

March 21, 2017

Environmental Quality Council
 Joe Kolman, Environmental Analyst



THESE DOGS DO HUNT

An Overview of Bird Dog Regulations



State	Field Trial Permit	Individual Dog Training Permit	Professional Dog Training Permit	Exemption for Personal Dogs	Exemption for Exercise/Conditioning	Permit to Use Live Wild Birds	No Kill Wild Birds	Distance Criteria	Number of Dogs	Landowner Permission	Public Land Permission	Seasonal/Restrictions	Firearm Restrictions	Conditions to Protect Wildlife
MT	X					X	X	X						
ND	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			
SD				X						X	X	X		
WY	X	X				X						X	X	
ID	X	X		X					X					
CO	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X		
UT	X					X		X	X		X	X	X	
NE	X					X			X	X	X			
IA	X					X					X	X	X	
KS	X		X	X		X	X			X				
MN	X	X				X			X		X	X		
Sask	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	

The table includes components of various regulations. Refer to individual states and links for more information.

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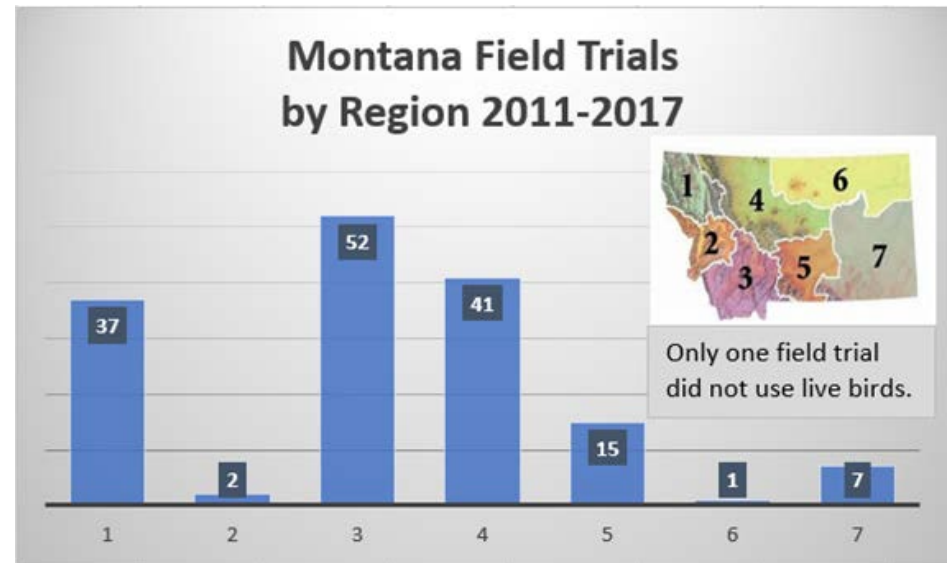
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MONTANA

- Permits required for field trials (examinations to determine the ability of dogs to point, flush, or retrieve game birds).
 - Location and date of field trial required.
 - Wild game flushed prior to field trial.
 - Live birds must be tagged and planted or released in presence of FWP representative.
- Dog training means “the handling, exercising, teaching, instructing, and disciplining of dogs in the skills and techniques of hunting and retrieving game birds characterized by absence of judging, awards, or any fees related to the shooting of captive-reared birds.”
- Dog training allowed in open fields without agency permission if:
 - Live game birds not killed or captured;
 - Training more than 1 mile from:
 - Any bird nesting area;
 - Management area;
 - Game preserve.
- Permit required for training that kills game farm birds.



NORTH DAKOTA

- Permit and fee required for:
 - Training by professional trainer, which is a person who trains any breed of gun dog for remuneration which is the basis for the person's livelihood;
 - Professional training prohibited April 1 – July 14.
 - Professional training prohibited year round on [wildlife management areas](#).
 - Training by nonresident amateur trainer with more than four gun dogs;

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- Field trials that use live wild birds;
- Training on wildlife management area by nonprofessional except April 1 – Aug. 15;
- Exempt training area up to 40 acres for professional training of any dog at any time.
- No permit required for field trials or training of personal dog if:
 - Landowner permission acquired;
 - Trainer is present;
 - No native game birds captured or killed;
 - No training in designated game management or waterfowl production areas.

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Training on wild game birds prohibited April 15 – July 31.
- Commission [rules](#) include:
 - Any event, activity related to sport dog training, or field trials allowed at any time for certain birds obtained from a holder of a state captive bird license on private land.
 - On public land, allowed with prior approval of land manager.
 - Dog training prohibited from Aug. 1 to third Saturday in September for the purpose of locating, pursuing, pointing, or retrieving wild game birds on public land or road right of way. Firearms prohibited.
 - Exemption for up to four dogs per day owned by the person and not for sale.
 - With approval of public land manager, exemption for using a horse for dog training on public lands until 12:00 noon central time on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from the first Friday of August to the first Sunday of September.



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WYOMING

- Dog training using pen-raised birds is allowed year-round provided:
 - The person possessing the pen-raised birds has a valid permit from the Game and Fish Department;
 - The pen-raised game bird is toe clipped or banded;
 - The person provides a legal description of site or sites for training;
 - Pen-raised game birds may not be released in areas inhabited by wild game birds of the same species unless the season for the taking of the game bird is open;
 - Department personnel may witness taking of pen-raised game birds;
 - Pen-raised game birds may only be taken with approved firearms or archery equipment.
 - Only nontoxic shot may be used on captive-reared mallards used for dog training.
- Dog field trials include organized competition and training of dogs preparing for a trial.
 - Participants may take game birds with a permit provided that:
 - The department is notified of date and location of the field trial;
 - Department personnel may witness taking of game birds.



