running grounds, throughout the year to train hounds or hold competitive field trials. Rabbit hunting season extends from the first Saturday in November until the end of February. Rabbit hunting is particularly popular following the close of the deer season (1st Saturday in January). Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset (VDGIF 2007c).

Duration and Spatial Requirements of Hunts—Pursued cottontail rabbits make a circuitous route within an approximate 5-acre home range, returning close to where the chase started (Whitaker and Hamilton 1998). Chased rabbits will sometimes enter an underground burrow, or “hole up,” particularly when they are closely pursued or injured (Fisher 1992). Most chases begin and end within a few acres.

Party and Pack Sizes—Rabbit hunts typically include 3 to 6 hunters, although larger groups and solitary hunters are not uncommon. Similarly, the number of dogs used varies. Packs average 3-6 dogs, although it is not uncommon for pack size to exceed 12 hounds (Wilson 2008).

Rabbit Hunter and Harvest Statistics in Virginia

Hunter Participation—Approximately 13% (29,100) of all Virginia hunters pursue rabbits with hounds (Jagnow et. al. 2008). The highest percentage of rabbit hunters (33%) are in the Southern Piedmont region (Figure 5). The Tidewater and Northern Piedmont regions each host approximately 20% of Virginia’s rabbit hunters, and the Southwest Mountain and Northwest Mountain regions have 16% and 10%, respectively (Jagnow et al. 2008). Rabbit hunters spend about 6 days per year pursuing their sport (Jagnow et al. 2008). Statewide, 86 permits were issued by VDGIF for rabbit hunting field trials during 2007 (D. Waller, personal communication).

Harvest—Rabbit hunters harvested an average of 7.5 rabbits during the 2006-2007 hunting season. The statewide harvest was estimated to be over 350,000 (Jagnow et. al. 2008).

Raccoon-Hunting for Raccoons

Raccoon hunting is an American tradition that dates back to our pioneer ancestors (Minser and Pelton 1982) The sport is still popular today and Virginia hunters spend more time afield pursuing raccoons than any other furbearer. Although farm and forest lands throughout Virginia have provided ample raccoon hunting for many decades, the best hunting opportunities are currently found in areas with well-distributed wetlands and riparian habitats (McKeever 1959, Johnson 1970). As a result, raccoon populations are higher in eastern Virginia where these types of habitats are more abundant. In recent years, residential and commercial development has reduced the extent of lands available to Virginia hunters. Raccoon hunters rely to a greater
extent today on public hunting areas, and these lands are much more available to western
hunters. National Forests alone offer 1.7 million acres to hunters in Virginia, although many of
these uplands are only poor to fair habitats for raccoon.

Raccoon Hunting Styles and Techniques

*Description of a Typical Hunt*—There are two distinct styles of raccoon hunting: traditional
raccoon hunting and competition hunting. Traditional raccoon hunters usually hunt locally in
small groups consisting of family members and friends. Hounds are released in likely foraging
areas to find, chase, and tree raccoons after a short pursuit. Treed raccoons are typically either
killed with a rifle, or the hounds are gathered up and taken to another location for a new chase.

Competition hunts, also known as field trials, involve larger groups of hunters, more hounds, and
cover a larger area than traditional hunting. Field trials are organized by local hunting clubs and
sanctioned by national organizations. Individual field trials typically occur over a 1-2 night
period and use various locations throughout a several-county area for hunting activities. Hunters
often travel long distances to participate in field trials (Rogers and Tucker 2001, Olfenbuttel
2007). Each field trial has a designated Master of Hounds responsible for conducting the hunt
and reporting competition results. The Master of Hounds selects up to 4 hunters and their dogs
and assigns a judge to each “cast.” Judges escort the cast to a pre-selected hunting area and
observe the performance of the dogs, awarding points to each for trail striking and treeing
abilities. Killing a raccoon is prohibited during most sanctioned hunts (Hart 2004). At a pre-
determined time, all judges report their results to the Master of Hounds and prizes are awarded.

*Primary Purposes*—Traditional hunts focus on dog training and acquisition of fur or meat.
Competition hunts are focused on rating dog performance and usually do not result in the take of
raccoons. Camaraderie and recreation are important aspects of both raccoon hunting types.

*Equipment and Dogs Used*—Raccoon hunting equipment includes rechargeable battery-powered
lights and small-caliber rifles (Ausbund 1988). Hunters once carried equipment to force
raccoons to the ground when treed, such as tree climbing or cutting equipment. However recent
regulation changes prohibit these hunting practices in Virginia. Black and Tan, Bluetick,
English, Redbone, and Treeing Walker coonhounds, as well as Plott Hounds, are commonly used
in Virginia by raccoon hunters (see Table 1 for descriptions).

*Raccoon Hound-Training Methods*—Having a hound that exclusively chases raccoons has
become essential as deer numbers increase. The most important training technique is hunting a
young hound frequently with experienced, well-trained dogs. Shock collars are sometimes used
to break young dogs from running game other than raccoons. However, other dog training
methods using rewards for appropriate behavior are also very effective (D. Sexton, Southwest
Virginia Coonhunters Federation, personal communication). It was once common practice to
shake raccoons from trees and allow dogs to kill them for training purposes (Pauley 1974), but
this practice is now illegal in Virginia. Some hunters have a professional train their young dogs
at considerable expense (D. Sexton, personal communication).
Timing and Scale of Raccoon Hunts

Seasonal and Daily Timing of Hunts—During the last 20 years, the raccoon hunting season has been lengthened and the training season has been liberalized in Virginia. The raccoon hunting season currently extends from mid-October through mid-March statewide. In most areas east of Route 29, there is a year-round chase season for raccoons on public and private lands. West of Route 29, hunters may only chase raccoons from August through May on private lands, and there is no chase season on most public lands. Raccoons may be pursued at any hour of the day (VDGIF 2007c).

Duration and Spatial Requirements of Hunts—Adult raccoons generally tree quickly when pursued by dogs, and chases usually last less than 30 minutes (D. Sexton, personal communication). A raccoon hunt can occur entirely on a 300-acre parcel, although having access to a larger area greatly reduces the probability of incursion onto adjacent properties (D. Sexton, personal communication).

Party/Pack Sizes—Party size averaged 2.5 hunters in a study of traditional raccoon hunting in western North Carolina (Porterfield 1981). Pleasure hunters typically use 3-4 dogs per hunt, and competition hunts usually involve 3-4 dogs per cast (L. Price, raccoon hunter, personal communication).

Raccoon Hunter and Harvest Statistics in Virginia

Hunter Participation—Virginia’s 2006-2007 hunter survey indicated 4.2% (9,400) of all hunters pursued raccoons with hounds (Jagnow et. al. 2008). The average raccoon hunter spent 15.6 days a field. Raccoon hunting effort was generally highest in the Southwest Mountains and Southern Piedmont, moderate in the Northern Piedmont and Northwest Mountains, and relatively low in Tidewater (Figure 5, Jagnow et al. 2008). The number of raccoon field trial events in Virginia has increased over the last decade, with over 200 currently held per year (D. Waller, VDGIF, unpublished data).

Harvest—An estimated 95,000 raccoons were harvested by Virginia hunters during the 2006-2007 season (Jagnow et al. 2008). The average number of raccoons harvested per hunter was 8.9. Fur dealers reported transactions of 9,109 raccoon pelts at an average price of $6.61 in 2007, but only 800 came from hunters (Fies 2007). Both the number of pelts sold and the average price per pelt have declined substantially over a 30-year period. However, raccoon pelt prices have increased slightly during the past several years.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Table 2 provides a summary of the 5 different types of hound-hunting in Virginia described in this chapter, focusing on attributes important both to hound-hunters and citizens impacted by hound-hunting. Participation and harvest levels indicate the importance of hound-hunting. Other attributes compared (e.g., party and pack size, extent of chase, season length) may be
useful for considering potential impacts on landowners, nonconsumptive-recreationists, and other citizens of Virginia.

The tradition of hunting with hounds is still practiced widely throughout the United States. Though the species pursued and style of hunting varies, the bond between hunter and hound, the love of the outdoors, the admiration of the quarry, the thrill of the chase, and the cry of the hounds are common themes for all hound-hunters. These values produce a strong passion for the sport and desire to preserve the tradition for future generations.
Table 1. Common hound breeds used for hunting in Virginia. Information obtained from American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC), and other sources.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hound Breed</th>
<th>Quarry</th>
<th>Registration (AKC/UKC)</th>
<th>Treeing vs. Trailing</th>
<th>Average Height (to withers)</th>
<th>Average Weight (pounds)</th>
<th>Breed Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Black &amp; Tan Coonhound</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>1900 UKC 1945 AKC</td>
<td>Treeing</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Ancestry is American Foxhound and Bloodhound. Tracking breed developed in the southern United States. The American Black &amp; Tan was the first coonhound breed to be admitted into registry with UKC. The Black and Tan is noted for staying on track no matter how faint the scent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deer</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raccoon</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Foxhound</td>
<td>Fox</td>
<td>1905 UKC 1945 AKC</td>
<td>Trailing</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Mid-1600s in America, English, French and Irish Foxhounds mixed to increase speed and stamina. There were 4 basic purposes for the breed: a hound for hunting fox, trail or drag hounds, pack hounds, and a field trial hound. American Foxhound is more lightly built, has a better voice, and will hunt more independently than the English hound. It was developed for hunting the open farmland of Virginia, where great speed is essential to stay with the fox.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strains:</td>
<td>Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodman</td>
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<td>Trigg</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn-Marydel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basset Hound</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>1928 UKC 1885 AKC</td>
<td>Trailing</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Originated in France as early as 1585. Believed to be brought to America as a gift to George Washington. In Europe, used chiefly for slow trailing rabbits, hare, and deer. Bred to trail, but not kill, game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbits</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beagle</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>UKC 1945 AKC</td>
<td>Trailing</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Doubts about origin. Early development of beagles took place primarily in Great Britain. The beagle was originated to hunt/trail small game by scent. The larger breeds of foxhounds were developed from the crossing of beagles and other scent hounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbits</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluetick Coonhound</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>1946 UKC</td>
<td>Treeing</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Ancestry traced to English Foxhounds in the 1500s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Raccoon</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1 (continued). Common hound breeds used for hunting game in Virginia. Information obtained from American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC), and other sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hound Breed</th>
<th>Quarry</th>
<th>Registration (AKC/UKC)</th>
<th>Treeing vs. Trailing</th>
<th>Average Height (to withers)</th>
<th>Average Weight (pounds)</th>
<th>Breed Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Coonhound</td>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>1905 UKC</td>
<td>Treeing</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Ancestry traced to the English Foxhound. Imported foxhounds from Europe were the foundation of the “Virginia Hounds,” from which the present day English Coonhound developed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Foxhound</td>
<td>Fox</td>
<td>AKC</td>
<td>Trailing</td>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>English Foxhounds are more heavily built than American. They have shorter ears and less cry. They are hot-trailing hounds with great speed, but slower than the American. They take more direction from their huntsman than do the American strains. They were developed in England where the primary objective was to run down and kill foxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plott Hound</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>1946 UKC 2006 AKC</td>
<td>Trailing and Treeing</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Unlike coonhounds and foxhounds descending from the English Foxhound, this breed descended from German hounds used to hunt wild boar. Brought to North Carolina in 1750, the breed was used to hunt bear. The dog's working claim to fame is cold trailing bear and raccoons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbone Coonhound</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>1902 UKC</td>
<td>Treeing</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Original ancestry is traced to English Coonhound. Developed further in the American South. A Bloodhound cross is said to have been part of ancestry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treeing Walker Coonhound</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>1945 UKC</td>
<td>Treeing</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Tracing its ancestry to English Foxhound, the breed was further developed in Kentucky.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Comparison of hunter participation, harvest and chase data for species commonly hunted with hounds in Virginia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>% Of Harvest From Hounds</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>12/1 – 1/3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>28 – 86%</td>
<td>11/15 – 1/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox</td>
<td>11/1 – 2/28</td>
<td>open&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racoon</td>
<td>10/15 – 3/10</td>
<td>open&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbit</td>
<td>11/1 – 2/28</td>
<td>open&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Citations for all statistics are cited in chapter text.
2 Number of licenses sold (222,346) multiplied by the percentage of hunters who reported using hounds to hunt each species during Virginia’s 2006-2007 season.
3 Dates shown are for the 2007-2008 hunting season.
4 Parenthesis indicate range of data observations.
5 There is no open season for training deer hounds.
6 Season is generally open year round in much of Virginia, but some areas have site specific restrictions.
7 Large field trials and mounted hunts may have 50 or more hunters.
8 Represents total duration of hunts, which can include multiple chases.
CHAPTER 3—VALUES

CHAPTER 3—HOUND-HUNTING VALUES

INTRODUCTION

Diverse biological, sociological, and economic values are associated with hunting in general, and hound-hunting in particular. Documented benefits of hound-hunting include wildlife population control, individual hunter satisfactions, and community benefits (e.g., research assistance, wildlife damage abatement, capturing wild animals involved in human attacks, land conservation, and substantial economic contributions).

BILOGICAL VALUES OF HOUND-HUNTING

Hound-Hunting as a Population Management Tool

An important biological value of hound-hunting is its contribution to wildlife population control for bear, deer, and occasionally other species. Wildlife population management is necessary to address human-wildlife conflicts (e.g., property damage, agricultural losses, animal-vehicle collisions) and ecosystem damage (e.g., deer over-browsing; VDGIF 2002, 2007a). Regulated hunting has been the method of choice for managing wildlife populations since 1910 (Strickland et al. 1994). Specific population objectives are achieved by adjusting season length, season timing, and legal methods of take to manipulate the number, sex, and age of animals harvested. Substantial harvest of females is generally necessary to control wildlife populations. Harvested animals provide wildlife managers with data to assess population status.

Bear—During 2003-2007, hound-hunters in Virginia have accounted for an average of 35% of the annual bear harvest, according to check card data (VDGIF, unpublished data). During the same period, female bears have composed 36% of the annual harvest during the firearms season, on average.

Mobility of hound-hunters makes both male and female bears vulnerable to harvest. Hounds may cross multiple bear home ranges, giving hound-hunters access to more female bears and, consequently, more opportunity to impact bear populations than still hunters (Bunnel and Tait 1980, Allen 1985, Elowe 1990, Litvaitis and Kane 1994). However, houndsmen apparently select more for male bears than other types of hunters (McIlroy 1972, Elowe 1990, Litvaitis and Kane 1994). Hound-hunters select males by only putting their dogs on the trail of large bears (based on track size) or by only shooting large bears from trees (Allen 1985). Smaller bears taken by hound-hunters are sometimes mistaken for larger bears when treed (Rieffenberger at al. 1981).

The efficiency of hound-hunting for bears varies depending on the season timing, the skill of hunters and hounds, and other factors (Elowe 1990). Late fall bear seasons have lower harvests by houndsmen than earlier seasons, especially if bears are congregated around localized food sources (e.g., scarce acorns). An Idaho study found that hound-hunter success was twice that of
hunting with bait only, 3 times that of still-hunting, and 8 times that of incidental hunting (Beecham and Rohlman 1994).

In a study of hound-hunters in Virginia, the number of bears chased or treed did not differ between training seasons and firearm seasons (Higgins 1997). Bear hunter surveys and diaries indicated that houndsmen harvested a bear in at most 20% of their hunts. Houndsmen chased a bear in approximately 60% of all hunts, treed approximately half of bears chased, and harvested half of the bears treed. Since houndsmen were relatively successful in chasing a bear, it appears that hounds provide a distinct advantage. However, the low harvest rates demonstrate that hunters may be selective and that hounds are used as much for the chase as the harvest (Higgins 1997). The potential for greater harvest is available if necessary to assist in population management.

Deer— The Virginia Deer Management Plan (VDGIF 2007a) identifies regulated hunting, both with and without hounds, as the primary deer population management strategy for free-ranging deer across most of Virginia. During the 2005-2006 hunting season, deer hunters who used dogs accounted for 30% of hunters, but they harvested 45% of all deer taken, during Virginia’s general firearms season (C. Jagnow, VDGIF, unpublished data). Definitive evidence is lacking that hound-hunting is necessary to control deer populations on a landscape scale in Virginia. However, numerous writers and researchers have suggested that dog-hunting may be the best method for managing deer herds in the Southeast in thick or swampy habitats (Ruhl 1956, Marchinton et al. 1970).

Studies from the Southeast suggest that deer hunting with dogs is more efficient than still hunting (FGFWFC 1991). For example, in a study on an Arkansas wilderness area, dog-hunters saw significantly more deer per hour than still hunters, although harvest rates and indices of deer density were similar in their respective zones (Nelson 1989). On Florida’s Ocala National Forest, deer densities were lower and mean age of harvested deer was lower (indicative of a more heavily exploited population) on dog-hunted than still-hunted areas (Brooks and Abbott 1986, cited in FGFWFC 1991). In South Carolina, deer were 2.4 times more susceptible to being killed by dog-hunting than still hunting, although the magnitude of difference could have been affected by selectivity (Novak et al. 1991). Dog-hunting was the most efficient of 4 deer hunting methods monitored in Georgia based on kill per unit effort (Johnson 1991).

Fox— Fox hunting generally does not have long-term population impacts, even in areas where fox control is a desired objective of hunting (Burns et al. 2000). The high reproductive and dispersal capabilities of foxes allow populations to quickly recover from high levels of natural and human-caused mortality. Models indicate fox populations are minimally affected by mortality rates as high as 65% (MacDonald and Johnson 1996). Virginia fox hunters who use hounds generally make no attempt to kill the foxes they pursue; therefore, it is unlikely that fox populations are affected in areas they hunt. Although intensive trapping or hunting can reduce localized fox populations in the short-term, changing land-use patterns will likely continue to be the most important factor affecting long-term populations at the landscape scale (Andrews 1981).
Although data are lacking, the average number of foxes killed by hound-hunters per unit effort is expected to be very low. According to 2006-2007 hunter survey data, harvest for all types of fox hunters (hound and nonhound combined) averaged 0.2 red foxes per day and 1.2 per season (Jagnow et al. 2008). An average of 0.3 gray foxes were killed per day and 2.0 per season. Harvest rates for hound-hunters are likely much lower than average because few chases end in harvest.

Rabbit—With few exceptions, rabbit hunting is generally believed to have little or no impact on rabbit populations (Chapman et al. 1982). As a result, rabbit hunting with hounds is unlikely to have much utility as a population management tool. Since overharvest is possible on small areas that are intensively hunted (Chapman et al. 1982), there may be situations where targeted hunting could reduce rabbit numbers temporarily.

Annual hunter survey data in Virginia is not specific enough to estimate rabbit hunter success for hound-hunters alone. Hunter harvest for all types of rabbit hunters (hound and nonhound combined) averaged 1.3 per day and 7.5 per season (Jagnow et al. 2008). On Amelia Wildlife Management Area in central Virginia, hound-hunters jumped an average of 5.3 rabbits and killed 3.0 rabbits per party trip (M. Fies, VDGIF, unpublished data). If these data are representative of rabbit hunters overall, approximately 57% of rabbits jumped are harvested by hound-hunters.

Raccoon—Hunter harvest accounts for a substantial portion of overall raccoon mortality throughout the species range (Clark et al. 1989) and overharvest can cause population declines (Minser and Pelton 1982). As a result, hunting could theoretically be used as a tool for reducing raccoon abundance in target areas. The potential effectiveness of this tool is likely greater in western Virginia where habitats are less productive, riparian habitats are easily accessible, and hunter interest is high. Harvest effects are less likely to be observed in better quality habitats, leading some biologists to believe that the potential effects of hunter harvest may be overestimated in some areas (Sanderson 1987). Population impacts were not observed in Iowa until harvest exceeded 40% of the fall raccoon population (Clark 1990). Achieving this level of harvest would be more likely in western Virginia than in the Piedmont and Tidewater regions where raccoon numbers are higher and hunter access is more limited.

