

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
APPLICATION FOR RACCOON HOUND FIELD TRIAL PERMIT

(Under Authority of §29.1-417 & §29.1-422 of the Code of Virginia)

New Club _____
Renewal _____

Non-refundable Application Fee: \$25.00 per event
Please Print

Note: Permits are only required for Night Hunts. No permits are required for Drag Races, Water Races, or Treeing Contests and no live animals may lawfully be used for these event types.

Name of Club: _____

Secretary: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Trial: _____ County where club is located: _____

List Counties included (not more than ten (10) **unless** the event is a world hunt or state meet)

Location: (Private Property, Military Area, National Forest, etc.) _____

Estimated number of casts: _____

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

Time score cards are to be turned in: _____ Master of Hounds: _____

Field Trial Headquarters where records of participants will be available while event is in progress: _____

Number of Participants: _____ Person in charge of records: _____

Signed by Secretary

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 revocation of my permit. Furthermore, I certify that field trial officials will obtain the proper permission prior to the trials from all the landowner(s) on whose property the trials will be held.

Make checks payable to: **Treasurer of Virginia** and return to:
Permits Section, VDGIF, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104

RACCOON HOUND FIELD TRIAL PERMIT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND CONDITIONS

GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS: (See back for National Forest, Department Lands, and State Forest 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. Such events may only take place during the field trial season defined in 4 VAC 15-290-115.

Night Hunts cannot be held without first obtaining permission from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. 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, NCHA, etc.) **or** 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. This information will be passed to Law Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions for signature approval of each club or association. Those clubs that are not recognized by the Agency as bona fide via this process will not be granted a permit. Applicants that have received permits in the past will not be automatically guaranteed a permit and must follow this approval process.

Drag/Water Races and Treeing Contests do not require a field trial permit and may be held outside of the field trial season. No live animals may be used during these contests.

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. Applications for events must be received thirty (30) days before the event. Permits will be valid for seven (7) consecutive days. A separate application must be filed for each field trial contest.

Resident and nonresident participants in an authorized 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). Possession of a firearm after 2:00 a.m. on Sunday while hunting raccoons is prohibited (§ 29.1-521#1).

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 raccoon hound field trials may be authorized by the department at any time. (4 VAC 15-290-115).**

During a night hunt, applicants are reminded that it shall be lawful to chase raccoon with dogs, without capturing or taking, in all counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (except on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests) from August 1 through May 31, both dates inclusive (4 VAC 15-210-10) and it shall be lawful to chase raccoons with dogs, without capturing or taking, on private lands in all counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains from August 1 through May 31, both dates inclusive. It shall be unlawful to have in possession a firearm, bow, axe saw, or any tree climbing device while hunting during this chase season. The meaning of “possession” for the purpose of this section shall include, but not be limited to,

having these devices in or on ones's person, vehicle or conveyance while engaged in the act of chasing (4 VAC 15-210-20).

No live, captive raccoons may be used in any of these trials (§29.1-521#10).

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.

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.

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

RACCOON HOUND FIELD TRIALS ON NATIONAL FORESTS AND DEPARTMENT-OWNED LANDS:

Raccoon hound field trials may be held on national forest lands or department-owned lands between September 1 and March 31, both dates inclusive, if the events are sanctioned by bona fide national kennel clubs and authorized by permits required and issued by the Department and the U.S. Forest Service (4 VAC 15-40-60 E). (VDGIF Condition - A U.S. Forest Service permit is required prior to submission to VDGIF of a state raccoon hound trial permit application requesting use of national forest lands).

ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA SEASONS AND ALLOWANCES:

At this time, raccoon hound field trials are not authorized to be held on any Department Wildlife Management Areas.

STATE FORESTS:

As long as the participants of a VDGIF permitted raccoon hound trial are not actually taking raccoons, the State Department of Forestry will not require a hunting permit to use the State Forests. Organized groups that plan to utilize state forests for these events are requested to contact the appropriate State Forest Supervisor.