Chapter XV

Field Dog Trials

15.1 Director, defined.

Sec. 15.1 For the purposes of this chapter, "director" means the director of the department of natural resources or an authorized representative of the director.

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

15.2 Field dog trial, defined; designated field dog trial areas established.

Sec. 15.2 (1) For the purposes of this chapter, “field dog trial” means a trial or meet, advertised as such and open to entry by persons whose dogs qualify, in which not less than 4 participants, with dogs, under control, are permitted to dog train in competition or contest. This definition does not apply to an individual cast within a field dog trial. There may be fewer than 4 participants with dogs in an individual cast. Dogs in a field dog trial are awarded points, trophies, or other actual honors for their performance and demonstration of hunting skills. A person or a group of persons dog training their dogs in competition but not under permit by the department are not participating in a field dog trial. (2) Designated field dog trial areas are established on state-owned lands within the following described areas:

(a) That portion of section 26 lying west of Beaumont road; the following portions of section 35 - the south 1/2 lying east of Pettibone lake road, that portion of the NW 1/4 lying between Pettibone lake road and Beaumont road, the south 1/4 of the NE 1/4, the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4, and that portion of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 lying west of Pettibone lake road; the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of section 34; the west 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of section 36; T3N R7E; the following portions of section 36**:** the NE 1/4 the east half of the SE 1/4; and the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, except the south 495 feet; T3N R7E; and the following portions of section 31: the NW fractional 1/4 of the SW fractional 1/4, except beginning at a point located north 00 degrees 14 minutes east 1,347.00 feet and north 88 degrees 29 minutes 26 seconds east 1,418.27 feet from the SW corner of section 31, thence north 47 degrees 18 minutes 26 seconds east 189.50 feet; thence south 88 degrees 27 minutes 27 seconds west 120.00 feet; thence north 49 degrees 45 minutes 12 seconds east 333.31 feet; thence north 76 degrees 20 minutes 16 seconds east 149.86 feet; thence along the center of ford road (66 feet wide) south 00 degrees 14 minutes 10 seconds west 365.00 feet; thence south 88 degrees 29 minutes 26 seconds west 418.00 feet to the point of beginning, and the SW fractional 1/4 of the NW fractional 1/4, except the south 755.00 feet of the north 1,255.00 feet of the east 620.00 feet thereof, T3N R8E, Oakland county, within the Highland recreation area.

(b) Section 23 east of Jossman road, T5N R8E, Oakland county, within the Holly recreation area.

(c) Section 2; the NW 1/4 of section 4; that portion of section 5 lying south of Riverside drive, T6N R7W; the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 32; that portion of section 33 lying south of Riverside drive; that portion of the N 1/2 of section 34 lying south of Riverside drive; the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 34; and section 35, T7N R7W, Ionia county, within the Ionia recreation area.

(d) Sections 13 and 24 west of Five lakes road, T8N R10E, Lapeer county, within the Lapeer state game area.

(e) All of sections 24 and 25, and that portion of section 36 north of Sharon valley road, T3S R2E, Jackson county, within the Sharonville state game area.

(f) Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, T20N R2W, Gladwin county, within the Gladwin forest area of the Au Sable river state forest, which shall be known as the Gladwin field dog trial area.

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 3, 2011, Eff. Mar 11, 2011; Am. 3, 2014, Eff. Apr 11, 2014; Am. 15, 2018, Eff. Sept. 14, 2018.

15.3 Field dog trial, director’s authority.

Sec. 15.3 (1) A person shall not conduct a field dog trial on public land without first obtaining written authorization from the director upon an application form approved by the director.

(2) A person shall not conduct a field dog trial on private land from April 16 through July 8 without first obtaining written authorization from the director upon an application form approved by the director.

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

(4) In fox and raccoon field dog trials, live fox or raccoon that are legally possessed may be used provided that such animals are not dragged, led on a leash, submerged in water, or allowed to come in contact with dogs.

(5) A person shall not shoot live birds in a field dog trial unless specifically authorized in writing by the director and shall comply with the following:

(a) It shall be unlawful to allow more than 4 persons to take live birds in a field dog trial, or to allow a person to take a bird if that person is not authorized to do so by the land administrator, or to use a kind of bird, number of birds, or source of birds other than those authorized by the director. Birds may be temporarily confined in a small portable cage for training purposes. Birds lawfully taken may be sold providing a receipt is issued by the sponsor of the field dog trial to the buyer. The receipt must be retained by the buyer until disposal of the bird carcasses.

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 3, 2011, Eff. Mar 11, 2011.

15.4 Field dog trial, unlawful acts.

Sec. 15.4 (1) It shall be unlawful to conduct a field dog trial from April 16 through July 8 without maintaining a list of all trial participants at trial headquarters. The list shall be kept throughout the duration of the trial and shall be available for inspection at any time by any peace officer.

(2) 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 field dog trials, unless otherwise specifically authorized in writing by the director.

History: Am. 2, 1990, Eff. Feb 19, 1990; Am. 2, 2005, Eff. Mar 11, 2005; Am. 3, 2011, Eff. Mar 11, 2011; Interim Order of the Director Am. 1, 2022; Eff. May 16, 2022; 15.4(3) expired 7/31/22, removed from section 11/12/24.