Trapping raccoons is generally viewed as a more effective means of population control than hunting because it requires fewer man-hours per raccoon taken (Sanderson 1987). However, intense hunting efforts can be quite effective in removing raccoons from target areas. Hunters removed more raccoons in a shorter period of time than trappers (1,677 versus 359) during population control efforts on 19,000-acre refuge in Alabama (Atkeson and Hulse 1953). Raccoon hunters with quality hounds can be very effective at locating raccoons. In West Virginia and North Carolina field trial events, participants treed and observed 0.8 and 1.0 raccoons per party hour, respectively (Rogers and Tucker 2001, Olfenbuttel 2007).

According to 2006-2007 Virginia hunter survey data, raccoon hunters killed an average of 0.3 raccoons per day and 8.9 per season (Jagnow et al. 2008). Although hunter harvest rates from this survey appear lower than field trial observation rates reported in other states, it should be
noted that averages are expressed by hunter rather than by party. Raccoon hunters do not shoot all raccoons treed, but the percentage passed up is unknown.

**Habitat Management**

Hunters commonly improve habitats on lands they own or lease, benefiting a variety of wildlife species in addition to the primary quarry. Intensive habitat management (e.g., food plots, timber management) has increased among both deer dog- and still-hunting clubs in recent decades. Organized rabbit hunter groups, primarily beagle clubs, often manage habitat on lands they own or lease. In Tennessee, beagle clubs improved rabbit habitat by planting food plots, creating brush piles, and strip-mowing (Welborn and Pelton 1973). Mounted fox hunters often promote or actively manage wildlife habitat on areas that they hunt and some hunts are involved in land conservation efforts (see next section). In England, vegetative cover, plant species diversity, and butterfly diversity was higher in areas managed by fox hunters than in unmanaged areas (Ewald et al. 2006). Habitat improvements included tree planting, tree felling, and maintenance of open areas around the hunt perimeter. Another study showed that farmers who participated in fox hunts were less likely to remove hedgerows than farmers who did not hunt foxes (MacDonald and Johnson 1996). Opportunities to manage habitat are limited for bear and raccoon hunters in Virginia because they often do not own or lease the lands they hunt; however, these hunters may support habitat management on public lands that benefit these species.

**Sociological Values of Hound-Hunting**

**Sociological Values of Hunting in General**

The term “nature-deficit disorder” has been used to describe the absence of exposure to nature in modern society and how that absence has contributed to obesity, attention disorders, and depression (Louv 2005). A number of studies show that outdoor experiences improve physical, mental, and emotional fitness of children and adults (Louv 2005). Primary reasons people hunt are to experience the outdoors, pursue a challenging quarry, and obtain meat (Kellert 1978). While a reasonable expectation of harvest is important, high value is placed on other components of hunting satisfaction (Langenau 1979). Hunting for meat is decreasing while hunting to be close to nature is increasing (Duda et al. 1998). Hunter affiliation or companionship has also been identified as a primary value of hunting (Kennedy 1970, Hautaluoma and Brown 1979). Rural family and community traditions are closely linked to hunting with hounds in some areas (Loker et al. 1994).

**Sociological Values Exemplified by Hound-Hunting**

*Tradition and Heritage*—Hound-hunters are passionate about and committed to their hounds, their sport (Gooch 1990), and horsemanship (Audibert 2008). Hounds provide a source of pride for the houndsmen, as some hound lines have been with families for multiple generations (Anderson 2004). Hounds are often named after family members (DuPuy 1976). Houndsmen teach the tradition to younger family members and friends in hopes of preserving the heritage for future hunters (Anderson 2004; R. Farrar, VDGIF, unpublished data). Many deer hound clubs in
Virginia have been in existence for over 50 years, with current members that trace their lineage back to the founding fathers of the club (Christner 1994, Quaiff 2003, Audibert 2008). Some mounted fox hunts in Virginia date back more than 100 years (e.g., Piedmont Fox Hounds, Upperville, 1840; Warrenton Hunt, Warrenton, 1887; Orange County Hunt, The Plains, 1900; J. Fendley, Virginia Foxhound Club, personal communication).

Companionship and Community—Input from focus group participants suggests that family customs and camaraderie are important satisfactions for Virginia hound-hunters (S. Lupis Kozlowski, Virginia Tech, unpublished data). Spending time with hunting companions was much more important for bear hound-hunters in Michigan than for still hunters (Grise 1994). Many deer hound-hunting clubs in Virginia have youth days to introduce new hunters to the practice and traditions of hunting with hounds (Quaiff 2003). Many mounted fox hunts hold annual camps and clinics to introduce and mentor young or beginning foxhunters (J. Fendley, personal communication). The whole family is frequently involved in hound-hunting activities. Hound-hunting clubs contribute to the social network of rural Virginia communities, hosting dinners, picnics, dances, and fund raisers for their membership and for charities. Spending time at the hunt club is a highlight of the year for many hunters (Hanenkrat 1974). Evening gatherings often celebrate events of the day (Howlett 2008).

Challenge of the Sport—In recent decades, Virginia bear hound-hunters have generally shifted their focus from harvesting to chasing bears (Higgins 1997, VDGIF 2002). In Michigan, harvesting a bear was much less important for hound-hunters than for other hunters. Seeing and hearing hounds work was a very important factor for Michigan hound-hunters, but the least important factor for other hunters (Grise 1994). Experiencing the chase is important for many types of hound-hunters, fostering appreciation for and understanding of the quarry. In Virginia, bear hunters were more knowledgeable about bears and bear management than other stakeholders; experience was a key correlate with increased knowledge (Lafon et al. 2003).

Competition between hounds during the hunt led to field trials events (Gildea 1979). Field trials are held for fox, squirrel, rabbit, and raccoon hounds in Virginia. Awards increase the value for breeding hounds. Field trials also provide opportunities to exercise hounds during the off-season and spend time outdoors with family and friends (Gooch 1999).

Hound-related and Horse-related Values—Hunters take pride in watching and listening to their hounds during the chase (DuBrock et al. 1978, Audibert 2008). Mounted fox hunters develop considerable horsemanship (Cooper 1993, MFHA 2008). Hounds and horses are often shown on competition circuits and field trials to exemplify the training and skills achieved. Youth working with horses and dogs develop responsibility, respect, and leadership skills, as demonstrated through the Virginia 4-H Program (V4H 2008).

Societal Benefits from an Experienced Hound-Hunting Community

Both hunters who do, and do not, use hounds contribute substantially to controlling wildlife populations at levels compatible with human needs. Hound-hunters also provide unique benefits to society that are developed through their experiences with hounds and live quarry. Houndsmen
assist with wildlife research, wildlife damage abatement, public safety incidents involving wildlife, invasive species control, and land conservation.

Research Assistance—Hound-hunters have assisted with a number of research projects throughout the United States (Gore 2003). Since the 1960s, experienced houndsmen have helped researchers tree mountain lions in the western United States (Deurbrouck 2007).

One of the earliest studies to use hounds for live bear research relied on hunters using Plott and Walker hounds to capture bears and bear families in Vermont (Willey 1980). In Massachusetts, trained bear hounds were used to capture black bears while investigating bear reproductive success and habitat use (Elowe 1984, Elowe and Dodge 1989). In Virginia, bear hunters assisted the Cooperative Alleghany Bear Study by treeing target bears, completing surveys, and reporting harvests to researchers (Higgins 1997; M. Vaughan, Virginia Tech, personal communication). Willey (1980) stressed the importance of teamwork and experience between hounds and hunters used for bear research.

Raccoon hound-hunters have helped researchers and managers in several ways. Observation rates reported by raccoon hunters participating in field trials are used as an index to raccoon populations by some state wildlife agencies. Raccoon field trial surveys have been conducted since 1987 in North Carolina (Olfenbuttel 2007) and since 1992 in West Virginia (Rogers and Tucker 2001). These surveys are a cost-effective and efficient method of obtaining data, and provide an opportunity to develop working relationships between houndsmen and wildlife agencies (Rogers and Tucker 2001, Olfenbuttel 2007). U. S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) personnel in several states have used raccoon hunters to help collect samples and other data for rabies surveillance (J. Cromwell, USDA-WS, personal communication).

Wildlife Damage Abatement—Hounds are sometimes used to chase, capture, or aversively condition nuisance bears (Gore 2003). In West Virginia, nuisance bears were often chased with hounds until citations were issued for hound trespass. A law change in 2005 removes liability for hunters whose hounds stray onto other properties, so chasing is once again a viable nonlethal bear management option (C. Ryan, WV Department of Natural Resources, personal communication). In North Carolina, a year-round chase season enables hound-hunters to chase bears out of urban and agricultural areas; success is more limited with bears already habituated to humans than with bears that are simply passing through (C. Olfenbuttel, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, personal communication). In Massachusetts, where bear hunting with hounds was prohibited by ballot in 1996, a few hound permits are issued annually for nuisance bears (J. Cardoza, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, personal communication).

Public Safety Animal Capture—Hounds are used to locate bears and mountain lions involved in human attacks in the western United States (Deurbrouck 2007). USDA-WS personnel in California maintain hounds specifically for the purpose of capturing public safety lions; tracking with hounds is often the most efficient means of locating the specific lion involved (D. Updike, CA Department of Fish and Game, personal communication). USDA personnel in California obtain their hounds from bobcat or bear hunters and train the hounds using special pursuit or
predation permits issued by the Department of Fish and Game (C. Coolahan, personal communication). In Utah, hounds are routinely used on public safety bears and lions, both by USDA-WS personnel and local houndsmen. A bear involved in a human fatality in 2007 was euthanized after having been found by hounds the same day the attack occurred (K. Bunnell, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, personal communication; Caudill 2007). The 1996 ban on hound-hunting for bears and cougars in Washington has made it more difficult to find houndsmen to assist with tracking public safety animals because they have no legal means to train their hounds (Deurbrouck 2007).

Invasive Species Control—Hounds are frequently used in invasive species control efforts. Of chief concern in the United States is the feral hog (Clay 2007). Feral hogs are legally pursued by hounds in at least 21 states, either for recreational hunting or nuisance control. Hunting with hounds is a time-tested control method that can be effective for feral hogs (Mapston 1999) with well-trained hounds and handlers, especially when integrated with other techniques (T. Campbell, USDA National Wildlife Research Center, personal communication). Hounds are not used for hog control in some states (e.g., Florida) due to concerns about houndsmen trespassing onto adjacent properties and/or establishing new hog populations to perpetuate sport hunting (J. Dunlap, USDA-Wildlife Services, personal communication). In Virginia, bear hound-hunters have assisted with identifying feral hog locations and killing hogs on National Forests (W. Lipps, U. S. Forest Service, personal communication).

Hunting with hounds has proven to be an effective technique in eradicating feral pigs, goats, rabbits, and opossums on Pacific islands (Veitch and Clout 2002). Hounds - used in conjunction with trapping, still hunting, aerial hunting, and night spotlighting - are particularly useful at low prey densities when surviving target prey have become wary to other eradication methods. Thick vegetation and steep slopes made hound-hunting the most effective method on some islands (Veitch and Clout 2002).

Land Conservation—Hunters promote conservation of open spaces and wildlife habitat by working with land owners to place conservation easements on hunted properties. Hound-hunters may have a greater incentive to protect land from development than still hunters because of larger spatial requirements for their sport. Easements with specific terms to maintain open space for hunting are very rare, but lands protected for other conservation objectives are supported by and provide benefits for hunters (J. Moore, Piedmont Environmental Council, personal communication).

Mounted fox hunters have successfully recruited a number of landowners for conservation easements in Northern Virginia. The greatest concentration, and largest area, of lands under easement in the Piedmont Environmental Council’s 9-county work area are in northern Fauquier County and southern Loudoun County. These easements were largely facilitated by members belonging to the Orange County Hunt, which moved from Orange County, New York for less developed hunting lands in Virginia. Although stated objectives of these easements addressed watershed protection and other conservation priorities, a primary purpose was to ensure a landscape conducive to mounted fox hunting in the future (H. Richards, Piedmont Environmental Council, personal communication). In 1998, the Orange County Hunt was awarded the first...
Land Conservation Award by Masters of Foxhounds Association, an organization which has its own Hunting Habitat and Land Conservation Committee (MFHA 2008).

**ECONOMIC VALUES OF HOUND-HUNTING**

**Economic Values of Hunting in General**

In 2006, there were 12.5 million hunters in the United States who hunted 220 million days and spent $22.9 billion. Hunting expenditures declined 14% from 1996-2006 but remained relatively stable from 2001-2006 (USFWS 2006). Virginia hunters spent $481 million and 6.8 million days afield (USFWS 2006). As a population management tool, hunting is valuable for reducing economic costs associated with wildlife damage. Without deer hunting, an additional 50,000 injuries per year and $3.8 billion in additional auto repair costs might occur as a result of increased deer-vehicle collisions (AFWA 2006).

**Economic Values Unique to Hound-Hunting**

Quantifying economic impact of hound-hunting is complicated due to a lack of specific data on financial investments and expenses incurred by hunters. Hound-hunters purchase special equipment, in addition to purchasing and maintaining hunting hounds. The purchase, sale, training, and maintenance of hounds require large investments of time and money (Elowe 1990). In Vermont, bear dogs were valued as high as $3,000 to $5,000 each 30 years ago (Willey 1980). Economic data for foxhound-training preserve operations are not collected in Virginia, but it is estimated that a large field trial event can bring in $25,000 (M. Fies, VDGIF, personal communication). An informal survey of numerous deer-dog hunt clubs in the southern Piedmont of Virginia in 2008 estimated an average annual expenditure of $3,000 per member for fuel, dog care, equipment, and other hunting-related expenses (R. Cook, Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance, personal communication). Virginia hunting license revenue attributable to hound-hunters is unknown, as basic hunting licenses cover multiple game species and seasons. Although no special hound permits are required in Virginia, some states sell permits for black bear hunting (MDIFW 2003), black bear pursuit (UDWR 2000), and deer dog-hunting (Bowers et al. 2007).

A VDGIF fox hunter survey conducted in 2001 revealed the average investment in foxhounds was $9,300 for mounted hunters and $4,500 for nonmounted hunters (R. Farrar, VDGIF, unpublished data). Mounted fox hunters had average investments of $8,100 on kennels, $1,700 on dog boxes, and $1,600 on kennel equipment; nonmounted fox hunters spent an average of $3,500, $900, and $900 for these items, respectively. On average, mounted and nonmounted fox hunters, respectively, annually spent $5,600 and $1,500 for boarding hounds, $3,100 and $2,200 for feeding hounds, $4,400 and $600 in veterinary fees, $1,200 and $500 for vaccinations, and $400 and $1,100 for training fees.

Horse-related expenditures and investments by mounted fox hunters are significant. In 2001, average horse-related investments per mounted fox hunter totaled $29,000 in horses, $5,400 in horse tack, and $10,900 for horse trailers or vans (R. Farrar, VDGIF, unpublished data). Barns and stables cost an average of $78,000. Annual horse-related costs were $8,300 for boarding,
$3,900 for food, $2,000 in veterinary costs, and $800 for vaccinations. Mounted fox hunting and cross-over interests of its participants in thoroughbred breeding and racing, horse showing, trail riding, cross country events, etc. contribute to a multi-billion-dollar equine industry in Virginia (NASS 2008; J. Fendley, personal communication).

Pelts are a relatively minor source of income for most houndsmen, but do provide some income for raccoon hunters. For the 2006-2007 season, there were 9,109 raccoon pelts sold in Virginia with an average pelt price of $6.61 (M. Fies, VDGIF, unpublished report). Of these pelts, 800 were harvested by hunters, generating approximately $5,300 in revenue.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Hound-hunting (in combination with other types of hunting) can be an effective tool to manage bear, deer, and, in some cases, raccoon populations. Hound-hunting also provides social values to hunters, hunting families, hunt clubs, and communities. Experienced hound-hunters may benefit the general public through their contributions to wildlife research, wildlife damage abatement, public safety animal capture, invasive species control, and land conservation. Hound-hunter expenditures support wildlife management funding as well as equipment and services vendors in local communities.
CHAPTER 4—CONCERNS

CHAPTER 4—HOUND-HUNTING CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION

The biological, sociological, and economic benefits derived from the use of hounds for hunting are often accompanied by concerns from other hunters, landowners, and the public, including biological concerns, sociological issues, and economic costs. An objective discussion of hound-hunting must address both values and concerns. Stakeholders and wildlife management agencies must understand the conflicts and unfavorable impressions that challenge hound-hunting in order to respond to present concerns or those on the horizon. Hound-hunting concerns are documented from a range of geographic locations and indicate that Virginia is not alone in addressing these issues. Trends observed elsewhere can affect hunting in Virginia.

BIOLOGICAL CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH HOUND-HUNTING

Biological considerations have not been major aspects of the public controversies over hound-hunting (Peyton 1998); most of the concerns have been sociologically based (Elowe 1990). The major biological consideration for any hunting method, including the use of hounds, is the influence it has on achieving specific wildlife population management objectives. Biological concerns related to more subtle changes in physiology, behavior, and social structure have also been implicated with hunting and the use of hounds. Although definitive studies of biological impacts are often lacking, specific examples and general knowledge of population ecology and physiology have suggested the possibility for some biological concerns.

Physiological stress is discussed below for deer and bear, but a general synopsis for all species chased with hounds is warranted. Some level of short-term (acute) stress is likely during any chase. Acute stress is a normal physiological response to predation or danger and does not result in long-term problems for the animal (Fowler and Miller 2008; J. Sleeman, Wildlife Veterinarian, VDGIF, personal communication). The more biologically meaningful issue is whether chronic stress occurs. Chronic stress will occur when animals cannot escape from the stressor or undergo repeated stressful events over a prolonged period of time. Chronic stress is more likely to result in health (e.g., suppressed immunity) and reproductive issues (Fowler and Miller 2008; J. Sleeman, personal communication).

Bear

Overharvest Concerns—Hunting mortality affects population growth and is the major limiting factor in most black bear populations (Cowan 1972, Bunnell and Tait 1981). Depending on harvest levels, bear populations increase, decrease, or remain the same in the presence of hunting (McIlroy 1972, McCaffrey et al. 1976, Lindzey et al. 1983). Unless population reduction is the objective, bear hunting seasons should be conservative because depleted populations are slow to recover due to low reproductive potential (Miller 1990). The impact of regulated black bear harvest by hunters using hounds is ultimately controlled by a combination of season length, season timing, and bag limits to achieve specific population objectives. As such, concerns are...
minimal for overharvest of bears during regulated hunting seasons. Growing and expanding bear populations across Virginia indicate that overharvests are unlikely under current harvest restrictions in most areas (VDGIF 2002).

Extensive road access in heavily hunted areas increases the efficiency for hunting bears (Allen 1985). Bears were more vulnerable to hound-hunters in areas of North Carolina and Tennessee with good road access (Landers et al. 1979, Carr 1983, Brody and Pelton 1989). Inaccessible areas of bear home ranges were considered a critical component of habitat in areas where dog-hunting was prevalent (Landers et al. 1979).

Other factors may influence the effectiveness of hunting bears with hounds: hunter selectivity, hunter perception of population size, sex of the animal (females with cubs may be more vulnerable), reproductive status, food availability, and weather conditions (Hugie 1982, Allen 1985, Litvaitis and Kane 1994). Although many Virginia hound-hunters try to avoid harvesting female bears, surveyed hunters could not determine the sex of bears they treed 40% of the time (Higgins 1997).

Mortality—Although hounds may fight with bears during a chase (Massopust and Anderson 1984, Allen 1985, Elowe 1990) and occasionally injure bears (VDGIF, unpublished data), there has been little documentation of direct bear mortality attributed to bear hounds. Cubs can climb well enough to prevent injury from the hounds in most cases (Elowe 1990).