IDAHO

- Permit required:
 - To [train bird dogs](#) on public or private land (except licensed shooting preserves) when releasing artificially propagated upland game birds or waterfowl;
 - Permit valid for 2 years.
 - To conduct organized competitive [dog trials](#) on private or public lands (excluding licensed shooting preserves) when artificially propagated game birds are used;
 - For all trials on Wildlife Management Area lands.
- [No permit](#) required to exercise or train dogs in areas open to public use when no attempt to take wild birds is made or when feral pigeons are used.

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COLORADO

- On property owned by Parks and Wildlife Division:
 - Permit required for field trial or group training.
 - Field training is a hunting dog trial under rules of a club, including sanctioned practice or organized test.
 - Group training involves 10 or more people and associated dogs.
 - Exercising or conditioning dogs is not training.
 - Annual permit required for training where release and shooting of privately owned game birds on Parks and Wildlife property where release authorized.
 - Valid April 1 through March 31.
 - Maximum of two dogs trained by an individual at a time.
 - No permit required for nine or fewer people not releasing privately owned birds.
- Private or other public land:
 - No license required for field trials.
 - 30-day notice required.
 - Permission of landowner required.
- Individuals may train dogs on wild game birds Aug. 1 through April 15.
 - Only blank shells allowed outside hunting season.

UTAH

- Registration required for field trials using pen-reared game birds, unless on a commercial hunting area.
 - Landowner permission required.
 - Registration may be denied if the trial or release of pen-reared game birds interferes with wildlife, wildlife habitat, or wildlife nesting periods.
- Dogs may be used for upland game birds, turkeys, and waterfowl during hunting seasons.
 - Dogs generally allowed on wildlife and waterfowl management areas, except certain areas prohibited from March 10 to Aug. 31.
- Requirements to use pen-reared game birds for dog training include:
 - Birds are marked;
 - No person may release more than 10 pen-reared birds per day or three pen-reared game birds per day per dog, whichever is greater.

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- No more than three firearms may be used at a time, except for four firearms when training retrievers using the American Kennel Club quad flyer test.
- Training may not consist of more than four dogs at any time unless:
 - The dogs exceeding four dogs are 8 months or younger;
 - No live ammunition is possessed by the trainer.
- Exceptions for number of dogs, birds, and firearms allowed on official dog training areas as designated by state.
- Requirements to use wild game birds for dog training include:
 - Wild game birds may not be harassed, caught, or injured, or killed except during legal hunting seasons.
 - Except during hunting season, may not possess a firearm except for a pistol firing blanks;. Landowner permission required for training on properly posted private property.



NEBRASKA

- For state Wildlife Management Areas:
 - Professional dog trainers prohibited year-round.
 - dog training, exercise, and hunting prohibited May 1 through July 31 unless posted otherwise.
- On private land, dog training allowed by landowner and those with landowner permission.
 - Dog training means a noncompetitive process to enhance hunting skills.
 - Sale or release of birds requires permit.
- Authorization required for [dog trials](#) where dogs compete and are judged.

IOWA

- Permit required for sanctioned meets and trials to demonstrate skill of dogs.
 - Representative of agency must attend trial.

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- Birds must be tagged.
- Dogs prohibited on state-owned game management areas between March 15 and July 15, unless training is allowed on designated areas.
- Bird dog training on any game birds allowed at any time with valid hunting license and habitat fee.
 - Firearm use restricted during closed season.
 - Tagged, pen-raised birds may be used and shot for training bird dogs.
- Commission may adopt rules prohibiting training in the wild at any time if determined training may have an adverse effect on the population.

KANSAS

- On land and water owned by Kansas Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism and designated for public hunting, noncommercial training of bird dogs and retrieving dogs authorized year-round.
 - Permit required to release game birds, pen-raised bird, or wild trapped birds.
 - Pen-raised, banded game birds may not be shot during training except during hunting season for that species.
- Permit required for commercial dog training.
 - Allowed year round.
 - Pen-raised, banded birds may be released and shot.
 - Wild birds, except waterfowl, may be pursued during training, but only killed during hunting season for that species.
 - Dog training restricted to area listed on permit.
- Permit required for field trial.
 - Banded, pen-raised game birds may be released and shot.
 - Wild birds, except waterfowl, may be pursued during training, but only killed during hunting season for that species.

MINNESOTA

- Hunting dog training prohibited on Department of Natural Resources land from April 16 to July 14 except by permit or rule.
 - Allowed April 16 to July 14 on DNR land.
 - No live ammunition.
 - No taking of birds.
 - Does not include wildlife management areas due to ground nesting birds.

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- Permit required for:
 - Organizations holding field dog trials that use live ammunition or take domesticated birds;
 - Individuals training hunting dogs using live ammunition live or taking domesticated birds.
- No taking of wild birds.

SASKATCHEWAN

- Dog training license required, except for a resident of Saskatchewan who trains four or fewer bird dogs for personal use.
- Dog training license application includes legal description of area for training and permission of owners.
 - May require information regarding bird populations and dog training.
- Dog trainer (any person who trains dogs) may not:
 - Use a firearm with live ammunition except during game bird season;
 - Train bird dogs in an likely to be frequented by game birds between April 1 and July 15.
- Field trials require a permit subject to conditions.

