Chapter XIV

Dog Training

14.1 Dog training, defined.

Sec. 14.1 For the purposes of this chapter, "training" or "dog training" means to chase or locate game with dogs outside of the open season for that game.

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990.

14.2 Dog training, license requirement, quail recall pens.

Sec. 14.2 (1) A hunting license is not required for dog training, except as specified in section 6.3 during the open season for bear or bobcat.

(2) A quail recall pen may be used for dog training purposes by a person lawfully possessing quail reared in captivity if the person using the recall pen carries on their person the shipping tag or permit for the quail in their possession.

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 2, 1993, Eff. Sep 1, 1993.

14.3 Dog training, seasons, exceptions.

Sec. 14.3. (1) Dogs may only be trained on game which can be lawfully hunted with dogs as defined in section 6.2 during the period of July 8 of one year to April 15 of the following year, except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), sections 14.4 and 15.2, or as otherwise permitted by law.

(2) Fox may be chased from April 16 to July 8 in zone 3 on state-owned land with written authorization from the director upon an application form approved by the director.

(3) Game which can be lawfully hunted with dogs may be chased throughout the year on state-owned lands within the following portions of the designated field dog trial areas:

(a) Section 35, T7N R7W, and section 2, T6N R7W, within the Ionia recreation area.

(b) All those portions of the Highland recreation area, Holly recreation area, Lapeer state game area, and Sharonville state game area designated as field dog trial areas in section 15.2.

(4) Trainers may train their dogs from horseback on those portions of Highland and Ionia recreation areas defined in subsection (3).

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 1, 1991, Eff. Apr 1, 1991; Am. 3, 2000, Eff. Mar 10, 2000; Am. 5, 2009, Eff. Apr 3, 2009; Am. 15, 2009, July 9, 2009; Am. 3, 2014, Eff. Apr 11, 2014.

14.4 Private dog training areas, director authority.

Sec 14.4 (1) A person shall not train dogs on private lands from April 16 to July 8 or post their lands as private dog training areas unless they receive written authorization from the director or the director's authorized representative upon an application form approved by the director.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to make a false statement upon the application form authorized in this section.

(3) It shall be unlawful for a person to allow dogs being trained on private lands, as authorized by this section, to go upon lands not specified in the application form.

(4) It shall be unlawful for a person to allow dogs to be trained on private lands, as authorized by this section, if a written complaint of trespass by an adjacent landowner is found upon investigation by the department to be legitimate and the department so notifies the applicant and the applicant does not fence the area in such a manner that dogs cannot exit the area.

(5) A person shall remove any posted signs authorized by the director at a time specified by the director.

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 15, 2009, July 9, 2009.

14.5 Dog training, unlawful acts.

Sec 14.5 (1) It shall be unlawful for nonresidents to dog train on bear, bobcat, fox, coyote, raccoon, or opossum, except upon areas authorized in section 14.4 from April 16 to July 8; upon dog training areas established under Part 421 of 1994 PA 451, when participating in an authorized field dog trial, or when dog training on bear in Amasa, Bergland, and Carney BMUs.

(2) It shall be unlawful to begin to dog train on bear between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

(3) It shall be unlawful to dog train on bear or bobcat in an area where the state has not established an open season for those species at some time during the license year.

(4) It shall be unlawful to dog train on a captive, tethered, or caged bear.

(5) It shall be unlawful to dog train in state parks without permission of the land administrator.

(6) It shall be unlawful to dog train more than eight dogs on bear at any one time.

(7) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, it shall be unlawful for a person to possess a firearm other than a shotgun, pistol, or revolver or ammunition other than blank cartridges, while engaged in training dogs unless specifically authorized in writing by the director or by an authorized representative of the director.

(8) A person not listed as a field dog trial participant, or dog training in an area not open to nonresident training by subsection (1) shall carry proof of residency and shall produce proof of residency upon the demand of a conservation officer or other law enforcement officer.

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 2, 1994, Eff. Sep 1, 1994; Am. 2, 2005, Eff. Mar 11, 2005; Am. 15, 2009, July 9, 2009; Am. 4, 2019, Eff. Mar. 15, 2019; Interim Order of the Director Am. 1, 2022; Eff. May 16, 2022; 14.5(9) expired 7/31/22, removed from section 11/12/24.

14.6 Relocating rabbits within enclosed dog training areas.

Sec. 14.6 An individual possessing a current base license may trap up to 5 cottontail rabbits or hares during the open season for rabbits and hares and relocate them within a permitted dog training area provided:

(a) The dog training area is fenced so as to keep cottontails and hares in confinement.

(b) A current base license is also possessed and cottontails or hares are not captured outside of the small game season and bag limits are not exceeded as provided by sections 3.505 (1) and (2) of this order.

(c) Cottontails and hares are captured from private lands only with landowner permission.

(d) Box or cage type traps, capable of taking only one animal at a time, are used and are checked daily.

(e) Cottontails and hares are not held longer than 24 hours and are not held or transported in any container other than a box, crate, or cage designed for safe and humane confinement.

(f) Traps are marked as provided by section 3.600 of this order.

(g) A record, available for department inspection and submission, of the number of cottontails and hares captured and released by date and location, is retained.

History: Am. 12, 1998, Eff. Sep 1, 1998; Am 2, 2014, Eff. Mar. 1, 2014.