Chapter VI

Hunting with Dogs

6.1 Hunting with dogs, defined.

Sec. 6.1 For the purposes of this chapter, "hunt with dogs" and "hunting with dogs" mean to chase or locate game with dogs during their open seasons.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990.

6.2 Legal game, open seasons, defined.

Sec. 6.2 (1) Unless otherwise prohibited or specified in Chapter XIV of this order, the following game may be hunted with dogs during their respective open seasons as defined in chapter III: bear, bobcat, racoon, opossum, fox, coyote, rabbit hare, squirrel, duck, geese, coot, Florida gallinule, pheasant, quail, Hungarian partridge, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, skunk, weasel, wild turkey, snipe, woodcock, sora rail, and Virginia rail.

(2) An individual may use dogs to take bear outside of the open season under the authority of a bear damage shooting permit and a bear hunting license if authorized by the department as provided in sections 5.46 and 5.57 of this order.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 6, 1989, Eff. Sep 1, 1989; Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am 8, 2016, Eff. June 10, 2016; Am. 2, 2023; Eff. Mar. 9, 2023; Am. 2 of 2026, Eff. Apr. 8, 2026.

6.3 Hunting with dogs, license requirement.

Sec 6.3 The following persons chasing or locating game with dogs during the open season for that game, except as provided in section 2.1a, shall have a current valid hunting license for the game being chased or located:

(a) Any person possessing a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow.

(b) The owner, when present, of any dog chasing or locating bear or bobcat.

(i) If the hunter has already harvested a bear or bobcat then proof of purchase shall be produced upon the request of a peace officer.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 2, 2009, Eff. Mar 6, 2009, with a sunset provision regarding the use of the crossbow effective Mar 6, 2012; Am. 5, 2009, Eff. Apr 3, 2009; Am. 2, 2010, Eff. Feb 5, 2010; Am. 17, 2010, Eff. Aug 13, 2010; Am. 1, 2026; Eff. Jan. 14, 2026.

6.4 Hunting with dogs, unlawful acts.

Sec. 6.4 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bear with dogs in zone 1 starting the Wednesday before the second Saturday in September through the Sunday following the second Saturday in September.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bear with dogs in zones 2 and 3 from the second Saturday in September through 1 day thereafter.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt coyote with the aid of dogs from April 16 through July 7 and November 15 through November 30.

(4) In zones 2 and 3 it shall be unlawful to take a bear without the aid of dogs starting the seventh day after the second Saturday in September through 3 days thereafter.

(5) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt raccoon, cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel, or gray squirrel with the aid of dogs from April 16 through July 7.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 1, 1990, Eff. Jan 15, 1990; Am. 5, 2008, Eff. Apr 11, 2008; Am. 5, 2009, Eff. Apr 3, 2009; Am. 2, 2015, Eff. Apr. 10, 2015; Am. 4, 2016, Eff. April 15, 2016; Am 4, 2019, Eff. Mar. 15, 2019. Am. 1, 2020, Eff. Apr. 17, 2020; Am. 3, 2021, Eff. Apr. 16, 2021; Am. 2, 2023; Eff. Mar. 9, 2023; Am. 10, 2025; Eff. Jan. 14, 2026; Am. 3, 2026, Eff. Apr. 8, 2026.

6.5 Dog training, unlawful acts.

Sec. 6.5 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to dog train on bear in zone 1 starting five days prior to the Wednesday before the second Saturday in September through the Sunday following the second Saturday in September.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to dog train on bear in zones 2 and 3 starting four days prior to the second Saturday in September, through the Sunday following the second Saturday in September.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 1, 1990, Eff. Jan 15, 1990; Am. 5, 2008, Eff. Apr 11, 2008; Am. 5, 2009, Eff. Apr 3, 2009; Am. 2, 2015, Eff. Apr 10, 201, Am. 4, 2019, Eff. Mar. 15, 2019. Am. 1, 2020, Eff. Apr. 17, 2020; Am. 3, 2021, Eff. Apr. 16, 2021; Am. 2, 2023; Eff. Mar. 9, 2023; Am. 2, 2025, Eff. Mar 13, 2025.

6.6 Hunting with dogs, unlawful acts; nonresident owners required to register dogs.

Sec. 6.6 (1) Except as provided in subsection 2.5(2), it shall be unlawful to start dogs on an animal at any time other than the hours open to hunting for that animal.

(2) It shall be unlawful to hunt bear with the aid of more than 8 dogs in a single pack regardless of the ownership of the dogs.

(3) It shall be unlawful for a person, either individually or with other persons, to hunt bear using 2 or more consecutive packs of dogs on the trail of the same bear.

(4) It shall be unlawful for a person to hunt bear with dogs unless each dog is wearing a collar which has affixed a tag bearing the owner's name and address and/or the current year's dog license tag issued for that dog. A nonresident owner of dogs used to hunt bear in Michigan shall register those dogs upon a permit form prescribed by the department. The permit shall list the dogs to be covered by the permit and the owner's name, address, and bear hunting license number. A permit shall not cover more than 10 dogs and shall not be issued unless the owner satisfies the department that each dog is immunized and licensed as provided by law.

(5) It shall be unlawful for any person to chase bear with dogs in zones 2 and 3 during the crossbow or bow and arrow only bear seasons defined in section 3.203(3).

History: Eff. Mar 31, 198; Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 14, 1993, Eff. Sep 1, 1993; Am. 2, 1994, Eff. Sep 1, 1994; Am. 1, 2017, Eff. Mar. 10, 2017; Am. 3, 2021, Eff. Apr. 16, 2021.

6.7 to 6.19 Repealed. Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990.

Publisher's note: The repealed sections pertained to dog training and field dog trials.