Indirect causes of mortality due to hound-hunting have also been rare. Suggested indirect causes of chase-related bear mortality have included increased collisions with vehicles, heat exhaustion, physiological stress (ruptured spleen), female abandonment of cubs, and cub orphaning due to harvest of the mother (Massopust and Anderson 1984; Allen 1985; Higgins 1997; VDGIF, unpublished data).

A number of factors impact the frequency of bear collisions on highways. Although complete road-kill data for bears are not available in Virginia, 55% of all reported bear road kills since 1992 have occurred during the hound-training season; 78% of the road kills have occurred during any open take or chase bear season (VDGIF, unpublished data). Despite some apparent correlation between vehicle collisions and bear seasons, there may be no cause and effect relationship. Increased road kills may be related to changes in activity patterns as bears spend additional time feeding in preparation for winter denning.

Bears temporarily leave home ranges when chased by hounds (Allen 1984, Masopust and Anderson 1984). As a result, bears may become more vulnerable to other forms of mortality (e.g., predation by larger bears) in unfamiliar territory (Massopust and Anderson 1984, Allen 1985, Higgins 1997, Koehler and Pierce 2003). Orphaned cubs or separated family groups may also die from starvation or increased risk of predation (Poelker and Hartwell 1973, Koehler and Pierce 2003).

Impacts on Reproduction—Compared to still hunters, hound-hunters may encounter and harvest more female bears with the potential to reduce the productivity of bear populations (Litvaitis and
Kane 1994). However, evidence suggests that many hound-hunters in Virginia try to avoid harvesting females (VDGIF, unpublished data). Additional concerns related to hunting or other forms of disturbance include abandonment of dens and cubs and interference with uterine implantation of fertilized eggs (Jonkel 1967, Poelker and Hartwell 1973, Beecham et al 1980, Eiler 1981, O’Pezio et al. 1983).

**Impacts on Movements**—Most bears chased from their home ranges return within a short period of time (Allen 1984, Massopust and Anderson 1984, Elowe 1990). In Maine, 47% of experimentally chased bears left their home ranges but returned shortly afterwards (Allen 1985). Bears chased for a second time remained away from their home ranges longer. Chased bears generally returned to the most secure and inaccessible portions of their home range (Allen 1985). Changes in habitat use may marginalize foraging opportunities or reproductive success of chased bears (Allen 1985).

**Behavioral and Social Changes**—Separation of family groups may be more prevalent when hound-training activity is constant (Allen 1985). When cubs were small, family movements were more limited and less able to sustain a long chase (Allen 1985). Females often put their cubs up a tree at the beginning of a chase and then led the hounds away. Once the chase ended, mother bears usually returned to the cubs (Elowe 1990). In Maine, experimentally chased females with cubs always treed after short chases but never with their cubs (Allen 1984). Family groups pursued after August may have a better chance of staying together because cubs can better keep up and tree nearer the mother (Elowe 1990).

Den locations can be impacted by human disturbance. Bears moved away from dens during the first week of deer season in Washington; most did not return to the original dens. In nonhunted areas, study bears did not abandon dens (Koehler and Pierce 2003). Ryan (1997) concluded that some bears likely denned on private or nonhunted land to avoid hound-hunters in Virginia.

**Physiological Stress**—Literature on physical exertion by bears suggests that activity associated with hound-hunting could lead to myopathy, heat exhaustion, or ruptured internal organs (Allen 1985, Massopust and Anderson 1984, Klenzendorf 2002). Myopathy is a complex muscular disease of wild animals, generally resulting from extreme exertion or restraint, particularly when predisposed by high temperatures or nutritional stress (Davidson 2006). Suggesting a possible delayed effect on bears after being chased by hounds, the highest deep-body temperatures in polar bears occurred one hour after bears were worked on a treadmill (Allen 1985). However, a study in Wisconsin found no physical effects 7 months after bear were chased by hounds (Massopust and Anderson 1984).

**Deer**

*Overharvest Concerns*—Deer are less vulnerable to overharvest today than when populations were rebuilding 30-40 years ago; in fact, management objectives call for reducing deer populations in many parts of Virginia (VDGIF 2007a). Modern hunting season regulations account for hound-harvest efficacy to achieve population objectives and sustainable harvests.
However, as an efficient harvest method, hunting deer with dogs has the potential to overharvest deer in localized areas.

Deer hunting with dogs has been proposed as a primary reason deer were extirpated from the mountains of North Georgia during the late 19th century (Jenkins 1952). Intensive dog-hunting, combined with vehicles, 2-way radios, and no restriction on doe kill, can potentially decimate a local deer population (Marchinton et al. 1970, Johnson 1991).

A negative relationship has been observed in eastern Texas between deer density and the percent of deer range hunted with dogs (Spencer 1986). The generally lower deer densities were attributed to more efficient harvest and/or higher crippling loss in areas hunted with dogs (Campo et al. 1987). In Florida, dog-hunted areas had lower deer densities than still-hunted areas, but some of the impact may have been related to greater illegal harvest of does by dog-hunters (FGFWFC 1991).

*Mortality*—Direct deer mortality due to hunting hounds is relatively rare in most habitats. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, where movements of 57 radio-collared deer on 8 different dog-hunting areas were monitored, no deer were caught by dogs and there was no evidence of detrimental changes in behavior or other ill effects (Marchinton et al. 1970). On study areas in Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina, deer escaped the dogs in all 65 experimental chases involving 6 deer chased by hunting hounds (Sweeney et al. 1971). Deer utilized swamps or other bodies of water for escape when available. In east Texas, no deer were caught during 53 experimental deer dog chases (Campo et al. 1987). Only 1 deformed piebald fawn was caught by dogs during studies at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in western Virginia; all healthy deer escaped (Gavitt et al. 1975).

Dogs might have greater impacts in mountainous terrain (Perry and Giles 1970). Studies in the mountains of North Carolina showed that dogs were capable of killing some experimentally chased deer in rugged mountain terrain (Corbett et al. 1971); however, the animals killed by dogs were predisposed by severe malnutrition or disease. Compared to the Coastal Plain, escape routes in mountains were more predictable, and deer apparently suffered some injury being chased in the rugged terrain.

In contrast to hunting hounds, free-ranging dogs have long been portrayed to have negative impacts on deer populations and have been identified as deer predators under certain circumstances (e.g., in deep snow, in newly stocked areas). In Virginia, one of the early prerequisites for deer stocking in a county was laws regulating the control of dogs (Reeves 1960). Documented deer losses at 2 release sites suggested that dog predation was an important deer management factor in Southwest Virginia in the 1970s (Guthrie and Spiers 1978). Although dogs have been portrayed as the most serious predator of deer (Horsley 1956), free-running dogs accounted for only 6% of the annual mortality in a survey of wildlife management areas in 10 southeastern states in the 1960s (Barick 1969).

Low mortality rates from dogs (2-3% annually) have been observed in Virginia (Peery 1978, Perry and Giles 1970) and other states (Gavin et al. 1984, Sarbello and Jackson 1985, Nelson and...
Domestic dogs have been shown to be an ineffective predator on deer with little effects on populations of well-established, healthy deer herds unless snow or other factors contribute (Marchinton and Hirth 1984, Torgerson and Porath 1984).

Other forms of deer mortality may be indirectly related to hunting with hounds. These include myopathy, crippling losses, and vehicle collisions. Fatal myopathy caused by muscle damage after a long chase or an intense struggle related to capture has been demonstrated in white-tailed deer (Berringer et al. 1996). Myopathy has not been identified as a mortality factor in white-tailed deer hunted with hounds in the southeastern United States (Marchinton et al. 1970, Sweeney et al. 1971, Corbett et al. 1971, Gavitt et al. 1975, Campo et al. 1987).

Crippling losses from dog-hunting may be greater than for other forms of deer hunting. In east Texas, 38% of deer were shot but not retrieved on a dog-hunted area compared to 12% on a still-hunted area (Campo et al. 1987).

Deer chased by hounds are occasionally struck by vehicles, but data collected by the Virginia Department of Transportation are inadequate to analyze potential hound-hunting impacts on deer-vehicle collisions. Even with adequate vehicle-collision data, deer movements associated with the fall breeding period and nocturnal activity patterns (D’Angelo et al. 2004) would likely mask any discernable impacts of hound-hunting on deer-vehicle collisions.

Impacts on Reproduction—One of the primary concerns regarding dog deer hunting is the potential impact on reproduction and productivity. Surveyed game wardens and biologists in Virginia during the 1960s believed that chasing deer during pregnancy was detrimental and would seriously affect productivity (Perry and Giles 1970). However, research in Virginia found no evidence that dog chases affected reproduction; does repeatedly chased by dogs were as productive as does that were not chased (Gavitt et al. 1975). Chases were conducted during pregnancy to increase chances of detecting impacts.

Impacts on Movements—In a series of deer studies conducted in Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina in the 1960s, 78% (51 of 65) of deer chased by dogs left their home ranges. In each case, the deer returned within 1 day. Deer not actively pursued by hounds would often move away from active chases, but on occasion, would remain bedded when dogs chased another deer within 30 yards (Sweeney et al. 1971). No extreme deer movements were observed after experimental deer-dog chases in east Texas (Campo et al. 1987). Deer remained within their home ranges during managed deer hunts with dogs in Georgia (Marshall and Whittington 1968). In a similar study in the mountains of North Carolina, approximately 70% of chases resulted in deer leaving their home ranges, and half took more than 1 day to return (Corbett et al. 1971).

Raccoon hunting with dogs did not affect deer movements in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina; only 1 of 26 radioed deer was chased by raccoon hounds (Westerhold et al. 1996). Day time movements of deer were not affected by raccoon hunting the night before.

Behavioral and Social changes—Deer were more active and used a greater proportion of their seasonal home range during a managed dog-hunt on the Savannah River Site in South Carolina;
however, deer tended to remain stationary for longer periods as the hunt progressed (D’Angelo et al. 2003). In a Georgia study of 5 radio-monitored deer subjected to heavy dog-hunting pressure, daytime movement patterns were different prior to and following the hunt (Marshall and Whittington 1968).

**Physiological Stress**—A few studies suggest that stress from hound-hunting is likely only in young deer or following very long chases that are not typical of those in the southeastern United States (see Chapter 2). In a 1971 study in South Carolina, white-tailed fawns harvested after being run by dogs had higher urinary indicators of stress than fawns not run by dogs (Urbston 1984). Deer (primarily adult) experimentally chased in an enclosure in Virginia appeared to accept the dog chases in a relaxed manner, stopping frequently to observe the dogs, and never appeared to be under much stress (Gavitt et al. 1975). Especially in areas with high deer densities, hounds frequently switch trails among deer (Gavitt et al. 1975, Campo et al. 1987), which may minimize the stress on any one animal.

**Fox**

**Overharvest Concerns**—Hunting is a significant source of mortality for foxes in some areas (Storm et al. 1976), but evidence of overharvest by fox hunters is lacking. High reproductive rates and dispersal potential allow fox populations to withstand high levels of hunting mortality without long-term population effects (Voight 1987). Even in England, where hunters try to kill all foxes while hunting, harvest levels appear insufficient to have long-term population impacts (Macdonald and Johnson 1996).

In Virginia, fox hound-hunters are even less likely to affect populations, since most hound-hunters do not intentionally kill foxes they pursue. Although data are lacking to accurately quantify statewide fox harvest by Virginia hound-hunters, hunter survey information suggests that the total harvest is very low. Using 1999-2000 hunter survey data, only 5.5% of the red fox harvest and 4.0% of the gray fox harvest can be attributed to hunters who specifically targeted foxes and possibly used dogs (Wright 2001). Most of the Virginia’s total fox harvest (85.0% for red fox and 51.9% for gray fox) was taken by hunters pursuing other game (Wright 2001).

**Mortality**—Chasing without killing is the primary objective of most fox hunters who use hounds in Virginia. Even when the goal is to kill the fox, a majority of foxes (up to 85%) successfully evade the hounds (Thomas and Allen 2000). Hound ability to capture foxes is affected by habitat quality, scent conditions, skill of the hounds, and the experience and vigor of the fox. Young foxes are more likely to be caught by hounds because they are more prone to make a tactical mistake during the chase (Thomas and Allen 2000).

Fox mortality from hounds in fenced, foxhound-training enclosures is affected by pen size, habitat quality, availability of escape structures, foxhound density, and fox acclimation time. In Virginia, foxhound-training enclosures are required by VDGIF permit conditions to be at least 100 acres in size and have at least 1 dog-proof escape area per 20 acres. That frequent stocking is necessary to maintain quality chase opportunities in heavily-used enclosures suggests that fox mortality can be high.
Other Concerns—No evidence was found that hound-hunting caused physiological stress that negatively impacted fox reproduction. Research is also lacking to suggest that hound-hunting had long-term effects on movement patterns, habitat use, or social behavior.

Unique Concerns with Fox Pens—Some user groups, particularly mounted fox hunters, have expressed concerns that trapping foxes for foxhound-training preserves has reduced fox numbers in the areas they hunt. Although short-term population reductions may be possible in local areas that are heavily trapped to supply fox pens, the overall number of foxes transported to training facilities is insufficient to impact statewide populations. During the 2006-2007 permit year, trappers supplied 1,271 wild-caught foxes to foxhound-training facilities (M. Fies, VDGIF, unpublished data). This total represented only 2.3% of the total combined fox harvest by hunters (Jagnow et al. 2008) and fur trappers (Fies 2007) during 2006-07.

Importation of dangerous disease organisms is a serious concern associated with the translocation of wild foxes for foxhound-training enclosures. In 1992, the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department confiscated 56 red foxes, 18 gray foxes, and 13 coyotes that had been illegally imported into the state for stocking in fox pens. Of the 18 gray foxes, 15 were incubating canine distemper (Davidson et al. 1992). Serologic tests of all animals revealed evidence of past exposure to a variety of viral diseases including canine parvovirus, canine coronavirus, canine herpesvirus, and canine parainfluenza virus. In addition there were 23 species of parasites found, including several with serious pathogenic capabilities. The human pathogen *Echinococcus multilocularis*, not endemic to the southeastern United States, was found in red foxes. Based on these findings, Davidson et al. (1992) concluded that wild canid translocation for stocking fox pens presented significant biological risks.

Illegal importation of foxes and coyotes has also been a known problem in Virginia. During a recent covert investigation, 12 Virginia fox pen operators who were offered illegal coyotes from undercover agents elected to purchase the animals, with the full understanding that the animals came from another state. Red foxes were also imported illegally (M. Fies, VDGIF, unpublished data). Apparently, some fox pen operators imported animals from other states, even when a local supply was available.

Raccoon

Overharvest Concerns—Hunting has been documented to reduce raccoon abundance in Alabama, Florida, Kansas, and South Carolina (Minser and Pelton 1982). Public hunting reduced a dense raccoon population on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama following an unsuccessful trapping effort (Atkeson and Hulse 1953). In Florida, track counts and dog censuses indicated a decline in raccoon populations after heavy hunter harvest (Caldwell 1963). In Kansas, raccoon hunters reported driving larger distances as the hunting season progressed, suggesting that hunter harvest may have reduced populations in their local area (Stains 1956). Hunter success before and after a 10-year closure on the Savannah River Plant in South Carolina suggested that the raccoon population more than doubled in the absence of hunting (Cunningham 1962).
Most reports of potential raccoon overharvest are in mountainous regions with relatively poor raccoon habitat. In a recent study in southwestern Virginia, the demand for raccoon hunting was reported to exceed the region’s ability to maintain high populations (Schrading 1991). Hunting impacts in aquatic and bottomland hardwood habitats with a higher raccoon carrying capacity appear to be minimal (Chamberlain et al. 1999). Although raccoon survival may be affected by habitat quality and degree of exploitation, most biologists agree that legal hunter harvest accounts for a substantial portion of total raccoon mortality throughout the species range (Clark et al. 1989).

In Virginia, concerns regarding overharvest of raccoons are most relevant in areas west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Much of this region is characterized by poor habitat, easy hunter access to riparian areas, low raccoon numbers, and significant hunting pressure. In areas east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, particularly the Tidewater region, the potential for overharvest is much lower. Aquatic and bottomland hardwood habitats preferred by raccoons are more abundant in eastern Virginia and hunter access to these habitats is often limited.

**Mortality**—During a typical raccoon hunt, direct capture of raccoons by hounds seems to be an infrequent occurrence. Most studies suggest that adult raccoons are adept at escaping hounds. In Mississippi, radio-collared raccoons treed quickly when pursued by hounds during the summer months (Hodges et al. 2000). Even though dog captures of adult raccoons are believed to be uncommon, a few reports have been documented. In Tennessee, a nursing radio-collared female and an untagged male were caught and killed by dogs during an experimental dog-training season (Cantrell 1989).

Young raccoons are considerably more vulnerable to dog capture, particularly in open areas (e.g., old fields) where trees are not readily available for escape. In Tennessee, hunters on a wildlife management area reported that young raccoons were killed by their dogs in cornfields during the training season (Minser and Pelton 1982). Impacts of this mortality are likely to be more significant in areas with low raccoon populations and liberal dog-training opportunities. Conversely, areas with high quality habitat and an abundance of raccoons are unlikely to be affected by hound-related mortality. On a wildlife management area with high quality habitat in Mississippi, a conservative summer hunting season had no effect on annual raccoon survival (Chamberlain et al. 1999).

**Impacts on Reproduction**—Although some researchers have suggested that summer dog training for raccoons may have detrimental effects on rearing of young or pregnant females (Minser and Pelton 1982), data are lacking to demonstrate population impacts. Young raccoons are not self-sufficient until at least 3 months of age (Johnson 1970) and the death of a nursing female can result in the loss of an entire litter. Because female raccoons decrease their home range size and daily movements when caring for young (Cantrell 1989), they may be easier to tree and more vulnerable to illegal harvest by hunting parties during summer training seasons. This hypothesis was not supported by a study that found no difference in female raccoon survival during the young rearing season on hunted and unhunted areas in Mississippi (Chamberlain et al. 1999).
**Impacts on Movements**—Disturbance by hunters and their dogs might be expected to cause raccoons to use different habitats, reduce their movements, or change their periods of activity; however, recent research does not support these theories. In Iowa, there were no observed differences in home range size or habitat preference among radio-collared raccoons monitored before and after harvest seasons (Glueck et al. 1988). In Tennessee, no differences in home range size, distance between activity centers, and nocturnal movement rates for female raccoons were observed prior to and during experimental summer dog-training seasons (Cantrell 1989). No differences in home range size and movement rates between hunted and unhunted raccoons were found in Mississippi (Hodges 2000). Frequent harassment by free-roaming dogs has been documented to cause raccoons to abandon denning areas (Minser and Pelton 1982), but these observations were not associated with hunting or dog-training activities. Cantrell (1989) did report a single instance of a radio-collared female raccoon abandoning her offspring after she was chased and treed during a dog training session in Tennessee.

**Rabbit**

**Overharvest Concerns**—The effects of hunter harvest on rabbit populations are poorly documented. The general belief among wildlife managers is that rabbits cannot be overhunted in suitable habitats with regulated hunting seasons (Chapman et al. 1982). A study conducted in Virginia concluded that heavy rabbit harvest during the hunting season had no negative effects on rabbit populations the following year (Payne 1964). Although hunter harvest has little impact on rabbit numbers throughout most of Virginia, it may be possible to overharvest rabbits in localized areas with limited escape cover and intense hunting pressure. In Ohio, possible harvest-related declines in cottontail numbers have been documented on several heavily hunted wildlife management areas (Chapman et al. 1982). Potential impacts of late season harvest appear greater than harvest earlier in the year. In Mississippi, rabbit harvest on areas not hunted in February tripled the following season, while harvests remained stable on areas hunted until the end of February (Bond 1999).

