



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)

New Club \_\_\_\_\_

Non-refundable Application Fee: \$25.00 per event

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Check type of event desired:

\_\_\_ Bird Dog \_\_\_ Fox Hound \_\_\_ Retriever \_\_\_ Beagle \_\_\_ Squirrel Dog

Name of Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Trial: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time of Trial: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: (Private Property, Military Area, Department WMA, National Forest, Etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_ County where club is located: \_\_\_\_\_

Sanctioned by: \_\_\_ UKC \_\_\_ NKC \_\_\_ PCA \_\_\_ AKC \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Person in Charge of records: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Trial Headquarters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 I have obtained permission 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

# 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) 367-9588 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.

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.

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.) **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.

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 three (3) Wildlife Management Areas: Amelia WMA; 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. Also, a single tractor- or truck-drawn gallery wagon *may* be permitted for the purpose of transporting spectators on a designated route on the field trial course, conditional upon weather and soil conditions that will not result in unreasonable damage to the property. Separate authorization to use a gallery wagon should be arranged in advance by contacting the Wildlife Management Area Supervisor in charge of the wildlife management area where the event is to be held. 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 Eugene Gwathmey at the Forest Regional Office @ (434) 525-7522, 1132 Thomas Jefferson Road, Forest, Virginia 24551 or by email at [Eugene.Gwathmey@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:Eugene.Gwathmey@dgif.virginia.gov). For C.F. Phelps WMA contact Ron Hughes at (540) 295-5698. 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.
- 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  
4010 West Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23230-1104  
(804) 367-1000*

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