



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
APPLICATION FOR DOG FIELD TRIAL PERMIT
 (Under Authority of §29.1-417 & §29.1-422 of the Code of Virginia)

Non-refundable Application Fee: \$25.00 per event
APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT

New Club: Yes ___ No ___

Check type of event desired:

___ Bird Dog ___ Fox Hound ___ Retriever ___ Beagle ___ Squirrel Dog

Name of Club: _____

___ Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ Miss

Secretary: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

_____ Email: _____

Date of Trial: _____ Start Time of Trial: _____

Location: Private Property, Military Area, Dept. WMA, National Forest, Foxhound Training Preserve (must provide name of preserve) etc. If Private Property a specific address MUST be provided.

_____ County: _____
 (of the actual field trial)

What pen-raised species (birds only) are to be released: _____
 (birds obtained from legal permit holder)

Number of Participants: _____ County where club HQ is Located: _____

Sanctioned by: ___ UKC ___ NKC ___ PCA ___ AKC ___ Other: _____

Person in Charge of Records: _____

Field Trial Headquarters: _____

HQ MUST BE IN VA

 Signature

 Date

Via my signature above, I hereby certify that all entries made on this application are true and complete, that I have read and understand the permit conditions I have been provided and that the club will apply for and conduct the requested event as specified in the conditions, and I agree and understand that any falsification of information herein, regardless of time of discovery, may result in denial or evocation of my permit. Furthermore, I certify that I have obtained permission from all the landowner(s) on whose property the trials will be held.

TYPED SIGNATURE IS AUTHORIZED AND BINDING PER CODE OF VIRGINIA §1-13.32 AND §2.1-7.4
 Make checks payable to "Treasurer of Virginia" and return to: Permit Section VDGIF P O Box 3337, Henrico, VA 23228

DOG FIELD TRIAL PERMIT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND CONDITIONS

GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS: (See later sections for Department land specifics)

A field trial may be defined as an organized event (not training) where live wild or captive-bred game animals and game birds are hunted as defined in § 29.1-100 which includes 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. Such events may only take place during the field trial season defined in 4 VAC 15-290-115 with the following exception: Foxhound training preserves may hunt confined fox year round within the permitted enclosures if all participants possess valid hunting licenses. If foxhound training preserves wish to by-pass the hunting license requirement, they must obtain a dog trial permit which will only be issued during the field trial season. Events where no live animals are involved will not require a permit. Event coordinators should contact the Permitting Section at (804) 367-6913 to inquire as to whether a permit is necessary. If non-field trial events wish to use the Department Wildlife Management Areas, they must still contact the Permitting Section to request permission to use the facility. These requests will be submitted to the Regional Wildlife Managers for consideration if the property has not already been scheduled for another event. **FIELD TRIAL HQ MUST BE IN VIRGINIA**

Under authority of § 29.1-422, field trials, as defined above, cannot be held without first obtaining permission from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and then only under regulations the Board deems proper.

All applicants for field trial permits should be aware of various hunting and trapping seasons and try to avoid conflicts with open seasons (i.e. muzzleloader, etc.).

It is unlawful to hold field trials in Virginia without first obtaining appropriate permission from the landowner(s) on whose property the trials will be held. **A SPECIFIC ADDRESS MUST BE PROVIDED FOR ANY TRIALS BEING HELD ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

Permits will be issued only to authorized bona fide field trial clubs and associations that submit a verification of club standing to the Department **each field trial season** (August 1 – May 31). This must include proof of current club membership or affiliation in good standing with a state or national organization (i.e. UKC, National Fox Hound Field Trial Association, etc.); a copy of their adopted bylaws and/or articles of incorporation; a copy of their current officers roster; a current membership roster; and a brief letter of explanation from a current officer as to why they may be considered.

Applications for events must be received thirty (30) days before the event. A separate application must be filed for each field trial contest.

Resident and nonresident participants in an authorized (permitted) trial are not required to have a hunting license. Exception: During an open season, if wild game is to be shot over or in front of dogs engaged in such field trials, the person actually shooting must have a license permitting him to do so (§ 29.1-422).

In accordance with § 29.1-422 of the Code of Virginia, permits for field trials with dogs may be authorized by the department during the period between August 1 to May 31, both dates inclusive, under conditions and for the species specified in the permit, except that permits for foxhound field trials held within foxhound training preserves may be authorized by the department at any time. (4 VAC 15-290-115).

Dogs are not permitted to come in contact with any animals used in such trials unless the animals have already been shot.

PENALTIES:

A permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries pursuant to Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia (4 VAC 15-290-130). The penalty for violation of this section is prescribed by § 29.1-505 of the Code of Virginia, that states that it shall be a misdemeanor to violate any regulation promulgated pursuant to this title. Any person violating such a regulation shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified. The Department may also revoke, suspend or disapprove future applications for failure to comply with the conditions of the field trial permit.

WEAPONS POSSESSION:

During a field trial, it shall be unlawful to either have a shotgun or a rifle in one's possession when accompanied by a dog in the daytime in the fields, forests or waters of the counties of Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren, and in the counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, except Patrick, at any time except for the periods prescribed by law to hunt game birds and animals (4 VAC 15-40-60 C). The word possession shall include, but is not limited to, having any bow or firearm in or on one's person, vehicle or conveyance.

POSSESSION AND RELEASE OF WILDLIFE:

Captive birds of any species released and immediately shot or recovered during field trials shall not be considered to be wild birds under Chapter 4 of the Code of Virginia or § 29.1-521 (§ 29.1-422).

Individuals are prohibited from releasing captive stocks or offspring to the wild, except as follows:

Captive bred and raised bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, chukar, and/or mallard duck, including all subspecies, may be released on licensed shooting preserves under conditions specified for shooting preserves.