**Mortality**—Hound-related mortality for cottontail rabbits is believed to be very low. Nestling rabbits are occasionally killed by beagles during spring and summer training, but these incidences are uncommon and likely represent an insignificant source of overall rabbit mortality. Adult rabbits rarely are captured by hounds. In a Tennessee rabbit chasing enclosure, the primary mortality factor was predation from hawks and owls (Brady and Pelton 1978). There was no reported mortality from hunting dogs.

**Impacts on Reproduction**—Female cottontails harvested in February are usually pregnant and often have well-developed fetuses (Bond 1999). Since many of these rabbits would likely have survived to produce offspring, population effects of late-season harvest may be additive. Cottontails born early in the year are also capable of breeding during their first summer, perhaps magnifying the impacts of early litter loss. Although experimental evidence is lacking, reducing the number of early born litters may reduce the number of potential breeders. In Illinois, breeding juveniles contributed 23% of the fall population available to hunters in November (Lord 1963). Population contributions may be lower in areas where fewer early litters are born.
No evidence was found that chasing rabbits during the breeding season caused physiological stress that resulted in reduced reproduction. In a Georgia rabbit enclosure, almost daily chasing from February through August had no apparent effect on population size (Murphy et al. 1997).

**Nontarget Species**

Most studies investigating impacts of dogs on wildlife have focused on free-ranging dogs or pets rather than hunting dogs, but despite the expected behavioral differences between hunting dogs, feral canids, and free-ranging pets, some findings may apply to any unrestrained dog in wildlife habitat. Impacts of hunting hounds on nontarget wildlife (i.e., wildlife not intentionally pursued during a chase) are uncertain and typically focus on impacts to individual animals rather than the more important population implications (Sime 1999).

Documentation of dogs harassment wildlife (primarily deer) dates back to the 1950s (Horseley 1956, Barick 1969, Perry and Giles 1970). Denny (1974) found that 86% of the wildlife agencies he surveyed considered uncontrolled companion animals to be a problem for wildlife. Allen (1985) also reported complications to his study on hounds chasing bears due to the chasing of other wildlife.

Impacts of domestic and free-ranging dogs on wildlife may be broadly classified as disruption of normal maintenance activities (e.g., feeding, bedding, or grooming), injury, or death (Sime 1999). Free-ranging or pet dogs have been shown to disrupt habitat use, foraging, breeding, nesting, and roosting by birds (Baydack 1986, Yalden and Yalden 1990, Keller 1991, Hoopes 1993, Sime 1999). Free-ranging dogs infrequently kill adult turkeys, although they can be significant predators of turkey nests and poults (Miller and Leopold 1992). Dogs have been implicated in introducing diseases and parasites into wildlife populations, physically destroying burrows, and causing alarm reactions (Stuht and Youatt 1972, Thorne et al. 1982, Durden and Wilson 1990, Mainini et al. 1993, Sime 1999).

**Summary – Biological Concerns**

Hunting with hounds is an effective method to harvest game and undesired population impacts are minimal. Wildlife mortality, reproductive, and behavioral influences from hound-hunting that affect population size are ultimately managed through hunting regulations. Despite the negligible impact on wildlife populations, hound-hunting may influence wildlife behavior and movements. Biological considerations have not been major aspects of the public controversies over hound-hunting (Peyton 1998); most of the concerns have been sociologically based (Elowe 1990).

**Sociological Concerns Associated with Hound-Hunting**

Public stakeholders interested in the mission of the VDGIF have become increasingly diverse. This diversity not only includes values of hunters and anglers but also those of wildlife watchers, farmers, homeowners, motorists, and other citizens. For state wildlife management agencies, the
increasing societal interest in diverse wildlife management issues (including hunting practices) is garnering mainstream attention with additional accountability to all stakeholders (Minnis 1998).

The public expresses concerns about some aspects of hunters and hunting (e.g., the use of bait, season lengths, predator management, Sunday hunting). Popular sentiments can especially be affected when a charismatic species (e.g., bears) is coupled with a method of hunting that is viewed as inhumane and unsporting (Minnis 1998). As a relatively visible sport, hound-hunting may heighten the public perceptions about bear or deer hunting (Elowe 1990). The use of dogs has at times attracted public interest, documented in the form of public surveys, ballot initiatives, and other legal processes. This attention on hound-hunting generally has not been anti-hunting in nature, but focuses more on specific practices viewed as unacceptable by some publics (Peyton 1998).

With 78% approval, most citizens in the United States support legal hunting (Duda and Jones 2008). In particular, the public supports hunting to obtain food, to manage wildlife populations, and to protect humans. However, opposition toward specific forms of hunting is affected by the public perception of hunter behavior, safety, fair chase, and animal welfare (Klein 1973, Rohlfing 1978, Lorenz 1980, Duda et al. 1998, Duda and Jones 2008). Demonstrating public concern for animal welfare, a large majority (79%) of Americans approve of animals being used by people, but only “as long as the animal does not experience undue pain” (Duda et al. 1998). Additionally, the majority of Americans (64%) – and even 49% of hunters - believe that many hunters violate the law or are unsafe while hunting (Duda et al. 1998).

There have been several approaches to characterize sociological concerns with hunting, but the opposition to types of hunting may be based simply on (1) ideological differences (primarily fair chase and animal welfare concerns) and (2) conflicts of interest with other hunters and landowners (including objectionable behaviors; Langenau 1979).

The following documentation is provided to increase awareness about the range of conflicts and unfavorable impressions that challenge hound-hunting today. Stakeholders and wildlife management agencies must understand the societal conflicts and unfavorable impressions that challenge hound-hunting in order to respond to present concerns or those on the horizon. Hound-hunting concerns are documented from a range of geographic locations and indicate that Virginia is not alone in addressing these issues. Trends observed elsewhere can affect hunting in Virginia.

Public Surveys

Because hound-hunting issues often have been the subject of public controversies, numerous surveys have been conducted to determine the acceptability of using hounds among hunters, landowners, and the public. The following review summarizes survey results and not the background for conducting the surveys. Regardless of the reasons for conducting the surveys, nonhound-hunting stakeholders have generally expressed disapproval for hunting with hounds.
Bear—Although surveys generally have indicated approval for bear hunting in general, the public has expressed overwhelming disapproval for bear hunting with hounds. Even among other hunters, hound-hunting for bears has not been well-accepted. Survey results from several states include.


Idaho: - Only 28% of hunters and 12% of nonhunters approved of hunting black bears with dogs (IDFG 1992).

Michigan: - Of the nonhunters who supported hunting, 66% felt that hunting bears with dogs was unacceptable (Peyton and Grise 1995, cited by Peyton 1998).

Utah: - During 1998, 69% of the public, and 46% of hunters, disapproved of bear hunting with hounds. Overall, only 20% of Utahans approved of bear hunting with hounds. Metropolitan areas showed lower approval than rural areas (Krannich and Teel 1999, Teel et al. 2002). Hound-hunting was more accepted for cougars than for bears (Teel et al. 2002).

Washington: - Although hound-hunting was illegal, 86% of licensed hunters supported the idea of using dogs to control bear and cougar populations (RM 2002).

West Virginia: - During 2006, the majority of the public surveyed supported hunting black bear with a gun (76%) or a bow (60%). However, only 23% of the public supported (68% opposed) hunting bears with dogs. Most opposition to the use of dogs was strong opposition. Even among hunters, the majority opposed hunting bears with dogs (57%) and dog training for bear year-round (58%). Public opposition (61%) also exceeded support (28%) for the training season, with most opposition being strong (RM 2006).

Virginia: - Most surveys about bear hunting and the use of dogs have been conducted among hunters. In 1993, 49% of hunters were neutral about the bear chase season, with 32% opposing and 19% favoring. Among bear hunters, 54% of the nondog bear hunters did not favor the chase season. As would be expected, a large majority (82%) of the dog bear hunters favored the training season in Virginia (VDGIF 2002). During the mid-1970s, 74% of incidental bear hunters (primarily deer hunters) wanted to eliminate bear hunting with dogs (DuBrock et al. 1978).

- During 2000-2001, several stakeholder groups in Virginia were surveyed. While 100% of the members of the Virginia Bear Hunters Association supported bear hunting with dogs, only 38% and 10% of the members of the
Virginia Beekeepers Association (VBA) and the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supported bear hunting with dogs, respectively. Although they disapproved of using dogs, a large majority (73%) of the VBA supported bear hunting in general; only 34% of the TNC supported any form of bear hunting (Lafon 2002, Lafon et al. 2003).

- Based on a 2006 survey, 56% of hunters were opposed to Sunday hunting for bears with dogs. Except for deer hunting with dogs (59%), no other game species had opposition that exceeded 40% for Sunday hunting. Excluding bear and deer hunting with dogs, the average opposition to Sunday hunting for all other species (including bear and deer hunting without dogs) was 34% (VDGIF 2007b).

**Deer**—State surveys conducted about deer hunting with dogs have generally involved only landowners and hunters, both of whom have expressed disapproval of using hounds to hunt deer. The general public in Georgia also disapproved of deer hunting with dogs.

**Alabama:** - During the early 1980s, only 38% of Alabama farm operators felt that dog-hunters respected landowners' rights, but only 13% thought the use of dogs to hunt deer was a serious problem. There was a large variation among landowner opinions based on whether they hunted with dogs themselves (Exum et al. 1985).

**Georgia:** - In a 1983 landowner survey in counties with dog-hunting for deer, 64% opposed, and 12% favored, the use of dogs for hunting deer (Kurz 1984). In 2004, landowner opposition to using dogs to hunt deer was similar (62%) to the 1983 survey (RM 2004). In 2004, 58% of the general public opposed, and 29% supported, deer hunting with dogs. Among hunters, 51% opposed, and 39% supported, using dogs to hunt deer (RM 2004).

**Texas:** - Opposition to deer dog-hunting in east Texas increased from 1984 to 1989, when 75% of landowners and 73% of hunters were opposed. Most landowners (82%) would not permit dog-hunting on their property, which resulted in only 5% of deer range being available to hunting deer with dogs (Campo and Spencer 1991).

**Virginia:** - Exceeding opposition to bear dog-hunting, 59% of hunters opposed Sunday hunting for deer with dogs. The average opposition to Sunday hunting for all other species (including bear and deer hunting without dogs) was 34% (VDGIF 2007b).

**Other Species**—Opinions about hunting other species with hounds vary widely. Surveys show that using dogs for cougar hunting generally is opposed, but more accepted than for bears. Rabbit hunting was accepted more and led to fewer conflicts than other forms of dog-hunting. Some specific results include:
Cougars: In Utah, 61% and 33% of the Utah public and hunting license buyers, respectively, disapproved of cougar hunting with hounds. Cougar hunting with hounds was more accepted than bear hunting with hounds (Krannich and Teel 1999).

Rabbits: Fewer nonhunters in Michigan felt that dog-hunting for rabbits (48%) was unacceptable than for bear (66%, Peyton 1998). Only 13% of West Virginians felt that rabbit hunting created problems during dog training (compared to 31% and 25% for raccoons and bears, respectively; RM 2006).

Ballot Initiatives

Ballot initiatives provide another measure of public opinions about hound-hunting issues. In some states, citizens can collect enough petition signatures to get laws or constitutional amendments on the ballot (IRI 2008). Animal rights groups have successfully petitioned for ballot initiatives to restrict more vulnerable aspects of hunting (e.g., hunting cougars; hunting bears with hounds, in the spring, and with bait) and trapping (e.g., leghold traps) (Williamson1998). Only 22 states, mostly in the western U. S., have a ballot initiative process to make laws (IRI 2008). East of the Mississippi River, only Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Ohio have such processes; the Constitution of Virginia does not provide for public ballot initiatives to establish law but a public referendum is required for any constitutional amendments (IRI 2008). The first wildlife-oriented ballot initiative occurred in 1930 when 69% of Massachusetts voters supported a measure that “banned the use of trapping devices that caused suffering to wildlife” (Minnis 1998:76).

The following review focuses on ballot initiatives as expressions of public opinion. Given that initiatives have addressed other management issues in addition to hound-hunting (e.g., baiting, spring hunting), levels of disapproval shown below may not be tied exclusively to the use of hounds. However, public surveys conducted before and after the vote in Colorado (SACA 1991, Loker and Decker 1995) indicated that the use of hounds to hunt bears was an important consideration for voters in that state. Regardless of the motives that generated the ballot initiatives, when given the opportunity, the public has often expressed disapproval for hunting with hounds (frequently linked with other wildlife management issues).

Bear—Since 1992, bear hunting with dogs has been the subject of 8 different ballot initiatives in 7 states. Concerns regarding hound-hunting for bears often have been linked with those for other species (e.g., cougar, bobcat, lynx) and other bear hunting issues (e.g., spring seasons, hunting over bait). Hunting bears with hounds was banned by public ballot in Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington (Table 3). Similar initiatives in Idaho, Maine, and Michigan failed. Ballot initiatives have occurred in all 3 states east of the Mississippi River that have both bear hunting and the initiative process for laws available (Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan). The details about these ballot initiatives include:
Colorado: - In 1992, Colorado was the first state where a ballot initiative banned hound-hunting for bears (Gore 2003). Overturning previous rulings made by the Colorado Division of Wildlife - which had relied most on input from traditional stakeholders - the ban on hound-hunting, baiting, and spring hunting for bears was approved by 70% of the voters (Loker et al. 1994, Loker and Decker 1995, Minnis 1998, Decker et al. 2001). Spring-hunting and baiting were greater concerns for parties pushing the ballot proposal (J. Apker, CO Division of Wildlife, personal communication). However, for voters who supported the ban, hound-hunting was equally opposed (69% vs. 71% for spring hunting) and had the same self-reported effect on voting (68% vs. 70%, respectively, noting moderate or great effect; Loker and Decker 1995).

Idaho: - Proposition 2, rejected by 60% of voters in 1996, would have banned dog-hunting and baiting for bears and eliminated the spring bear hunt (Minnis 1998, Gore 2003).

Maine: - In 2004, Maine residents narrowly rejected an initiative to outlaw the use of bait stations and hounds for black bear hunting; 47% supported the ban (MSLLRL 2008)

Massachusetts: - The Massachusetts Wildlife Protection Act of 1996, approved by 64% of voters, prohibited the pursuit of bears and bobcats with dogs, baiting of bears, and foothold and body-gripping traps for all species (Minnis 1998, SCMA 2008). Today, hounds may be permitted for damage control or research (J. Cardoza, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, personal communication).

Michigan: - In 1996, 38% of Michigan voters supported a ban on the use of baiting and hounds for hunting bears. The debate focused as much on the authority and ability of the Michigan DNR to manage bears as the specific issues (Minnis 1998, Gore 2003).

Oregon: - A ban on hunting black bears and cougars with hounds or bait was passed by 52% of Oregon voters in 1994. The ban was upheld in 1996 when 56% of voters rejected an effort to repeal the ban (Minnis 1998, Gore 2003) and a proposal that sole authority to set these regulations would be given to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Peyton 1998).

Washington: - A ban on using bait and hounds to hunt black bears, bobcats, lynx, and cougars was approved by 63% of Washington voters in 1996. Efforts to repeal the ban in 2004 eased restrictions for cougars, but not for bears (Minnis 1998, Gore 2003).

Deer—No ballot initiatives have addressed dog-hunting for deer. Arkansas and California are the only states that allow both dog-hunting for deer and a ballot initiative process for laws.
Mississippi and Florida have a ballot initiative process for constitutional amendments only (IRI 2008).

*Other Species*—As previously described, several other species and practices were involved with ballot initiatives for bears (Table 3). Ballot initiatives have affected hound-hunting for cougars (Oregon, Washington), bobcats (Massachusetts, Washington), and Lynx (Washington; Minnis 1998, Gore 2003).

**Legislation / Regulation Changes**

Public concerns about hunting with hounds are sometimes demonstrated in the form of legislation, agency regulations, and litigation (Table 3). This review focuses on legal actions as reflections of citizen conflicts or public dissatisfactions with hound-hunting. This review does not address the many complex reasons that legal remedies were sought or the larger political ramifications. To address issues associated with hound-hunting, citizens, their representatives, or agencies have sometimes resorted to legal approaches.

*Bear*—Laws regulate the use of hounds in every state that allows bear hunting. Some states have completely outlawed the use of hounds while bear hunting (e.g., Pennsylvania, 1935) while other states have imposed restrictions on dogs (e.g., Vermont has a permit and pack-size limit for bear hounds; Ternent 2006). Some notable legal actions have occurred in the following states:

- **California:** - In 1985, the spring and summer dog-training season for bears was eliminated in California, in part to reduce illegal kill. Hound-hunting is still allowed during the general bear season (Burton et al. 1994, CDFG 1998). Claiming noncompliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, a court order stopped all bear hunting in California during 1989, but it was reinstated in 1990 (Koch 1994). In 1997, bills were introduced to restrict dogs for hunting bears and bobcats in California (Peyton 1998). Over the last 8 years, several attempts by animal rights organizations to completely ban hunting with hounds have not succeeded due to efforts of hunting organizations (D. Updike, California Department of Fish and Game, personal communication).

- **Massachusetts:** - In 1990, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife responded to growing public concerns about hunting bears with dogs by imposing restrictions: hunter permits, pack size limits (6 for hunting, 4 for training), specific training periods, and no telemetry equipment for hunting (allowed for training; J. Cardoza, personal communication). Despite these actions, the 1996 ballot initiative outlawed hound-hunting for bears.

- **Virginia:** - In response to a long-standing concern by residents, VDGIF advertised, but ultimately rejected, a 2003 regulation proposal to ban the use of dogs for bear hunting in a portion of Roanoke County.

- The dog retrieval law (Code of Virginia §18.2-136, see Chapter 5) has
received frequent attention in the General Assembly. Primarily driven by bear and deer hunting issues, recent legislative considerations and actions associated with this law have included:

- 2008 – SB263; increase penalties for dog-retrieval violations; failed
- 2007 – HB2531; repeal §18.2-136; failed
- 2007 – SB884; require hunters to identify themselves during retrieval; passed
- 2006 – HB150; prohibit release of dogs on or near posted land; failed
- 1996 – HB459; prohibit following dogs on posted land after “downed game;” failed
- 1995 – SB937; allow retrieval only “after written notice to the landowner;” failed

Deer—States have mitigated deer-dog issues in a various ways, from separating dog and no-dog deer seasons (e.g., Mississippi) to complete bans in some areas (e.g., Virginia). Recent changes and considerations in deer dog-hunting laws reflect increasing public concerns:

Alabama: - By 1997, some Alabama counties had shorter seasons and minimum acreage for using dogs to hunt deer (Peyton 1998). Dog-hunting has been eliminated from 15 counties and placed under a permit program with acreage minimums in 5 counties (C. Hill, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, personal communication).

Florida: - The Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission adopted policy guidelines to reduce conflicts regarding deer dog-hunting in 1991 (Peyton 1998). To address continued trespass and other complaints, a pilot program requiring dog registration began during 2004-05 in northwest Florida, and has been expanded statewide (R. Vanderhoof, FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, personal communication).

Georgia: - Because conflicts had escalated and resulted in proposals to eliminate deer hunting with dogs in Georgia, the Georgia Dog Hunters Association promoted a law to protect both landowner and deer dog-hunting interests in 2003 (Bowers et al. 2007). This law now requires a dog-deer license and a minimum acreage (J. Bowers, GA Wildlife Resources Division, personal communication).

South Carolina: - The South Carolina General Assembly has recently considered bills similar to the Georgia model. In 2008, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was directed to begin a stakeholder process to address issues related to deer hunting with dogs (C. Ruth, SC Department of Natural Resources, personal communication).

- In a 2002 lawsuit, International Paper Company (IP) was held liable for creating a nuisance for adjoining landowners from its hunting leases with
South Carolina dog-hunting clubs. Subsequently, IP banned deer dog-hunting on their properties in other areas (e.g., Georgia) (GON 2004).

Texas: - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) shortened the dog season for deer hunting during 1986-87 to address tensions between landowners and hunters. This change only seemed to “intensify the discord between dog and nondog-hunters” and decreased support for TPWD (Campo and Spencer 1991:240). The TPWD prohibited the use of dogs for deer hunting in 1990.

