

A Permit System for Hunting Deer with Dogs on Private Lands in Mississippi

This section shall be statewide and apply to all private lands open for hunting deer with dogs. No dog-deer hunting will be legal without compliance with this permit system.

Key Provisions

1. A minimum acreage restriction of _____ contiguous acres which can include multiple land tracts under different ownerships, as long as all owners approve of dog-deer hunting.
2. Permits are issued to hunting clubs, groups, individuals, or parties and are tied to a particular tract of land. Any violations of the permit system will penalize the hunting club, group, or party hunting on that tract. To clarify, there can be only one permit number for everyone hunting on any single permitted tract.
3. Hunters, land tracts, dogs, and vehicles will be permitted with easily identifiable tags or painted on the dog, with the same permit number that link the dogs with the land tract and the group of hunters.
4. The penalty system is designed to ensure that there is incentive to keep all dogs within the boundaries of the permitted property at all times during the hunt.

Proposed Mississippi Dog-Deer Hunting Regulations

1. It shall be unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on any tract of privately-owned real property in Mississippi unless a permit for hunting deer with dogs has been issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for such eligible 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 or to the property owner for any tract of real property that is less than _____ contiguous acres. Any application for a permit for hunting deer with dogs shall be in 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 or real property or an authorized agent thereof signifying their acceptance of running deer dogs on their land.
2. 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 as well as the owner's name address and phone number. Any such dog must also wear a functional tracking collar while hunting deer with dogs.

3. Any person operating a motor vehicle used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display in the rear window of such motor vehicle a decal or card showing the tract permit number in numerals not less than three inches high.

4. The Department shall thoroughly investigate any complaints from adjacent or nearby property owners, lease holders, or guests with permission on same lands regarding hunting deer with dogs in violation of this permit system. The Department may take action against a permit for violation of the provisions of this permit system on the tract of real property for which the permit was issued.

5. During the dog-deer hunting season, all dog-deer hunting groups or individuals hunting deer with dogs must obtain a permit to hunt deer or to train deer dogs on areas open to deer hunting with dogs on private lands. There is no cost for this permit. A permit will be issued to the dog-deer hunting group. All hunters hunting with this group must be listed on the permit prior to hunting; except youth 15 years of age and younger under the supervision of a permitted adult. All hunters hunting deer with dogs or with the dog-deer hunting group must have the permit on their person while hunting. There shall be no running of deer dogs outside of the open period of dog-deer season.

6. Guest permits will be available in addition to permits for individuals listed on the permit application. Guest permits will be valid for four (4) consecutive days and must be filled out with the date, hunter's name, hunting license number, and signature of the hunter prior to use. All guests must have the permit on their person while hunting deer with dogs. Once used, guest permits must be turned in to a regional MDWFP office for replacement permits to be issued.

5. Definitions

- a. Contiguous acres mean 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 or any public service corporation.
- b. Eligible tracts are those tracts of real property that contain a minimum of _____ contiguous acres owned or leased by the applying parties. However, 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 a non-renewal shall not be eligible for inclusion in any subsequent application for a permit for a period up to two 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 of deer or not. Once the owner of the dog(s), his agents, or permit holders place, release or otherwise cause dog(s) to be in the pursuit of running, trailing or baying deer, then the owner, his agents or permit holders shall be deemed to be “hunting deer with dogs” until such time that the dog owner, his agents or permit holders have regained physical possession and control of the dog(s).
- d. Deer dogs are defined as any hunting dog *other than* dogs within voice command of the dog handler and
 - i. recognized bird-hunting dogs during quail or woodcock season, or
 - ii. recognized waterfowl retriever dogs during waterfowl season, or
 - iii. recognized squirrel-hunting dogs during squirrel season or
 - iv. recognized raccoon hunting dogs during raccoon season or
 - v. beagles not larger than 15-inches height at the shoulder during rabbit hunting season.
- e. Deer hunting: A person is said to be deer hunting while during the permit-system period of the open dog-deer season and while on a permitted tract and in possession of a rifle or pistol capable of holding ammunition larger than 22 long rifle or a person in possession of a shotgun and possessing ammunition shot size larger than #4 lead shot or F-size steel shot or rifled slugs. Still hunting during the still-hunt portion of the deer season on the permitted tract is permissible.

6. Application for Permit

The applicant must be the landowner or lessee of deer hunting rights for the eligible tract being considered for a permit. The application must be on a form provided by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Completed forms must include:

- a. Name, hunting license number, address and telephone number of applicants.
- b. List of hunters who are allowed to hunt on the permitted property.
- c. Printed names and signatures of all persons owning any portion of the eligible tract or an authorized agent thereof. Copies of leases with wording authorizing the use of dogs for hunting deer may substitute for respective signatures on the application form.

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

7. Issuance of Permits

Completed permit applications must be received at least 30 days prior to the first day for hunting deer with dogs on an eligible tract

8. Violation of Permits

Violation of any of the terms and/or conditions of a permit of this administrative rule, 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. The following occurrences shall be a violation of this chapter:

- a. Failure to control deer-hunting dogs to keep them on the permitted property
- b. 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 above, a permit shall contain limitations or conditions on the following:
 - i. All hunters authorized under the permit must ensure that all dogs used in hunting deer remain on the permitted property at all times.
 - ii. Permit holder, hunters, and guests may not enter upon properties not covered under the permit while hunting or retrieving hunting dogs without the express 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.
 - iii. All permit holders, hunters and guests must abide by all applicable rules, regulations and laws governing hunting.
 - iv. 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 permit holder and must possess a guest permit on his or her person from the permit holder and adhere to other rules as set forth above concerning

dog-deer hunting license, identification tags on each dog and having a decal or card on his or her vehicle while hunting deer with dogs showing the tract permit number not less than three inches high.

9. Revocation and Denial of Permits for hunting Deer with Dogs

The department must take action against a permit for violations of these provisions, rules and regulations listed above.

- a. The department may revoke the dog-deer permit of any hunting club, group, individual, or party that within a single hunting season commits two or more violations for failure to control deer-hunting dogs and keep them on the permitted property.
- b. For purpose 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 deer with dog activities on or commencing from permitted tracts provide justification for revocation and or denial of permitted activities.
- c. The Department may, upon finding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, incorporate such a finding into their 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.
- d. 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.

10. Penalties

Unless otherwise clarified in sections 9 a, b, c, or d, conviction of a first offence shall be a fine of not less than \$200 per violation. Conviction of a second offence shall be a fine of not less than \$500 and 20-day suspension of the permit for hunting deer with dogs for the hunting party and tract of land. Conviction of a third offence shall be a fine of not less than \$1000 and a one-year suspension of permit for hunting deer with dogs for the hunting party and tract.

11. Expiration of Permit

The permit shall expire on the day after the last day of the dog-deer hunting season.