• Kill or attempt to kill any deer while in a boat or other type of watercraft.
• Hunt or attempt to kill or trap any species of wild bird or wild animal after having obtained the daily bag or season limit during such day or season. However, any properly licensed person, or a person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such daily bag or season limit while hunting may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs or conducting drives if the weapon in his possession is an unloaded firearm, a bow without a nocked arrow or an unloaded crossbow. Any properly licensed person, or person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such season limit prior to commencement of the hunt may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives, provided he does not have a firearm, bow or crossbow in his possession.
• Hold in captivity any live wild birds or wild animals outside the limits allowed by regulations without a permit.
• Alter, change, borrow or lend a hunting license or permit.
• Hunt with arrows to which any drug, chemical or toxic substance has been added or explosive-head arrows.
• Possess or transport any wild bird or wild animal or the carcass or the parts thereof, unless specifically allowed and only in accordance with regulations.
• Hunt wild birds and wild animals with fully automatic firearms, (i.e. machine guns).
• Sell or purchase any wild bird or wild animal carcass or parts thereof, except as specifically permitted by law.
• Virginia law specifies that it shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to knowingly and intentionally possess or transport any firearm. A muzzleloading firearm is considered a firearm under Virginia law. Any person prohibited from possessing, transporting, or carrying a firearm under this law may petition the circuit court of the jurisdiction in which he resides for a permit to possess or carry a firearm.
• Use radio tracking equipment, except on dogs or on raptors permitted by a falconry permit, to aid in the chase, harvest or capture of wildlife.

**AFFIDAVIT**

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.

I hereby grant ____________________________ permission to use my property to hunt, fish, trap, etc... including on Sundays on the following dates: ____________________________

Landowner signature: ____________________________

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What Landowners Should Know

For landowners, finding responsible hunters can provide many benefits for both the landowner and sportsmen allowed access to the property. There are benefits of having responsible hunters included as an important part of the landowner’s wildlife management plan, especially if they are absentee or do not hunt themselves. There are many in-kind benefits of such relationships including road maintenance, habitat improvement, security and safety. Reputable hunt clubs are also helpful, and lease fees can offset property taxes. Information on locating responsible hunters can be found by contacting local civic groups like Ruritans, or 4-H Clubs, sporting goods shops and area landowner contacts that participate in Tree Farm or Stewardship Programs. Members of sportsmen’s conservation organizations that are dedicated reputable partners with VDGIF promote safety, ethics, habitat improvement and scientific management of wildlife.

Liability

Concern about legal liability for recreationists prevents some landowners from permitting hunting on their property. However, the Virginia General Assembly has addressed this concern in Virginia Code Section 29.1-509. Amended in 1982, this law exempts landowners who provide recreational opportunities to the public from liability for injury or damages provided:

• the landowner does not charge a fee.
• there is no gross negligence or “willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use or structure” on the property.

The property owner should eliminate obvious hazards such as open wells and falling down buildings, or fence-off and identify with warning signs any hazard that cannot be eliminated, such as a rock quarry. The landowner may wish to consider insuring the property subject to casualty and obtain comprehensive liability insurance. These are relatively inexpensive additions to standard and homeowner insurance policies. Sportsmen can be asked to help provide financial or other support in return for permission to use the lands.

Fundamentally, sportsmen are responsible for their own safety and for any damages they cause to the property of others. Lease agreements and individual permit cards (sample available on Web site) include codes of ethical conduct while the holders are on the property. Furthermore, landowners can require sportsmen to show proof of insurance. Sportsman insurance is available through insurance companies and national sportsman organizations.


Report Wildlife Violations

1-800-237-5712