Virginia: - See the discussion about dog-retrieval legislation under Bears above.

Other Species—

Cougars: - Primarily due to growing lion populations, bans on cougar hunting with hounds have been modified in Washington and Oregon. The 1996 Washington law was modified in 2004 to allow a pilot hound-hunting program to control lion populations in selected counties (Washington Administrative Code 232-28-285). Modifying the 1994 Oregon ban, HB 2971 reinstated limited hound-hunting for cougars in 2007.

Furbearers: - A Missouri state wildlife agency proposal to require landowner permission when dogs were released to hunt furbearers drew protests from dog-hunters, who viewed the restriction as a greater threat to their sport than landowner concerns (Peyton 1998).

Fair Chase and Animal Welfare Concerns

Concerns over animal welfare, animal rights, fair chase, and hunter ethics are based on diverse personal values regarding the use and treatment of animals. Accepting most uses of animals, individuals concerned with animal welfare focus on treating animals with compassion and avoiding cruelty. However, animal rights proponents advocate equal moral and legal rights for all species with a motive to end any exploitation or human use of animals (Cockrell 1999, Muth and Jamison 2000). “Concern for animal welfare has the potential to be a powerful and motivating component of many dog-hunting issues, as well as the larger issue of public acceptance of hunting. This is especially true when welfare concerns are redefined to include unfair chase or unethical hunting practices” (Peyton 1998:547). Value differences about the use of hounds for hunting have centered on fair chase of game animals and welfare of both game animals and dogs.

Bear—Anti-hunting sentiments (i.e., opposition to hunting in general or bear hunting in general) have been a relatively minor reason expressed for opposing bear hunting with hounds. Instead, issues of fair chase, sportsmanship, ethical objections to using dogs, and animal welfare have been important considerations for opposing hunting bears with hounds. Only 10% of Coloradans opposed hunting while 70% supported the 1992 initiative to ban aspects of bear hunting (i.e.,...
hounds, spring hunting, bait; Loker and Decker 1995). Post-election surveys determined that most people were concerned about animal welfare and other issues of fair chase, sportsmanship, and the ethics of using dogs (Loker et al. 1994, Loker and Decker 1995). Although animal welfare issues are of greater importance to the public than concerns about animal rights (Duda et al. 1998), animal rights organizations are often key activists in championing public issues related to animal welfare (Cockrell 1999).

Primary reasons given by the public and hunters opposed to bear hunting with dogs are that it is perceived to be inhumane and unethical, which leads to an unfair advantage for the hunter (Elowe 1990, UDWR 2000, Gore 2003). The use of advanced technology (e.g., 2-way radios, tracking collars, 4-wheel-drive vehicles) and road access contributes to the perception of an unfair advantage for bear hunters using hounds (Elowe 1990, UDWR 2000). To some people, letting dogs “harass” wildlife is inhumane, while others think that bear hounds chase all wildlife (Elowe 1990). Because bear hounds sometimes get killed or injured while hunting, animal welfare concerns often get extended to the dogs themselves (Elowe 1990, Gore 2003).

Documentation of fair chase and animal welfare concerns about bear hound-hunting include:

**Fair Chase:**
- Prevalent concerns for 45% of Michigan citizens who opposed hunting bears with hounds were that it is unsporting and unethical. Of Michigan bear hunters who did not use dogs, 39% considered the use of dogs to be unethical (Peyton 1998).

**Welfare:**
- Colorado voters reported that their concern for the welfare of cubs was more important than animal rights (Loker and Decker 1995, Peyton 1998).
- Surveys conducted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game indicated that the primary reason for public opposition to a special bear-dog training season was that it would be cruel and abusive to bears (Lafon 2002).
- Animal protection concerns were expressed during Oregon’s ballot initiative when the Humane Society of the United States and the Animal Protection Institute were pitted against hunter groups like Safari Club International (Gore 2003).
- Animal welfare concerns also have provided an avenue for legal challenges of hunting in California. To be compliant with state law, hunting seasons must consider the “welfare of individual animals.” Issues of “individual pain and physiological and emotional suffering” need to be considered in setting hound-hunting regulations (Koch 1994).
- A concern for animal welfare was a common reason for opposing bear hunting with dogs in West Virginia. Of those citizens who opposed hound-hunting, 19% felt that it disturbs black bears (RM 2006).
- A 1995 telephone survey of over 700 Michigan citizens found that more
respondents were concerned for the dogs (20%) than for the bears (11%) as a reason to oppose hunting bears with dogs (Peyton 1998).

- Bear baying, legal only in South Carolina, also may inflame animal welfare concerns associated with hound-hunting for bears. Bear baying involves a chained, captive bear being confronted (bayed) by dogs. Recent media coverage and the associated negative public reaction have resulted in legal opinions from the Attorney General in South Carolina and actions from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to limit the use of captive bears for these events (AP 2005, McMaster 2008).

Deer—Fair chase and animal welfare concerns also have been documented for using dogs to hunt deer, although less frequently than for bears.

Fair Chase: - In 2004, 54% of the Georgia public who opposed deer dog-hunting said their main reason for disapproval was that it was unfair for deer. Fair chase was also the primary reason for opposition among other hunters (62%) and landowners (48%) (RM 2004).

- In Texas, a primary reason landowners and hunters opposed the use of dogs for hunting deer was that the practice was “unsporting or unnatural” (Campo and Spencer 1991:238)

Welfare: - In Georgia, concern for inhumane treatment of deer was the primary reason to oppose dog-hunting for 31%, 27%, and 28% of the general public, hunters, and landowners, respectively (RM 2004).

- Deer hunters have been known to abandon dogs or allow them to run uncontrolled after the hunt (Marchinton et al. 1970).

- Humane concern for dogs was the least important reason for landowners and hunters in Georgia to oppose dog-hunting, but was still the main reason for 9% of hunters, landowners, and the general public (RM 2004).

- A recent article (and reader reactions) in the Richmond Times-Dispatch also focused on deer hounds that were presumed to be abandoned by hunters (Caggiano 2008).

Conflicts of Interest and Objectionable Behavior

Hunting with hounds has been blamed for contributing to conflicts among hunters, landowners, and other citizens (Gore 2003). Objectionable behavior by some hunters also contributes to additional societal conflicts impacting all hound-hunting and a negative image of other hound-hunters.
Conflicts between hunters who do and do not use hounds include hunting season competition (e.g., allocation of harvest, season dates), differences in ethical standards (e.g., fair chase), or direct interference during concurrent seasons (Peyton 1998, Elowe 1990). Conflicts among specialized hunter groups can heighten visibility of hunting methods, creating an image problem for the hunting community, raising questions about hunting practices, and eroding agency credibility (Peyton 1998).

Issues of trespass and access to private property have been commonly associated with hound-hunting across the United States (Peyton 1998). Landowners claim their property rights are violated and hunters view access restrictions as a threat to their right to use hounds (Peyton 1998). Urban residents who become rural landowners tend to be less tolerant of traditional hunting methods (Brown et al. 2000, Teel et al. 2002). Increasing land fragmentation increases trespass potential (Peyton 1998).

The future of hunting can be damaged by poor hunter behavior (Duda et al. 1998). Perceptions that hound-hunters are involved disproportionately with road-hunting, illegal activities, and interference with citizens may contribute to a poor public image of all hound-hunters. Hunting methods that attract negative public attention or divide hunters can erode public support for hunting and wildlife management (Klein 1973, Duda and Young 1998, Peyton 1998, RM/NSSF 2008).

**Bear**—Public conflicts with bear hound-hunting have been related primarily to landowner concerns and problems associated with hunter behavior. For example:

- **Hunter Conflicts:** In Michigan, 77% of still hunters thought the use of dogs interfered with their bear hunting (Peyton 1989).

- Hound-hunting for bears has resulted in conflicts between bear hunters and deer/elk hunters in Utah (UDWR 2000).

- **Landowner Conflicts:** Trespassing has been among the most common problems associated with bear hound-hunting (Beck et al. 1994, Elowe 1990, Gore 2003), but may be less of an issue in western states with larger tracts of land (Loker and Decker 1995, Peyton 1998).

- Bear hunter trespass was the most common problem cited by West Virginians during the training-season (31% of the problems) (RM 2006).

- In 1987, landowners in northern Michigan protested against use of dogs for hunting bears because of trespass and disturbance caused by dog packs (Peyton 1989). In fact, the drive to ban bear hunting with hounds in 1996 was started by 1 private landowner frustrated with trespassing bear hound-hunters on his land (Minnis 1998).

- Changes in Massachusetts bear hunting regulations also were the result of
confrontations between landowners and trespassing bear hunters and noisy hounds (J. Cardoza, personal communication).

**Objectionable Behavior:**

- Objectionable behaviors sometimes have been associated with bear hound-hunting and may occur if cubs are shaken out of trees to hounds (Elowe 1990), bears get killed during training seasons to protect or train hounds (Elowe 1990), bears are trapped for use in training (Elowe 1990), threats are made to people (RM 2006), illegal baiting occurs to facilitate chase, or individuals pursing bears during closed seasons pose as hunters of other species in season (e.g., raccoons, fox).

- The bear dog-training season was closed in 1985 in California, in part because enforcement officers found that excessive illegal activity, such as killing bears, was occurring (Burton et al. 1994).

**Deer—**Based on available literature, hunter and landowner conflicts are apparently more commonly associated with hound-hunting for deer than for bear or other species. Still hunters often report that dogs running deer detract from their enjoyment and preempt their form of hunting. Hound disturbance can lead to increased demands for still-hunting recreation at the expense of dog-hunting opportunities. For landowners, problems commonly associated with dog-hunting for deer include trespass by dogs and hunters. These problems are amplified in areas with human population growth and changing population demographics (Walsingham 1996). Because some groups hunt in ways that the public may find objectionable, deer dog-hunters also get accused of road-hunting. These include taking stands along heavily traveled roads, blocking traffic, and using vehicles to intercept deer pursued by dogs (Marchinton et al. 1970). Hound-hunters who appear to be road-hunting or impeding traffic may sometimes be attempting to prevent accidents by slowing traffic or intercepting hounds coming toward the roadway (J. Hackett, personal communication).

Some specific documentation about deer-hound conflicts and objectionable behaviors includes:

**Hunter Conflicts:**

- Hunting-opportunity conflicts and disruption among hunters have been noted in Missouri (Porath et al. 1980), Louisiana (Porath et al. 1980), and Texas (Campo and Spencer 1991).

- Still hunters in east Texas complained about dogs driving deer off their leases (Simmons 1996).

- Marchinton et al. (1970) noted that more still hunters than dog-hunters can usually be accommodated on a given area to hunt deer. Conflicts between these hunter groups may be more intense on heavily used areas like public wildlife management areas.

- In Virginia, 33% of still hunters in dog-hunting areas reported being disturbed by dogs during the 2005-06 deer hunting season. The highest disturbance
occurred in the Tidewater (37%) and Northern Piedmont (35%, Figure 5). Only 8% of the deer dog-hunters reported being disturbed by dogs (C. Jagnow, VDGIF, unpublished data).

- Still hunters have not always reported negative consequences from dog-hunters. Still hunters in Ocala National Forest during the early 1970s felt that dogs added to their recreational experience (LaHart and Lucas 1972).

Landowner Conflicts:

- Landowner issues related to hunting deer with dogs (e.g., trespass, disturbance) have been documented in Alabama (Exum et al. 1985), Georgia (Kurz 1984, RM 2004, GON 2004, Bowers et al. 2007), Texas (Campo et al. 1987, Campo and Spencer 1991, Simmons 1996), Florida (Walsingham 1996), and Virginia (Bromley and Hauser 1984).

- Marchinton et al. (1970) noted that trespass problems (both intentional and unintentional) are especially a problem on small properties and concluded that dog-hunting for deer is best adapted to areas with large land ownerships.

- In Georgia during 1983, 35% of the landowners had experienced problems with deer dog-hunters, the most common of which were illegal trespass (20%), illegal hunting (5%), and property damage (5%) (Kurz 1984).

- In 2004, Georgia landowners noted the following problems with dog-hunters: trespass (75%), noise disturbance from dogs (25%), hunting from roads (25%), and damaging fences/leaving gates open (25%). Lesser concerns were damaging fields, damaging structures, littering, drinking, and being rude/discourteous (RM 2004).

- Hunter trespass, dogs frightening livestock, property damage, and poaching caused 73% of east Texas landowners to object to dog-hunting for deer (Simmons 1996). The most frequent complaint from Texas landowners was that dogs trespass onto private property (Campo et al. 1987). Because large tracts of land are necessary to prevent dog-hunting incursions on adjoining properties, most negative interactions with landowners occurred along property boundaries. Problems intensified as properties were posted and closed to dog-hunting, which forced dog-hunters onto more isolated tracts of land (Campo et al. 1987).

- In Alabama, only 38% of landowners felt that dog-hunters respected landowners' rights (Exum et al. 1985).

- Of 12 types of conflicts with hunters (e.g., open gates, road damage, deer poached), running dogs without permission was the second most reported problem (51%) behind hunting without permission (66%) for 1,500 Virginia Piedmont landowners randomly surveyed during 1981 (Bromley and Hauser
1984).

- Large timber and paper companies (e.g., International Paper Company, Weyerhaeuser, Plum Creek) in several Southeastern States have responded to trespass complaints from adjoining landowners by prohibiting deer hunting with dogs in their leases, or cancelling their leases with specific clubs that use dogs. These actions might be related to the 2002 lawsuit against International Paper for creating a nuisance (e.g., trespassing dogs) for adjoining landowners with their dog club leases (GON 2004).

- In a 2008 nationwide survey (Appendix 2), 70% of the states with deer hound-hunting reported that problems between landowners and hound-hunters were a serious concern. Only 6% of the states that do not allow deer hunting with hounds indicated a serious concern about hound-hunter conflicts with landowners.

**Objectionable Behavior:**

- Mississippi road-hunting violations were significantly more common during the deer-dog season than during the no-dog season. Road hunting citations in the deer-dog season were 5.9 and 4.2 times higher than the citations written in the no-dog deer season during 1980-81 and 1982-83, respectively (Steffen et al. 1983).

- Hunting from public roads also has been a basis of deer dog-hunting concerns in other states, including Texas (Campo and Spencer 1991), Georgia (RM 2004, Bowers et al. 2007), and Virginia (Bromley and Hauser 1984).

- In a 2008 nationwide survey (Appendix 2), road hunting was a serious concern for 60% of the states with deer dog-hunting, but only 19% of the states that do not allow deer hunting with hounds reported serious road-hunting problems.


**Other Species**—Although most furbearer hunting (e.g., raccoon hunting) requires relatively small areas, furbearer habitat is often fragmented among ownerships, which may increase the potential for conflict (Peyton 1998). Trespass concerns associated with other types of hound-hunting (e.g., rabbits) receive little attention (Peyton 1998).
Hunter/Trapper Conflicts:
- Raccoon-dog training seasons have caused conflicts among other user groups (e.g., other hunters, trappers) across the Southeast and Midwest (Hunter 1987, Rogers 1995).
- Some deer hunters have felt that raccoon hunting with hounds negatively affected their deer harvest potential; however, a South Carolina study found that raccoon hunting had no effect on deer hunter success (Westerhold et al. 1996).
- Conflicts between fox hunters and trappers in the Southeast have led to restrictive trapping regulations (R. Colona, MD Department of Natural Resources, personal communications). Examples have included closures on fox harvest statewide in Delaware and in select counties in Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia (R. Colona, MD Department of Natural Resources; C. Olfenbuttel, NC Wildlife Resources Commission; and M. Fies, VDGIF, personal communication).

Objectionable Behavior:
- Significant numbers of violations by raccoon hunters have been documented in Kentucky. During raccoon dog-training seasons in the mid-1970s, conservation officers checked 1,925 raccoon hunters and found that 36% were in violation of game laws - 28% for infractions related to the potential illegal take of raccoons (i.e., carrying a gun; Wright 1977).
- A follow-up Kentucky study, based on 5,692 conservation officer contacts with raccoon hunters from 1983-84, found that 22% were in violation of one or more fish and wildlife regulations during both the take and the year-round training seasons. The majority of these violations were due to taking (or attempting to take) raccoons out of season (72%) and represented 16% of all hunters. Hunting without a license (23%) and trespassing (4%) were the next most common violations. During just the dog-training season, 80% of the violations (1 out of every 4 hunters checked) were for illegally taking or attempting to take raccoons (Edwards 1985).
- In a number of states in the past, raccoon hunting clubs illegally imported and released raccoons into favorite hunting areas (Minser and Pelton 1982, Rogers and Tucker 2001). This illegal activity has diminished substantially as raccoon populations have increased.
- In several states, some individuals maintain feeding stations to attract and maintain raccoons in areas where they hunt (Rogers and Tucker 2001; C. Olfenbuttel, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, personal communication). This practice is illegal in Virginia.
- Although normally infrequent, some hunters may create capture opportunities for their dogs and have openly admitted to shooting or shaking raccoons from
trees for the purpose of allowing their dogs to kill them (Minser and Pelton 1982). Providing their dogs with a “taste” for raccoons supposedly improved their hunting ability. In Virginia, intentionally crippling or dislodging raccoons from trees became unlawful in 2003 (4VAC15-40-284). The extent to which this practice continues is unknown.

**ECONOMIC CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH HOUND-HUNTING**

The significant economic benefits of hunting may be offset partially by economic costs. Although not unique to hound-hunting, maintaining populations of game animals (e.g., deer, bear) at levels acceptable to hunters sometimes produce costs sustained by the public. These costs are often in the form of property damage, agricultural losses, and vehicle collisions (VDGIF 2002, 2007a).

As with any method of hunting, it is difficult to quantify the negative economic costs specifically associated with hound-hunting. Certain economic concerns might be more unique to hound-hunting. Related to the sociological conflicts with hound-hunting, economic concerns can include losses to private property (e.g., gate damage, livestock losses), increased road maintenance costs, and additional government administrative demands (e.g., legislative considerations, enforcement costs).

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Although hound-hunting can be an effective method to harvest game during legal hunting seasons, undesired population impacts are minimal. Mortality, reproductive, and behavioral influences from hound-hunting that affect population size are managed ultimately through hunting regulations. Despite the negligible impact on population size, other possible influences on behavior and movements may cause concern for some citizens.

Demonstrated by numerous survey results, ballot initiatives, and other legal actions from across the United States, the use of hounds for hunting has been a significant source of concern among hunters, landowners, and other citizens. Deer and bear hunting with hounds have fueled much of the debate. While most Americans support hunting, the use of dogs has generated concerns about fair chase, animal welfare, conflicts of interest, and objectionable behavior by hunters. Concerns about bear hound-hunting tend to focus more on fair chase and animal welfare issues, whereas deer hound issues focus more on conflicts of interest such as landowner trespass and disturbance to other hunters. Objectionable behaviors (e.g., road hunting, other illegal activities) also have been attributed to hound-hunters.
Table 3. Some statutory, regulatory, and voter-initiated actions that have limited hound-hunting in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>PROCESS</th>
<th>CITATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>- Shortened dog season</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Peyton (1998)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Minimum acreage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>- Eliminated spring &amp; summer training season</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Burton et al. (1994)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. 70% approval</td>
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<td>Minnis (1998)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. 70% approval</td>
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<td>Gore (2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>- Dog registration</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Vanderhoof (pers. comm.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>- Registering dogs / clubs</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Bowers et al. (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Minimum acreage to hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bowers (pers comm.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>- Required a permit</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Cardoza (pers comm.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Restricted pack size: 6 for hunting &amp; 4 for training</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Prohibited telemetry for hunting (allowed for training)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>- Banned hound-training &amp; hunting 1,2</td>
<td>Ballot Initiative</td>
<td>SCMA (2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>- 64% approval</td>
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<td>Cougar</td>
<td>- 52% approval</td>
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<td>Gore (2003)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- 58% approval</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gore (2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>- Reduced deer dog-season length</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Campo and Spencer (1991)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>- Banned deer hunting with dogs</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Campo and Spencer (1991)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>- Limited pack size to 6 or less</td>
<td>Regulation / Law</td>
<td>Ternen (2006)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Required registering of dogs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>- 63% approval</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gore (2003)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lynx</td>
<td>- 71% approval</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Also banned the use of bait,
2. Also banned spring hunting,
3. Also banned aspects of trapping furbearers
CHAPTER 5—LEGAL ASPECTS OF HOUND-HUNTING IN VIRGINIA

INTRODUCTION

A basic understanding of laws and enforcement issues related to hunting with hounds is critical for decision-makers and stakeholders involved in the Hunting with Hounds process. Laws directly and indirectly related to hound-hunting or chasing game animals with hounds in Virginia are found in the Code of Virginia (hereafter referred to as code), Virginia Administrative Code (hereafter referred to as regulations), local ordinances, and the Code of Federal Regulations. The Constitution of Virginia authorizes the Virginia General Assembly to promulgate and adopt code. As provided for in code, all “subordinate” laws are promulgated and adopted by other governing bodies: state agencies (e.g., the Board of the VDGIF) adopt regulations and local governing bodies adopt ordinances. It should be noted that the term “dog(s),” not “hound(s),” is used in relevant laws and ordinances.