Captive bred and raised bobwhite quail, captive bred and raised ring-necked pheasant, and captive bred and raised and properly marked mallards may be released for licensed field trials or for dog training on private property provided that no other law or regulation prohibits their release at a specific location or during a specific season. According to the Code of Federal Regulations (Title 50, § 21.13b), all mallard ducks possessed in captivity, shall have been physically marked by at least one of the following methods prior to 6 weeks of age and all such ducks hatched, reared, and retained in captivity thereafter shall be so marked prior to reaching 6 weeks of age.

- (1) Removal of the hind toe from the right foot.
- (2) Pinioning of a wing: Provided, that this method shall be the removal of the metacarpal bones of one wing or a portion of the metacarpal bones which renders the bird permanently incapable of flight.
- (3) Banding of one metatarsus with a seamless metal band.
- (4) Tattooing of a readily discernible number or letter or combination thereof on the web of one foot.

Pigeons are officially listed as nuisance species in 4 VAC 15-20-160. It is legal to hunt/trap nuisance species year round and accordingly pigeons (rock doves) may be released and shot in conjunction with field trials. The release of pigeons at Wildlife Management Areas is prohibited.

Lawfully live-trapped rabbits may be released for restocking purposes in Virginia (4 VAC 15-200-30) however, rabbits may not be released immediately in front of dogs nor may they be released on Wildlife Management Areas.

Nonnative animals to Virginia (exotic) may not be liberated within the Commonwealth except as otherwise designated within this section.

RECORD KEEPING:

Records at field trial headquarters must be made available to Department representatives at all times and shall include names of participants, judges and guides. In the field, each judge must have an official score card containing the names of participants in the cast and the field trial permit number assigned by the Department dated and signed by the club secretary.

OTHER AUTHORITIES:

This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations.

RULES GOVERNING BIRD DOG AND RETRIEVER FIELD TRIALS ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

- **AUTHORIZED DATES:**

Field trials may be permitted on authorized wildlife management areas *from the second weekend in September through the weekend prior to the opening date of the early special muzzleloading season; and from the third week of firearms deer season through December 22; and from the second weekend in January through the weekend prior to the Youth Spring Gobbler Hunt Day, all dates inclusive.*

- **AUTHORIZED LOCATIONS:**

Bird dog and retriever field trials are permitted on the following two (2) Wildlife Management Areas: Dick Cross WMA and C.F. Phelps WMA.

- A permit to hold a field trial on a wildlife management area authorizes participants to engage in the event on the designated field trial course, but it does not convey exclusive use of the field trial course. Other users, i.e. hunters or wildlife watchers, may also lawfully pursue their respective activities when a field trial is in progress.
- Motorized vehicles are permitted only on roads designated for public use. However, a single truck displaying a readily visible sign or banner stating “Field Trial Use” may be used to transport dogs and place authorized pen-reared birds on the designated field trial course. Subject to specific criteria available from the Permit Section, the field trial manager may also submit a request with the field trial application for permission to use an *electric* Other Power Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD) for mobility-impaired individuals that wish to *participate* in walking field trials. Individuals requiring the use of an electric OPDMD should coordinate with the field trial manager. The use of ATVs or any other motor conveyance is strictly prohibited except as noted above.
- Reservations to hold field trial events may be made no more than 15 months in advance of the scheduled event. Scheduling of approved dates must first be arranged by contacting the respective supervising Regional Lands and Facilities Manager. For Amelia and Dick Cross WMAs contact Pete Schula at the Forest Regional Office @ (434) 525-7522 or by email at Pete.Schula@dgif.virginia.gov. For C.F. Phelps WMA contact Ron Hughes at (540) 295-5698 or by email at Ron.Hughes@dgif.virginia.gov. After event dates have been approved by the Lands and Facilities Managers, the applicant must then submit an *Application for Dog Field Trial Permit* to the Permit Section at Richmond Headquarters at least 30 days in advance of the event.
- The Lands and Facilities Manager and WMA staff hold the right to cancel any field trial activity within 5 days of a scheduled event due to inclement weather and poor ground conditions.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- All signs, bird carriers, flagging and other litter must be removed from the field trial area by the permittee before departing the area.

Equal Opportunity Employment, Programs and Facilities
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
P O Box 3337
Henrico, VA 23228
(804) 367-6913



**ADA Access – Walking Field Trials
Use of Other Power Driven Mobility Device
(OPDMD)**

The manager of the field trial event may apply for a special use permit for the use of OPDMDs for mobility impaired individuals that wish to participate in walking field trials. The use of these OPDMDs for walking field trials is subject to approval by Regional Staff and may be limited based on weather and soil conditions.

OPDMDs must meet the following criteria to be used on Department owned lands:

- Combustion engines are strictly prohibited. Noise, safety concerns, environmental impacts, maintenance of roads and trails, disturbance of wildlife, and disruption of other management area users prevent the use of combustion type engines on Wildlife Management Areas.
- Electric vehicles including wheelchairs, golf carts, and other electric conveyances designed for either indoor or outdoor use may be permissible.
- Vehicles may not exceed a width of 54-inches.
- Vehicles must stay on the designated and developed field trial course.
- Vehicle speed must not exceed standard walking pace (approximately 3 mph or less).
- Vehicles must have a sign visible from at least three sides indicating that it is for field trial use.
- Vehicles approved under these conditions may only be used for an officially permitted field trial.
- Individuals must register the type of vehicle to be used during the field trial. The field trial manager must list each individual and vehicle on the application. No more than 2 individuals are allowed per OPDMD vehicle.
- Vehicles approved under these conditions must be unloaded and staged at the designated field trial parking area.