Unlike a number of states, the Constitution of Virginia does not provide for public ballot initiatives to establish law (IRI 2008). However, like most states, a public referendum is required for any amendments to the Constitution of Virginia. An amendment pertinent to hunting was ratified by Virginian voters on November 7, 2000 (Article XI, Section 4), which states: “The people have a right to hunt, fish, and harvest game, subject to such regulations and restrictions as the General Assembly may prescribe by general law.”

VIRGINIA LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND ORDINANCES

Code of Virginia

Use of Dogs for Hunting—Twenty-seven (27) Virginia codes were found that are important to issues involving the use of hounds for hunting (including chasing, Table 4). Most (15) of these laws are found under Title 29.1 (Game, Inland Fisheries and Boating). One law is found in Title 3.1 (Article 4, Authority of Local Governing Bodies and Licensing of Dogs), 4 laws are found under Title 15.2 (Powers of Local Government), and 7 laws are found under Title 18.2 (Crimes and Offenses Generally).

Applicable to hunting with hounds is §29.1-100, which defines hunting and trapping as “the act of or the attempted act of taking, hunting, trapping, pursuing, chasing, shooting, snaring or netting birds or animals, and assisting any person who is hunting, trapping or attempting to do so regardless of whether birds or animals are actually taken; however, when hunting and trapping are allowed, reference is made to such acts as being conducted by lawful means and in a lawful manner. The Board of Game and Inland Fisheries may authorize by regulation the pursuing or chasing of wild birds or wild animals during any closed hunting season where persons have no intent to take such birds or animals.”

Only 2 codes were found that directly mention the use of dogs in hunting. §29.1-516 contains 2 important references: (1) “it shall be unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in the counties west of the
Blue Ridge Mountains; and (2) “There shall be a continuous open season for hunting with dogs only. The hunting or pursuit of foxes shall mean the actual following of the dogs while in pursuit of a fox or foxes or managing the dog or dogs while the fox or foxes are being hunted or pursued.”

§18.2-136, commonly referred to as the “dog retrieval law,” states: “Fox hunters and coon hunters, when the chase begins on other lands, may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, but may not carry firearms or bows and arrows on their persons or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent. Any person who goes on prohibited lands to retrieve his dogs pursuant to this section and who willfully refuses to identify himself when requested by the landowner or his agent to do so is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.” “Prohibited lands” in Virginia include all private lands, regardless if posted, where permission to hunt has not been expressly granted by the landowner.

Of note are Attorney General Opinions that pertain to §18.2-136 (dog retrieval law) and §3.1-796.93 (local ordinances prohibiting dogs from running at large):

“Section 18.2-136 of the Code of Virginia authorizes fox hunters and coon hunters, in the appropriate season, to follow their dogs onto private or posted lands while in possession of a firearm or a bow and arrow, when the chase begins on other lands.” (Op. Atty. Gen. 261, 1988 WL 408961, 11 Oct 1988)

Reference §3.1-796.93, “local ordinance that prohibits dogs running at large does not prohibit person’s right to hunt foxes with dogs on any land with landowner’s consent. Fox hunters engaged in chase originating on permitted land may follow their dogs onto prohibited land to retrieve dogs, but not to continue chase. If fox hunters fail to retrieve their dogs from prohibited land, dogs may be deemed to be running at large.” (Op. Atty. Gen., 1999 WL 463381, 9 Feb 1999)

Landowner Liability and Rights—“Private property rights” are provided for in the Constitution of Virginia (Article I, Bill of Rights) and through a myriad of codes in different titles. Analysis and interpretation of this complex issue would require a substantial legal review (R. Davis, VDGIF, personal communication) beyond the scope of this project. However, Title 18.2 contains provisions for landowners to post their property against trespass by hunters, fishermen, and others. Within this same title, §18.2-136 allows certain hunters to retrieve their dogs from “prohibited lands.”

§29.1-509 addresses landowner liability pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, and other activities. This is Virginia’s equivalent of a “recreational use act.” This law provides significant protection to landowners from liability claims from others using their lands unless there is gross negligence or willful or malicious failure to warn against a known danger. If the landowner charges a use fee (e.g., lease), protection from liability is reduced.
Table 4. Laws from the Code of Virginia relevant to hound-hunting.

Angled headings refer to general topics addressed by the codes. Complete text of these laws is available at http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/CodeofVa.htm by searching on code numbers (e.g., “18.2-136”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Local Governing Bodies</th>
<th>Interference with Hunting</th>
<th>Trespass Related</th>
<th>Use of Firearms, etc.</th>
<th>Use of Dogs</th>
<th>Definition of Hunting and Trapping</th>
<th>Regulatory Authority of VDGIF</th>
<th>Use of Dogs</th>
<th>Hunting and Trapping Restrictions</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tr>
<td>§3.1-796.93</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Local authority - dogs running at large</td>
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<tr>
<td>§15.2-1113.1</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Local authority - hunting in certain areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>§15.2-1209</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Local authority - weapons discharge in certain areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>§15.2-1209.1</td>
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<td>Local authority - loaded firearms on public highways</td>
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<tr>
<td>§15.2-1210</td>
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<td>Local authority - hunting in certain areas</td>
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<td>§18.2-97.1</td>
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<td>Removal of a dog collector; penalty</td>
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<td>§18.2-131</td>
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<td>Trespass upon licensed shooting preserve</td>
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<td>§18.2-132</td>
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<td>Trespass by hunters and fishermen</td>
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<td>§18.2-134</td>
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<td>Trespass on posted property</td>
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<td>§18.2-134.1</td>
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<td>Posting methods</td>
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<td>§18.2-286</td>
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<td>Dog retrieval law</td>
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<td>§29.1-100</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Definitions (including hunting)</td>
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<td>§29.1-202</td>
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<td>Ex officio conservation police officers</td>
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<td>§29.1-422</td>
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<td>Permits for fox trials</td>
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<td>§29.1-501</td>
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<td>Promulgation of regulations by VDGIF</td>
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<td>Adoption of regulations by VDGIF</td>
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<td>§29.1-506</td>
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<td>VDGIF Board to prescribe seasons and bag limits</td>
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<td>§29.1-508</td>
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<td></td>
<td>VDGIF Board to set seasons, bag limits, etc., on VDGIF lands</td>
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<td>§29.1-509</td>
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<td>Landowner liability, recreational use act</td>
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<td>§29.1-516</td>
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<td>No deer hunting hunting WBR; continuous open for season</td>
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<td>§29.1-520</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bear hound training season</td>
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<td>§29.1-521</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Unlawful to hunt, trap, possess, sell or transport, etc,</td>
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<td>§29.1-521.1</td>
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<td>Willfully impeding hunting or trapping; penalty</td>
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<td>§29.1-526</td>
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<td>Local authority - hunting near highways</td>
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<td>§29.1-527</td>
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<td>Local authority - hunting near schools and parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>§29.1-559</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Taking game during closed season; exceeding bag limit</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Code of Virginia**

Eighteen (18) regulations were found relevant to hunting or chasing game animals with hounds (Table 5). Whereas few laws in the Code of Virginia specifically address the use of dogs for hunting or chasing, the Virginia Administrative Code (under *Title 4, Conservation and Natural Resources*) contains many references to such activities. These regulations prescribe time of day, seasons of take and chase, areas open to hunting with dogs, etc.
Regulations may either prohibit or permit dog-hunting activities. For example, 4VAC15-90-260 prohibits the use of dogs for deer hunting in 11 counties (or portions thereof) and 4 Wildlife Management Areas east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, where the Code of Virginia would not prohibit hunting deer with dogs. A permissive regulation is 4VAC15-210-10, which provides for a continuous raccoon chase season with dogs in all counties east of Route 29 and portions of Loudoun and Prince William counties.

Local Ordinances

No attempt was made to contact all local governing bodies across Virginia. However, current law requires a locality to advise VDGIF following adoption of a local ordinance relevant to the mission of VDGIF. VDGIF maintains and annually publishes a list of local ordinances (VDGIF 2007c).

Hunting from Roads—At least 26 versions of local ordinances address hunting in or along roadways or transporting firearms in a vehicle. These ordinances involve 38 counties and 8 cities. Only 7 of these counties are closed to deer hunting with dogs, and 4 are west of the Blue Ridge (VDGIF 2007c).

Hunting Generally—The Code of Virginia grants local authority to restrict hunting under §15.2-1113.1, 1209, 1209.1, and 1210. Two of these codes allow counties and municipalities to prohibit hunting and shooting firearms and bows in heavily-populated areas. Code of Virginia §29.1-526 and 527 provide cities and counties the authority to adopt local ordinances prohibiting hunting near primary and secondary roads, public schools, and regional parks. No review was conducted to determine how many localities have enacted ordinances under these provisions.

COMPARISON OF DOG-HUNTING LAWS BETWEEN STATES

Based on a survey of 50 state wildlife agencies (Appendix 2) and subsequent contacts with knowledgeable agency staff, Virginia and Minnesota appear to be the only 2 states where hunters can lawfully retrieve dogs even when access has been expressly denied by the landowner. In a number of states, retrieval of hunting dogs is legal unless the landowner expressly denies access, by posting or through other written or verbal notification (e.g., LA, MA, ME, MI, MS, ND, NH, VT). A comprehensive legal review, though potentially useful, was beyond the scope of this project.

Other examples obtained through the survey illustrate the legal complexity of dog retrieval:

- In Louisiana and Michigan - where hunters may retrieve dogs on posted lands unless specifically forbidden either verbally or in writing beforehand -landowners have the onus of notification but they ultimately control legal access to their property.
- In Alabama, hunters pursuing raccoons, foxes, or opossums with dogs only, at night, cannot be prosecuted for hunting without landowner permission but can be prosecuted for trespass (Alabama Law, 9-11-242).
In New York, dog retrieval is undergoing legal scrutiny, with no definitive answer at present.

In Oklahoma, hunting without landowner permission generally is prohibited, but interpreting retrieval as part of the act of hunting may fall to the county district attorney.

In Utah, a hunter needs permission to retrieve dogs if land is posted or cultivated.

In West Virginia, it is lawful for hunting dogs to stray onto other properties, but hunters must obtain landowner permission to retrieve them (Code of West Virginia §20-2-7).

Table 5. Regulations from the Administrative Code of Virginia relevant to hound-hunting. Angled headings refer to general topics addressed. Complete text of regulations is available at http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/AdminCode.htm by searching on code numbers (e.g., “4VAC14-40-60”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulation</th>
<th>Use of Firearms, etc.</th>
<th>Use of Dogs</th>
<th>Hunting and Trapping Restrictions</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-40-60</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dogs; weapons possession; certain locations; closed season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-40-70</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open dog training season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-40-283</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unlawful to chase, hunt or train from a baited site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-40-284</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibited: harming animals, dislodging from tree, certain use of radio tracking equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-50-70</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bow and arrow hunting - use of dogs prohibited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-50-71</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Muzzleloading gun hunting - use of dogs prohibited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-50-110</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unlawful use of dogs - certain locations and times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-50-120</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bear hound training season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-70-40</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bobcat hunting restrictions with dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-90-70</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibits use of dogs when bow and arrow hunting during archery season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-90-80</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibits use of dogs during muzzleloading deer season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-90-280</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibits deer hunting with dogs in certain areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-110-10</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibits fox hunting on National Forests and certain WMA's (Feb - Oct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-110-90</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibits fox hunting during deer season in certain counties, National Forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-210-10</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authorizes raccoon chase season east of Route 29 and other areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-210-20</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authorizes raccoon chase season west of Route 29 and other areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-240-60</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibits use of dogs during early archery season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4VAC15-290-115</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Field trials - authorized dates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO HOUND-HUNTING

Although Virginia laws described above apply across the majority of the Commonwealth, there are exceptions on federal lands. State laws can be superseded by federal laws, as provided for under the Federal Supremacy Act (G. Wissinger, Shenandoah National Park, personal communication). As an example, the National Park Service may capture any free-ranging dog under the authority of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 2.15 (a) (2), which provides penalties for: “Failing to crate, cage, restrain on a leash which shall not exceed six feet in length, or otherwise physically confine a pet at all times” (G. Wissinger, Shenandoah National Park, personal communication).

Two federal regulations apply to dogs on national wildlife refuges (J. McCauley, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, personal communication). Title 50 CFR 26.21(b) states: "No unconfined domestic animals, including but not limited to, dogs, hogs, cats, horses, sheep and cattle, shall be permitted to enter upon any national wildlife refuge or to roam at large upon such area, except as specifically authorized under [other] provisions." Title 50 CFR 28.43 states: "Dogs and cats running at large on a national wildlife refuge and observed by an authorized official in the act of killing, injuring, harassing or molesting humans or wildlife may be disposed of in the interest of public safety and protection of the wildlife."

At Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, special use permits are issued to dog-hunters for retrieval during the firearms season. Without the permit program, 50 CFR 26.21 would be enforced, and resulting fines would likely dissuade many dog-hunters from hunting private land near the refuge (J. McCauley, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, personal communication).

PRAGMATIC ASPECTS CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Data on Complaints Associated with Hound-Hunting

The exact number and nature of hunting-related complaints is impossible to track at this time. Although improvements are underway, the current VDGIF dispatch system does not capture all calls or data of sufficient resolution (e.g., complete categories, complaint histories) to thoroughly characterize hound-hunting complaints (R. Henry, VDGIF, personal communication). VDGIF staff besides conservation police officers (CPOs), and staff of other agencies and organizations that receive complaints related to hound-hunting (e.g., VDOT, animal shelters), do not have a formal, centralized reporting system. Many calls for CPO service currently are run through local sheriff’s offices and are not shared with DGIF dispatch (K. Clarke, VDGIF, personal communication).

The VDGIF Law Enforcement Division has recently begun implementing 2 new communication systems. Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) will be used in concert with the Statewide Agency Radio System (STARS). Currently, STARS is functional in approximately 40% of CPO vehicles. Following implementation of both systems, the majority of calls related to hunting will flow through DGIF dispatch.
The 867 calls received by VDGIF dispatch during September 2005 - December 2007 represent only a portion of complaints related to hound-hunting. Of these calls, 474 were related to hunting in roadways, 369 were related to trespass/dog retrieval complaints, and 24 referenced both (VDGIF unpublished data). It is unclear how many of those calls were due to actual infractions and how many were the results of misunderstandings by the callers.

**Enforceability of Current Dog-Hunting Laws**

Challenges to law enforcement include current CPO staffing levels and certain laws that are open for abuse. As of March 2008, there were 121 CPOs on active field duty, which equates to an average of 1.2 field officers per county. There were 8 counties in Virginia with CPO vacancies (VDGIF, unpublished data). Virginia State Police generally have 10-20 officers assigned to a county, and a typical sheriff’s office or police department may have 30-50 officers (R. Henry, VDGIF, personal communication).

Several laws, or lack of laws, enable hound-hunters to engage in activities that lead to conflicts with other citizens or that are viewed as objectionable by the public. Individuals can chase bears or deer with hounds under the guise of chasing foxes or raccoons during legal seasons for these latter species (Code of Virginia §29.1-516, 4VAC15-210-10). An individual can abuse Code of Virginia §18.2-136 to conduct man and/or dog drives on prohibited lands under the guise of retrieving hunting dogs. Road-hunting is challenging to enforce due to a lack of consistent laws among localities and difficulty in making cases even where laws exist. Until individuals are seen shooting across a road, a case is almost impossible to make under current Virginia law. Allowing dogs to run on private property without permission is not considered trespass, and is not illegal unless there are local leash laws. An individual can chase game through prohibited lands onto permitted properties; any risk that a dog may linger on prohibited lands is mitigated by the right to retrieve (§18.2-136).

**Impacts of Hound-Hunting on Law Enforcement Agencies besides VDGIF**

Hound-hunting affects many law enforcement agencies in Virginia. The Virginia State Police and county sheriff’s offices often are called upon to respond to complaints or illegal activities associated with hunting. Under Code of Virginia §29.1-202, “All sheriffs, police officers or other peace officers of this Commonwealth shall be ex officio conservation police officers.” Some officers are ambitious in enforcing game laws, but many are hesitant to act from a lack of knowledge and experience in this area (R. Henry, VDGIF, personal communication).

Problems related to hound-hunting that are addressed most often by state troopers and sheriff’s deputies involve public safety on roads. Safety concerns include hunters blocking roads, speeding and reckless driving, and hunting or shooting from public roads (R. Henry, VDGIF, personal communication).

Many counties employ an animal control officer who generally is supervised by the county sheriff’s office but typically is not an ex officio CPO. Although specific data are lacking, animal control officers devote resources each year to collecting hounds that presumably were lost or
abandoned by hunters. The extent of this problem is unknown, but sufficiently visible to gain media attention (Caggiano 2008) and to mobilize citizen interest (L. C. Compton, VA Representative for Dogs Deserve Better, personal communication).

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Constitution of Virginia authorizes the General Assembly – which authorizes state regulatory agencies and local governing bodies - to adopt laws. Laws relevant to hound-hunting in Virginia include at minimum 27 codes, 18 regulations, and 26 versions of local ordinance. The Constitution of Virginia does not provide for ballot initiatives to establish law but does require public referenda for constitutional amendments. An amendment ratified in 2000 guarantees Virginians the right to hunt, subject to laws and regulations.

Laws of particular importance to hound-hunting issues include the dog retrieval law, the continuous open season for fox chasing, and authority for localities to restrict hunting. Regulations impacting hound-hunting are permissive (e.g., raccoon chase seasons) or prohibitive (e.g., no deer hunting with dogs in certain counties). A number of states permit retrieval of hunting dogs without landowner permission under certain conditions (e.g., unposted property), but Virginia appears to be one of only 2 states where hunters can lawfully retrieve dogs when access has been expressly denied by the landowner.

Significant challenges to enforcement of hound-hunting laws include inadequate staffing levels and difficulty in differentiating intent to hunt species that are in, versus out, of season. VDGIF law enforcement officers are assisted by other state and local law enforcement agencies. Significant resources are devoted to highway safety and animal control issues related to hound-hunting. Definitive data on complaints and violations relating to hunting with hounds is lacking, but new systems under development offer improved methods to track and report such incidences.
CHAPTER 6—APPROACHES USED TO ADDRESS HOUND-HUNTING ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

Hound-hunting issues may be addressed by a variety of approaches. To help reduce concerns associated with hound-hunting, these approaches involve regulatory or nonregulatory alternatives. Regulatory actions (e.g., changes to the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Administrative Code, or local ordinances) might alter laws that govern citizen behavior, access to property, hunting season participation, and hunting methods. Citizen behaviors also may change in the absence of legal mandates. Nonregulatory approaches that may influence the awareness, opinions, and behavior of citizens would include programs that encourage outreach and education, citizen self-governance, stakeholder collaboration, and property access management under existing laws.

Even if existing legal and educational frameworks sufficiently address hunter and citizen conflicts, adequate staffing and financial support are still required to effectively educate constituents and achieve compliance with laws. New educational or law enforcement initiatives would likely require additional financial support. Additional funding sources for programs designed to target hound-hunting issues might include supplemental agency appropriations, rearranging existing priorities and financial support for other competing programs, and other nongovernmental support.

The following sections describe some approaches to mitigating hound-related issues that have been attempted in Virginia and in other states, categorized by the type of approach (e.g., nonregulatory vs. regulatory). Categories generally are organized from least- to most-restrictive of hound-hunting.

NONREGULATORY APPROACHES

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Educational programs encourage citizens to obey laws, respect the rights of others, and understand diverse points of view, including appreciation of hunting traditions. Behavior by hunters and other citizens can sometimes be improved through educational programs. Jackson and Norton (1979) concluded that, to improve hunter ethics and responsibility, (1) education is more effective than regulation or managing hunting conditions, (2) hunters must take primary responsibility to ensure standards among themselves, and (3) hunter education must include opportunities for hunters to become directly involved with wildlife and educational programs.

Virginia Hunter Education

The Virginia Hunter Education Student Manual (VDGIF 2006) includes a section on ethics that stresses the importance of hunter behavior and image – actions, appearance, speech – and respect for hunting companions, nonhunters, landowners, the law, and wildlife. Instructors often put
more emphasis on laws and issues relating to hound-hunting in areas where participation and/or conflicts are greatest; development of a special module on hound-hunting has been discussed during the last year pending recommendations from the Hunting with Hounds project (D. Dodson, Hunter Education Coordinator, VDGIF, personal communication).

Masters of Foxhounds Educational Foundation

The Educational Foundation is the education and information arm of Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America. It provides “educational materials and seminars covering all elements of the sport from the breeding, training and hunting of hounds, game management, historical treatises, and how to enjoy yourself more fully as a member of the mounted field” (MFHA 2008). The role of the Foundation is one of disseminating information rather than public advocacy. Just one example of its products is Covertsipe, a quarterly publication (MFHA 2008).

HUNTER/CITIZEN SELF-GOVERNANCE

Self-governance occurs when groups of similar individuals (e.g. sportsmen groups) voluntarily control their own behavior without legal intervention. Self rule is often guided by ethical codes of group conduct designed to avoid criticism, resolve grievances, and discourage the development of outside regulations. Many of these groups also have a well-defined mission statement that encourages ethical behavior. Examples of large sportsmen organizations that have developed codes of conduct or mission statements include the Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America (MFHA), United Eastern Virginia Hunting Dog Association (UEVHDA), and Virginia Bear Hunters Association (VBHA).

Masters of Foxhounds Hunting Code and Accreditation

Virginia foxhunting organizations affiliated with the MFHA conduct their activities in accordance with a strictly-enforced Code of Hunting Practices (MFHA 2008). Key elements of this code include humane treatment of both hounds and hunted quarry. Fair chase is emphasized, with specific guidelines to protect the welfare of the fox (e.g., bayed animals cannot be chased again, escape areas must remain accessible). Responsible hunting behavior and respect for landowners are also important components. For example, the MFHA Code does not allow hunts to interfere with traffic or landowner activities. Accidental damage to property must be rectified. Their code also mandates courtesy to other outdoor users and avoidance of accidental trespass.

MFHA member groups are held accountable for their actions. By accepting membership in MFHA, hunts are bound by MFHA policies as well as relevant hunting laws. Members must cooperate with investigations by MFHA into allegations of misconduct and accept final decisions of MFHA (MFHA 2008).

Foxhunting groups can be sanctioned by the MFHA only after meeting strict accreditation standards (MFHA 20008). Dogs must be well trained and controllable to avoid conflicts with landowners. A territory policy ensures coordination among member groups and provides
exclusive hunting access that promotes positive long-term relationships with landowners. This combination of established accreditation standards and hunting guidelines has helped many Virginia foxhunting groups maintain a positive public image in the communities where they hunt (MFHA 2008).

Organization Mission Statements

The United Eastern Virginia Hunting Dog Association, Virginia Bear Hunters Association, Safari Club International, and Boone and Crockett Club are examples of other hunting groups that promote ethical hunting behavior through established goals, defined mission statements, or codes of ethics (BCC 2008, SCI 2008, UEVHDA 2008, VBHA 2008). Respect for private landowners, fair chase, and projecting a positive image are common elements of their missions. The UEVHDA also promotes responsible animal husbandry and the VBHA encourages involvement with the local community and charitable organizations. Procedures for ensuring member accountability and adherence to policies are well-defined for some organizations (e.g., MFHA, SCI, BCC). However, for most sportsmen’s groups, the positive mission statements are not enforced as an expectation of membership.

Stakeholder Collaboration

Collaboration among stakeholders with competing interests may result in acceptable solutions or compromises when the process encourages joint stakeholder input, informed discussions of alternative points of view, mutual understanding, and shared decision-making. Occurring on a local or statewide scale, collaboration among diverse stakeholders to resolve conflicting interests may result in regulatory and/or nonregulatory recommendations.

Local Stakeholder Collaboration

Fort Lewis Mountain (Roanoke County, VA) Bear Hunter and Landowner Collaboration—Primarily focused on dog-retrieval issues, landowners surrounding Fort Lewis Mountain had long-standing concerns about bear hunting with hounds. After the VDGIF Board of Directors proposed, but did not approve, a 2003 regulation to close the Fort Lewis Mountain area to bear hunting with dogs, VDGIF biologists facilitated collaborative discussions between key landowners and bear hunters. A series of meetings among 4 landowners and 11 bear hunters introduced stakeholders to each other, identified the problems, and provided information about bear hunting methods and values. Informed discussions fostered mutual respect among conflicting stakeholders and resulted in written guidelines of acceptable behavior for both hunters and landowners. Continued mutual respect among stakeholders and the observance of guidelines have kept hound-related problems between landowners and bear hunters to a minimum.

Virginia Northern Neck and Eastern Shore Deer Hunter/Landowner Advisory Committees.—In response to attempts in 1980 and 1986 to outlaw deer hunting with hounds, the King George County Board of Supervisors formed the King George Hunter/Landowner Advisory Committee in 1986 to investigate and respond to ongoing problems (P. Fines, Jr., communication). The
committee was comprised of 12 individuals representing landowners, law enforcement personnel, and hunt club members. Providing a forum where problems could be discussed, the committee met at least once per year, mitigated anticipated future problems, and reported results to the Board of Supervisors. In 2005, after the original Committee Charter expired, the Committee formed a new charter to continue serving the needs of the landowners and hunting community. Modeled after the King George experience, similar advisory committees have been established in Westmoreland (1996), Accomack (1997), and Richmond (2004) Counties (P. Fines, Jr. and county officials, personal communication).

These Committees have addressed hunting-related issues that include parking on the road (hunter visibility), loaded firearms along roads, dog trespassing, property rights, use of kill permits, and running dogs out of season. Although individual situations (e.g., problems between a landowner and neighboring hunt club) have been resolved, countywide solutions typically have not been offered.

**Statewide Stakeholder Collaboration**

**Arkansas Furbearer Council**—During the 1980s, a council of raccoon hunters, trappers, fox hunters, deer hunters, and state agency personnel in Arkansas was assembled to address user conflicts and problems of mutual interest (Hunter 1987). The group was respected by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Council recommendations were often approved. Over 20 items of general agreement were developed by the Council, including: marking traps, avoidance of turkey hunting areas by houndsmen during spring, furbearer research support, leash law exemptions for hunting dogs, and mutually agreeable hunting season dates (Hunter 1987).

**Louisiana Deer Dog Task Forces and Advisory Committees.**—In 1989, the Louisiana Deer Management Task Force recommended investigating biological impacts of dog hunting and hunter preference for dog vs. still hunting. The group identified issues of land fragmentation into small parcels, conflicts between houndsmen and still hunters, conflicts between houndsmen and landowners, and biological impacts of dog-hunting in habitats with low deer densities and little escape cover (D. Moreland, LWFC, unpublished report).

In 1991, the Louisiana Deer Season Advisory Committee recognized that hunting deer with dogs could be outlawed if the issues were not addressed. At that time, the two primary issues were hunting from the road and hunter trespass. The Committee made specific recommendations to LWFC (D. Moreland, LWFC, unpublished report):

- remove dog retrieval as a defense for trespass;
- require collars with hunter’s name and driver’s license number;
- establish a civil penalty for trespass by dogs;
- curb road-hunting violations;
- hold formal public input processes when considering opening dog-hunting areas;
- equitably allocate deer hunting days between still and dog hunters.

Outcomes of these recommendations included expanding an area for dog-hunting in swampy habitats, allocating hunting days equally for dog-hunting and still hunting, delineating some new
still-hunting-only areas, and a regulation allowing the use of dogs for tracking wounded deer. No requirements for dog hunters (e.g., dog collar information) were developed. During this time, trespass laws were changed by the Louisiana legislature, but the onus remains on the landowner to notify hunters they cannot enter property to retrieve dogs (D. Moreland, LWFC, personal communication).

During January-November 2006, the Hunting Regulations Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) conducted 5 meetings of the Louisiana Deer Dog Task Force. The Task Force was made up of deer hunters who use dogs, still hunters, private landowners, and federal and state land management agency representatives. The central issue the group was tasked with addressing was hunter trespass, particularly in the Atchafalaya Basin where chases are started on small public and private properties where boundaries are not clearly marked. The charge of the Task Force was to resolve differences between parties and arrive at administrative measures for regulation of deer hunting with dogs. Strategies discussed included permits for deer hunting with dogs on private lands and state wildlife management areas, changing deer hunting season dates in problem areas, and prohibiting deer hunting with dogs. No consensus was reached, as votes broke on user group lines. The Hunting Regulations Committee did not make any regulation recommendations to LWFC, and concluded that the issue was one of civil trespass and outside the purview of the LWFC. The Task Force was adjourned because the group could not reach consensus on a proposal(s) that could be addressed administratively by LWFC (D. Moreland, LWFC, unpublished report).

South Carolina Deer Dog Hunting.—A bill was filed in the South Carolina Senate in late 2007 to require a permit for deer hunting with dogs. The bill was tabled during the 2008 session in committee, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) was asked to conduct a stakeholder involvement approach to make a recommendation. SCDNR and Clemson University are currently leading an ongoing collaborative process involving landowners and deer hunters who do and do not use hounds. Recommendations from the Dog Deer Hunting Stakeholders Working Group should be available in July or August 2008 (C. Ruth, SCDNR, personal communication).

Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward.—This ongoing project was initiated in 2007 by VDGIF, in cooperation with Virginia Tech. The rationale and the goal of the process are described in Chapter 1 of this report. Among the many avenues of public participation in the process is an 18-member Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), which is collaborating with the VDGIF Technical Committee to review public input and technical information to make recommendations addressing hound-hunting issues. Members of the SAC represent landowners, hunters who do not use hounds, nonconsumptive-recreationists, agricultural interests, animal welfare interests, and hunters who use hounds to hunt bear, deer, foxes, rabbits, and raccoons. The process and recommendations will be fully described at the conclusion of the process. In the meantime, periodic updates are provided through newsletters and online at http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/hounds/.
PROPERTY ACCESS MANAGEMENT

In some instances, existing laws and regulations may already provide citizens with options for solutions to hound-related conflicts. An example of managing issues associated with hunting and hunters under existing laws is property access management through posting and lease restrictions.

Posting Private Property

In Virginia, hunting on unposted property without the permission of the landowner is unlawful and punishable by a fine of up to $500 (Code of Virginia §18.2-132). Landowners may post their property using either signs specifically prohibiting hunting, fishing, or trespassing or a 2-inch-wide by 8-inch-long mark of aluminum paint placed 3-6 feet above ground or normal water level and visible while approaching the property (§18.2-134.1). Hunting on posted property without written permission is punishable by a fine of up to $2500 and/or 12 months in jail (§18.2-134). Within this same Code of Virginia title, §18.2-136 allows certain hunters to retrieve their dogs from “prohibited lands.”

In North Carolina, the Registered Lands program allows landowners to control who enters their property for hunting and fishing. To participate, a landowner must register a specific property with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and post it according to the program guidelines (e.g., sign size specifications, landowner information on signs). Entry permits issued by NCWRC are required for individuals to hunt and/or fish on a participating property (G. Faircloth, NCWRC, unpublished information).

Corporate Property Restrictions

In several southeastern states, corporate timber companies have reduced or eliminated opportunities to hunt deer with dogs. Due to a substantial number of complaints regarding hound-hunting clubs, Vision Forestry, which administers the hunting rights on approximately 8,600 acres on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, changed their lease agreement to disallow the use of hounds during the deer firearms season on those lands in 2007 (Quaiff 2007; L. Walton, Vision Forestry, personal communication).

Due to complaints from adjoining landowners regarding hunting with hounds, International Paper Company (IP) and Weyerhaeuser have changed their lease agreements since the 1980s to disallow the use of hounds for hunting deer on properties in several southeastern states (GON 2004). Plum Creek Timber Company still allows dog-hunting for deer on a number of its leases in Georgia through the Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) permit system, described below. Plum Creeks has cancelled leases on properties where the company has determined that hunting deer with dogs is not compatible with surrounding land uses. These changes have sometimes coincided with GDNR action against deer dog-hunting permittees where problems have been persistent (J. Bowers, GDNR, personal communication).
In South Carolina, an adjoining private landowner brought suit against IP in 2002 regarding the issue of deer hunting with hounds. The basis of the suit was a claim of nuisance arising from the disruption caused by trespassing hounds from the hunt clubs who leased IP land. The court ruled that IP was responsible for causing a nuisance; however, the adjoining landowners request for a temporary injunction to prohibit deer hunting with hounds was not upheld by the court (FOC Lawshe, L.P. V. International Paper Co. 352 S.C. 408, 574 S.E.2d 228 2002). The case has been settled out of court. Although the lawsuit has not been cited as the reason, IP and the subsequent buyer of its holdings have either prohibited or restricted deer hunting with dogs on its leases in several states (C. Ruth, personal communication).

Much of IP’s holdings in Virginia have been purchased by the Westervelt Corporation, which continues to allow hound-hunting on its leases in the state. A number of clubs leasing with Westervelt are Deer Management Assistance Program cooperators and they have developed successful quality deer management programs working with VDGIF and Westervelt biologists (J. Smith, Westervelt Wildlife Services, and M. Knox, VDGIF, personal communication).

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY APPROACHES

Many states have addressed hound-hunting concerns through implementation of laws, frequently making hunting seasons and regulations more restrictive for hunters, hunt clubs, and dogs.

INCREASED PENALTIES FOR EXISTING LAWS

Increased penalties (e.g., fines, jail time, loss of hunting privileges) for violation of hunting laws might improve compliance and raise awareness of existing laws. Penalties and judicial latitude in application are authorized by legislative actions. Although it ultimately failed during the 2008 session of the Virginia General Assembly, SB263 proposed an increase in the penalties for violations of the dog-retrieval law (Code of Virginia §18.2-136).

REGISTRATION/PERMITTING PROGRAMS

In order to track hunters and hunting activity, several states have implemented programs that require special permits or licensing for deer and bear hound-hunters or hound-hunting clubs. In some instances, special conditions (e.g., acreage minimums) are requirements of the permit.

Deer Dog Registration/Permitting Programs

Alabama.—In 5 Alabama counties, hunt clubs must obtain a permit from the Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division (AWFFD) in order to hunt deer with dogs on leased lands. Private landowners can use dogs to hunt deer on their own property without a permit (C. Cook, AWFFD, unpublished information). In May 2008, the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board (ACAB) formed a committee to consider a statewide permit system. The committee recommended that a permit system, implemented on a county-by-county basis, should be considered to address deer dog-hunting conflicts. The ACAB took no action on this recommendation for the 2008-2009 hunting season (ADCNR 2008a).
Permit requirements in the 5 Alabama Counties include a list of all members, a map of the hunted area, lease information, and a minimum of 200 or 400 acres (or 20 acres per club member). All club members must carry member cards and each dog collar must have the approved permit number attached. Clubs applying to hunt small isolated tracts may be denied a permit if it is deemed that the use of dogs will contribute to safety issues or conflicts with landowners. Violations that include having a loaded weapon in a road or right-of-way, trailing of game onto lands not covered by the permit, and law violations may result in suspension, probation, or revocation of the permit (C. Cook, AWFFD, unpublished information).

Arkansas (proposed).—In 2006, the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission (AFGC) considered a deer dog hunting permit system, tying hound-hunters and dogs to specific properties, to address conflicts with landowners and still hunters. The idea was tabled due to protests from dog-hunting organizations (C. Gray, AFGC, personal communication).

Florida.—In response to dog-hunting conflicts (primarily dog trespass), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) held public meetings in 2004 to discuss solutions (R. Vanderhoof, FWCC, personal communication). A pilot registration program was initiated in the northwestern portion of the state. During the first year, 57 clubs registered 70 properties totaling 340,000 acres in 14 counties. Complaints relating to dog-hunting for deer decreased in the pilot region but increased in other areas of the state. In 2005-2006, the program was expanded statewide at the recommendation of staff. Landowner complaints have largely disappeared and the FWCC receives few complaints from hunters regarding the system (R. Vanderhoof, FWCC, personal communication).

The no-cost registration system is required any season when dogs are used to hunt deer on private lands. The application requires a map and description of the property. The dog must have the registration number on the collar and a copy of the registration must be in the owner’s possession. Dogs must be kept on registered property and citations could result if the dogs are on unregistered property (R. Vanderhoof, FWCC, personal communication).

Georgia.—Deer dog/hunter trespass and road interference have been the primary issues motivating dog-hunting restrictions in Georgia (Bowers et al. 2007). Prior to the 2003 season, closure of counties to dog-hunting and reducing the length of the season when dogs could be used were the approaches used to address these issues. Landowner surveys identified 10 counties with 59-80% opposition to hound deer hunting. In 2003, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) Board was considering additional closures in these areas when the Georgia Dog Hunters Association sought a law change to mutually protect landowners’ and dog-deer hunting interests (Bowers et al. 2007). The law directed GDNR to develop a permit program for hunting deer with dogs, where the permit is tied to a specific property. The GDNR assembled a group of hunters, landowners, and staff to develop the regulatory details of the program.

Although permit/license requirements have changed slightly since 2003, basic tenets are as follows: permitted properties must be of a minimum contiguous size (250 acres for private
landowners and 1000 acres for leased properties), maps of permitted properties with boundaries are required, and dogs and vehicles must be marked with permit numbers. Conditions leading to revocation of the permit include dogs leaving permitted properties, interference with public use of roads, and persons trespassing on adjacent nonpermitted properties (Bowers et al. 2007).

During the first year under the permit program, GDNR issued 358 permits to clubs (1.7 million acres), of which 75% had no significant problems and 3% had significant law violations (Bowers et al. 2007). Only 2 club permits were revoked, and these were for habitual violation of hunting regulations and permit conditions, including hunting out of season and without a license, dogs running on adjacent properties, failure to mark dogs and vehicles, and threats against properties and landowners. In 2006, the property permit fee was removed, an individual $5 dog hunting license was established, and individual licenses could be revoked for failure to comply with dog-hunting conditions named in the preceding paragraph (Bowers et al. 2007). The license is required for anyone 16 years of age or older hunting deer with dogs. The number of deer dog-hunting licenses issued increased from 9,733 to 11,712 during 2006 to 2008 (J. Bowers, GDNR, personal communication).

Since the permit/license program has been in place, public complaints have decreased and no new county-level restrictions have been enacted (J. Bowers, personal communication). Regarding the permit program, GDNR's stated position has been "to support this traditional activity where it can be maintained at some reasonable level of compatibility with other land uses" (Bowers et al. 2007).

**Bear Dog Permits/Licenses**

The states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, and Wisconsin require permits or licenses to hunt or chase bears with dogs (Gore 2003). In Massachusetts, a free permit was required for bear hound-training before the 1996 ballot initiative banned bear hunting with dogs (J. Cardoza, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, personal communication). In New York, bear-dog handlers are required to be licensed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and to file training logs at the end of each season. These training logs capture data regarding the use of radio collars, expenditures, group/pack sizes, success in striking scent, extent of chases, and interactions with landowners and other citizens (J. Hurst, NYSDEC, personal communication).

**DOG-MANAGEMENT LAWS**

In order to address citizen perceptions and other issues with deer and bear hounds, some laws have been implemented to specifically manage dog pack size, types of dogs, and dog-related electronic equipment.
Small Dogs for Deer Hunting

Requirements to use only small dogs (e.g., beagles) for hunting deer have been established in Arkansas and Florida (Hunter 1987, FGFWFC 1991). Data from an Arkansas study indicated that using small dogs resulted in smaller chase areas (Sealander et al. 1975, in FGFWFC 1991).

In Arkansas, the requirement primarily addressed the greater efficiency of larger dogs in mountainous areas (Hunter 1987). Beagle-only requirements were in effect for a relatively short period before all types of dogs were allowed due to complaints of discrimination from hunters who had larger breeds of dogs. As time progressed, dogs were eliminated altogether for deer hunting in some of these problem areas (M. Cartwright and C. Gray, AR Game and Fish Commission, personal communication).

In Florida, the use of beagle and beagle-hound crosses was supported by some hound-hunters to reduce trespass concerns (FGFWFC 1991). The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (FGFWFC) adopted a small dog requirement for hunting deer on selected state lands (FGFWFC 1991). The effectiveness of this requirement in reducing the size of the chase area has not been evaluated (R. Vanderhoof, FWCC, personal communication).

Pack Size Limits for Bear Hunting

The states of California, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wisconsin limit the number of dogs that can be used to hunt or chase bears. California has a limit of 1 dog per hunter during the open deer season. After the deer season closes, there is no limit on the number of dogs that may be used to hunt bear (CDFG 2007). In Maine, bear hunters may not use more than 4 dogs (Gore 2003). Prior to the 1996 ballot initiative that banned bear hunting with dogs in Massachusetts, pack size was restricted to a maximum of 6 dogs for hunting (4 dogs for training) and replacing or relaying packs (substituting new dogs during the chase) was disallowed; these limits were related primarily to trespass issues and secondarily to perceptions of fair chase and hunter image (J. Cardoza, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, personal communication). Pack size is limited to 6 dogs for bear hunting in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wisconsin (Gore 2003; K. Gufstason, NH Fish and Game Department, personal communication).

Dog Telemetry Restrictions

California and Massachusetts have restricted the use of tracking collars for hunting dogs. In California, electronic collars containing treeing switches (devices that change signal when the dog raises its head) were prohibited for dogs used to hunt mammals in 1995. Electronic collars with global positioning systems are prohibited on dogs used to hunt mammals (D. Updike, California Department of Fish and Game, personal communication). In Massachusetts, dog tracking collars were prohibited in 1990 for bear hunting, but still allowed for training, until the ballot initiative banned all bear hunting with dogs in 1996. The prohibition on tracking collars was made primarily to prevent guides from leading multiple clients to overharvest bears, although fair chase and landowner issues were considered, as well (J. Cardoza, personal communication).
CLOSURES BY TIME PERIOD

For a variety of reasons, seasonal closures or reductions for using hounds have been implemented in many states with hound-hunting. During reduced or split-seasons, only portions of the entire hunting season allow the use of dogs. Closures are most frequently used for deer and bear hunting with dogs, but other types of hound-hunting can be impacted (e.g., raccoon chase season west of Rt. 29 in Virginia is closed during June and July on private lands [VDGIF 2007c]).

Deer Dog Season Reductions

Georgia.—Prior to the establishment of the deer dog hunting permit program in 2003, dog-hunting conflicts were addressed by closing counties or portions of counties where problems were most intense, reducing the length of deer season when dogs could be used, and a combination of both. In 2002, a proposal to reduce the length of the deer dog hunting season in problem counties was not adopted but precipitated the law resulting in a permit system (Bowers et al. 2007).

Mississippi.—For several decades in Mississippi, dogs have been prohibited during portions of the deer season to allow still hunters an opportunity to hunt without disruptions by dogs (Steffen et al. 1983). For example, during the 2008-2009 gun deer season, dogs will be permitted during the periods November 22-December 1 and December 24-January 21, but prohibited during December 16-23 (MDWFP 2008).

Texas.—In 1986, the length of the deer season in Texas when dogs could be used was reduced to alleviate tensions between landowners and hunters (Campo and Spencer 1991). However, support for the regulations diminished as conflicts increased between dog and nondog deer hunters. Because of this continuing conflict and results of a 1989 study assessing biological and sociological aspects of deer hunting with dogs, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department prohibited all dog-hunting for deer in 1990 (Campo and Spencer 1991).

Bear Dog Season Closures

California.—The spring and summer bear dog training seasons were eliminated in 1985, but the use of dogs during the bear harvest season was continued (D. Updike, CA Department of Fish and Game, personal communication). The dog training season was eliminated in bear range because modeling indicated a large amount of unaccounted bear mortality. Bear hunting seasons were lengthened so dog training could occur while legally pursuing bears for potential harvest. The previously unaccounted mortality during the training seasons showed up as an increase in hunter take during the following years (D. Updike, CA Department of Fish and Game, personal communication).

Massachusetts.—Historically in Massachusetts, houndsmen could train their dogs on any game species (except deer) at any time except during the shotgun deer season, with virtually no
As bear populations began to grow, houndsmen became more interested in bears and nonresident hunters were attracted to Massachusetts because hound-training was unregulated. Due to confrontations between landowners and bear hound-hunters, trespassing, and noise complaints, the Board of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game shortened hound-training periods in 1990 (J. Cardoza, personal communication).

New York.—The bear-dog training season runs from July 1 until 9 days prior to the bear hunting season, but there is no season for hunting bears with dogs (J. Hurst, NYSDEC, personal communication). In 1990, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals filed a motion in the New York State Supreme Court seeking an injunction against the use of dogs for bear hunting. The Court granted the injunction, citing an early New York Environmental Conservation Law, written when bear populations were nearly extirpated, that prohibited the use of dogs to hunt bears. Despite multiple attempts, this law has not been changed (J. Hurst, NYSDEC, personal communication).

Virginia.—Bear hunting with dogs is prohibited during any special muzzleloader season statewide (4VAC15-50-71) and during the open deer season west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and portions of Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson County (4VAC15-50-110). Dogs are also prohibited for hunting bear during the first 12 hunting days of the open deer season in Greene and Madison Counties (4VAC15-50-110). These seasonal closures are intended to prevent conflicts between still hunters and houndsmen.

Closures by Specific Area

As the result of landownership patterns, geography, and attitudes about the use of hounds for hunting, several states do not allow hound-hunting in specific areas. Some of these local or regional dog-hunting closures are the result of traditional and long-standing hunting styles, while other area closures are more recent and reflect conflicts and changing public attitudes about the use of hounds. Closures are most frequently used for deer and bear hunting with dogs, but other types of hound-hunting can be impacted (e.g., in Virginia, raccoon hunting with dogs is prohibited on some eastern WMAs and raccoon chase season is closed on most public lands west of Rt. 29 [VDGIF 2007c]).

Deer Dog Area Closures

Alabama County Closures.—Primarily because of complaints and violations associated with hound-hunting, 37 counties in Alabama have some type of restriction or ban on the use of dogs to hunt deer to address. The hunting of deer with dogs has been banned entirely on private lands in 15 of Alabama’s 67 counties. In May 2008, the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board closed portions of 4 counties to deer hunting with dogs, bringing the total of partially-closed counties to 14. U. S. Forest Service lands are closed to dog-hunting for deer in all or part of 13 counties. As noted above, 5 counties allow dog deer hunting by special permit only (C. Hill, C. Cook, and M. Bloxom, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, personal communication; ADCNR 2008b).
Arkansas No-Dog Zones.—No-dog zones were initially established because dogs were considered too effective for hunting deer in mountainous habitats (Hunter 1987). Some of the no-dog zones were beagle-only zones for a short time (C. Gray, AR Game and Fish Commission). In 2000 and 2002, the Arkansas Dog Hunters Association sought an injunction against the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) for closures on hunting deer with dogs in the northern and eastern parts of the state, on grounds that AGFC was arbitrary and capricious and acted without rational basis. The court dismissed the complaint and ruled that AGFC had made an informed decision based on biological and sociological data demonstrating concerns with dog-hunting for deer (e.g., trespassing, road hunting, disturbance). The facts and ruling in this case are similar to those of earlier cases in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas regarding deer hunting with dogs (Hudspeth et al. V ACFC No. CIV-02-2742, Pulaski County Circuit Court, AR, 2004).

Florida Public Land Policy.—In 1990, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission developed guidelines for where and when to allow deer hunting with dogs on public lands (FGFWFC 1991): (1) separation of hound-hunting spatially and temporally from other types of hunting and outdoor recreation, (2) consideration of regional demand for deer hunting with dogs and opportunity on other lands nearby, (3) requirement of a 33,000-acre minimum for all types of deer dogs and a 15,000-acres minimum for small dogs only, and (4) a good road system to facilitate interception and retrieval of dogs.

Georgia County Closures.—Prior to the establishment of the deer dog hunting permit program in 2003, dog-hunting conflicts were addressed by closing counties or portions of counties where problems were most intense, reducing the length of deer season when dogs could be used, and a combination of both. Between 1950 and 1980, the number of Georgia counties open to deer hunting with dogs was reduced from 63 to 46 counties, primarily due to biological impacts and the lack of interest or tradition in these areas. From 1980 to 2003, 5 additional counties were closed primarily due to conflicts between dog deer hunters, landowners, and still hunters, as well as changes in land use and ownership. The Board of Natural Resources (GDNR) adopted regulations to close these counties based on increasing complaints and public dissatisfaction and data obtained from landowner surveys. In 2002, proposed closures in 4 additional counties due to conflicts noted above prompted development of the deer dog-hunting permit program (Bowers et al. 2007; J. Bowers, GDNR, personal communication).

North Carolina Area Closures.—During the 2008-09 regulatory cycle, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) passed a regulation that prohibited hunting deer or bear on two public gamelands because the size, location, and configuration of these parcels were not conducive to hunting with dogs. Adjacent private landowners and hunt clubs had complained of disruptions from dog-hunters who began their chase on public land (C. Olfenbuttel, NCWRC, personal communication).

Texas Area Closures.—In 1925, deer hunting with dogs was prohibited in most of Texas. By 1983, only 10 counties in eastern Texas were open to deer hunting with dogs under special laws, which were repealed in 1984 when all wildlife resources regulation responsibility was placed
under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD, Campo et al. 1987). TPWD initially maintained dog hunting in these 10 counties, but increasing conflicts among all parties led to a total prohibition of dog-hunting for deer in Texas in 1990 (Campo and Spencer 1991).

**Virginia Area Closures.**—Hunting deer with hounds has been prohibited by state law west of the Blue Ridge Mountains since 1948 (Code of Virginia § 29.1-516; Peery and Coggin 1978). Eight southwestern Piedmont counties (or portions thereof) east of the Blue Ridge Mountains were incorporated into the “western” framework during the 1950s and 1960s, resulting in the deer “dog line” (Figure 4 in Chapter 1, Peery and Coggin 1978). The “dog line” was established as western counties that had been closed and stocked with deer were reopened to hunting. Dogs were prohibited primarily due to overharvest concerns in mountainous areas with low deer populations that were recently established. Moreover, the tradition of using dogs to hunt deer was not as strong in western Virginia as in eastern Virginia (Peery and Coggin 1978). Three counties east of the “dog line” (i.e., Fairfax, Loudoun, and Northampton) are also closed to deer hunting with dogs under 4VAC15-90-260. As with areas west of the dog line, these counties were reopened for deer hunting relatively late, so the dog-hunting tradition had declined and managers wanted to reopen the season conservatively (M. Knox, VDGIF, personal communication; Peery and Coggin 1978).

Several hound-hunting closures on state and federal lands in Virginia, mostly related to deer hunting, have been based on land purchase restrictions, incompatibility with managed hunts, conflicts between hunters on areas with high use, or concerns about hunter and/or hound encroachment onto adjacent properties (VDGIF Regional Wildlife Managers, personal communication).

**Bear Dog Area Closures**

**Georgia Area Closures**—Bear hunting with hounds is only allowed in southern Georgia, except on the one state wildlife management area in that region where bear hunting with hounds is prohibited due size and configuration constraints (G. Nelms, GA Department of Natural Resources, personal communication). The hound-hunting tradition for bears in the mountains of northern Georgia probably declined due to a concern for hunting big game with dogs. Dogs were blamed for the near-elimination of deer in the area. In southeastern Georgia, support for a bear season, including hunting bears with hounds, was related to beekeepers’ desires to control bear damage. The honey industry has declined, but the hound-hunting tradition continues (G. Nelms, GA Department of Natural Resources, personal communication).

**Virginia Area Closures.**—The use of hounds to hunt bears is prohibited over the majority of Virginia. Hounds can be used to hunt bears generally along and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (with a few exceptions, e.g. Floyd County) and in 3 cities around the Great Dismal Swamp (Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach; 4VAC15-50-110). Bear chase season is available where bear hunting with hounds is permitted, plus the counties of Brunswick, Greensville, Lunenburg, and Mecklenburg (4VAC15-50-120).
Designated Zones—In Wisconsin and Tennessee, bear hunting with dogs is only allowed in designated hunting zones (Gore 2003). In Wisconsin, Bear Management Zones allow the Department of Natural Resources to better control the distribution of hunters and shift hunting pressure to areas of high nuisance and/or damage complaints (WDNR 2008). In at least one zone with little public land available, bears may not be pursued with hounds due to potential conflicts with private landowners (L. Olver, WDNR, personal communication).

COMPLETE PROHIBITION OF HOUND-HUNTING

Some states have traditionally not allowed the use of dogs, at least for hunting big game species. In other states, ballot initiatives and regulatory actions during the past 16 years have banned dogs for recreational hunting of some species. Ballot initiatives have outlawed dogs for hunting selected game species in Colorado (1992), Oregon (1994), Massachusetts (1996), and Washington (1996). Texas Parks and Wildlife Department prohibited deer hunting with dogs in 1990. See Chapter 4 for additional details.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Approaches used to address hound-hunting issues in Virginia and across the United States have ranged from nonrestrictive, voluntary measures (e.g., education, codes of ethics, multi-stakeholder guidelines) to partial closures or complete prohibitions on hound-hunting. The diversity of approaches that have been used to address hound-hunting conflicts demonstrates the importance of considering the unique aspects of each situation. Although many approaches have reduced opportunities for hound-hunters, these restrictions have often been designed to prevent complete elimination of hound-hunting in some areas.
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Appendix 1. Hound-Hunting Technical Committee involvement in developing this report.

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Appendix 2. Email survey of all 50 state wildlife agencies.

The VDGIF Technical Committee administered a brief email survey to all 50 state wildlife agency directors during March 2008. Responses were obtained from 42 (84%) states, complemented by an internet review of game laws for the other 8 states. Survey text follows.

(1) Which of the following species can be hunted or chased with hounds in your state? NOTE: This does not include dogs used to hunt upland game birds or waterfowl. Please “X” all that apply.

______ No species can be hunted or chased with hounds (if “no species”, please skip to #5, "contact info," at bottom and return the survey)
______ Deer
______ Bears
______ Raccoons
______ Opossums
______ Foxes
______ Rabbits
______ Squirrels
______ Coyotes
______ Bobcats
______ Feral or wild hogs
______ Mountain lions
______ Other:

(2) Is a hunter in your state allowed to retrieve hounds from a property without landowner permission? Please “X” yes, no, or it depends.

______ Yes ______ No _______ It depends (please explain):
*If yes, please provide a copy of the law/regulation/policy

(3) Please indicate with an "X" whether you consider each issue below to be of no concern, somewhat a concern, or a serious concern in your state.

Conflicts between hound-hunters and landowners:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Conflicts between hunters who do not use hounds and landowners:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Conflicts between hound-hunters and other sportsmen:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Conflicts between hound-hunters and nonhunting-recreationists:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Conflicts between hunters who do not use hounds and nonhunting-recreationists:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Hound-hunters impeding traffic or hunting from roads:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Hunters who do not use hounds impeding traffic or hunting from roads:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Hound-hunting/chasing out of season under guise of pursuing different game; e.g., deer hunting during a fox chase season:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern
Other:
______ No concern _____ Somewhat a concern _____ Serious concern

(4) Are there any other comments you wish to share?

(5) Your contact information:
APPENDIX V

Summary of Hunting Regulations for Virginia as they Affect Deer Dog-Hunting
The hunting of deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sunday is prohibited.

Dogs may be used to pursue wild birds and animals during hunting seasons where not prohibited.

Section 18.2-136 of the Code of Virginia de-criminalizes trespass in certain instances related to dog retrieval. That section provides: “Fox hunters and coon hunters, when the chase begins on other lands, may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls, but may not carry firearms or bow and arrows on their person or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the land-owner or his agent. Any person who goes on prohibited lands to retrieve his dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls pursuant to this section and who willfully refuses to identify himself when requested by the landowner or his agent to do so is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.”

Tracking dogs maintained and controlled on a lead may be used to find a wounded or dead bear, deer, or turkey statewide during any archery, muzzleloader, or firearm season for these species, or within 24 hours of the end of such season, provided that those who are involved in the retrieval effort have permission to hunt on or to access the land being searched. Licensed hunters engaged in such tracking may possess any weapon permitted for hunting and may use such weapon to humanely kill the wounded bear, deer, or turkey being tracked, including after legal hunting hours. Such weapon shall not be used to hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the animal being tracked, except in self-defense.

It is unlawful to use dogs when hunting any species with archery tackle during any archery season, except bear hounds may be used during the youth/apprentice bear hunting weekend.

It is unlawful to chase with dogs or hunt with dogs or to attempt to chase or hunt with dogs any wild animal from a baited site or to train dogs on any wild animal from a baited site. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to place, distribute, or maintain bait or salt for any wild animal for the purpose of chasing with dogs, hunting with dogs, or training of dogs. When hunting or training with dogs, a baited site will be considered to be baited for 10 days following the complete removal of all such bait or salt.

You may train dogs on National Forest or Department-owned lands only during authorized training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
• It is unlawful to use dogs during archery deer season, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead deer.
• It is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs during the muzzleloader deer season, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead deer.
• Dogs may not be used for deer hunting west of the Blue Ridge.
• Dogs may not be used for deer hunting east of the Blue Ridge in Bedford, Fairfax, Franklin, Henry, Loudoun, Northampton, and Patrick counties, and Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and the City of Lynchburg.
• Dogs may not be used for deer hunting on Sunday while in possession of a weapon.
• Dogs may not be used for deer hunting on the Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend.
• Dogs may not be used for deer hunting on many military areas. Check individual Post regulations.
• Dogs may not be used for deer hunting on Amelia, Cavalier, Doe Creek, Featherfin, Mattaponi, Merrimac Farm, Oakley Forest, Parker’s Branch Tract on Big Woods, Pettigrew, Chester F. Phelps, G. Richard Thompson, and Ware Creek Wildlife Management Areas.
• Dogs may not be used for deer hunting during the first 14 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.
• Discharge a firearm, arrowgun, or archery tackle in or across or within the right-of-way of any public road.