

Division of Wildlife  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

## ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING DOG TRAINING GROUNDS ON PRIVATE LANDS

Dog training grounds are areas, approved by the Division of Wildlife, available for the year-round training of hunting dogs. Dog training grounds may **not** (1) exceed 50 acres in size, (2) be established within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, or (3) be established within 1500 feet of a preserve's perimeter (except by the operator of the preserve).

During the daylight hours, banded, domestically raised quail, chukar partridges, pheasants, black and mallard ducks, or other game birds and common pigeons may be shot in conjunction with dog training on approved grounds.

Persons or clubs interested in establishing a dog training ground must complete a "Dog Training Grounds Application and Permit" form available from the county wildlife officer or nearest wildlife district office. A \$75 fee is charged for the designation of each new dog training ground and to obtain operational materials. A check (made payable to the Division of Wildlife) must accompany the application.

Prior to issuing a permit, the proposed grounds must be inspected and approved by a wildlife officer. Materials needed for the operation of a dog training ground include bird bands and applicators, boundary designation signs, and daily use forms; these items are provided when a new permit is issued.

Unless revoked, a dog training ground permit is valid from the date of issuance through the following April 30th. The permit must be renewed annually at no charge. If necessary, replacement signs and additional bird bands or applicators can be purchased from a wildlife district office for a nominal fee.

A propagator's license must be obtained if game birds are going to be held in captivity for use in this activity.

It is the responsibility of the dog training ground operator to maintain daily use records. Prior to dog training activities, the operator must record the name of each trainer, the species and band number of birds to be released, and the breed and number of dogs being trained. At the completion of the training, the operator must record the band number of birds which have been killed. The band applied to the birds prior to their release also serves as a transportation band for removing shot birds from the training ground. Records of dog training activity must be on the grounds during the time the area is being used and must be available for inspection by Division of Wildlife personnel.

A summary of the daily use records must be sent to the wildlife officer by May 1st each year or within 15 days of the termination of the dog training ground permit.

If unbanded wild quail, chukar partridges, pheasants, black and mallard ducks, or other game birds are shot on the grounds, they must be immediately banded and replaced by the release of an equal number of live game birds under the supervision of a Division of Wildlife representative.

Dog training grounds may not be used to conduct a "shoot-to-kill" field trial unless a Field Trial Permit has first been obtained from the Division of Wildlife in accordance with Section 1533.19 of the Ohio Revised Code.



Section 1533.191 of the Ohio Revised Code provides for the establishment and operation of dog training grounds. Additional regulations may be prescribed by the chief in accordance with provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 1533.19 or associated sections. A dog training ground permit may be revoked at any time for cause, by the chief of the Division of Wildlife.

### **Ohio Revised Code**

#### 1501:31-31-01 K Private dog training grounds permit and regulations

It shall be unlawful for more than three firearms with live ammunition to be used at the same time, for the purpose of dog training, on an approved dog training ground area located on private property.

#### 1533.191 Dog training grounds; bands; permit

Organized field trial clubs or individuals may purchase domestically raised quails, chukar partridges, pheasants, black and mallard ducks, and other game birds from licensed breeders, and may shoot quails, chukar partridges, pheasants, ducks, or other game birds and common pigeons that are approved by the division of wildlife at any time during the daylight hours, only on grounds designated by the division of wildlife as "dog training grounds," and only as provided in this section and under such additional regulations as the chief of the division of wildlife may prescribe subject to sections 119.01 to 119.13, inclusive, of the Revised Code, for the purpose of the establishment, operation, and control of such areas as he deems necessary. Failure to comply with all rules and regulations established by the chief of the division of wildlife pursuant to this section shall be sufficient cause for refusal to issue a permit or for revocation of an existing permit.

Bands furnished by the division of wildlife shall be used to designate each quail, chukar partridge, pheasant, duck, or other game bird used on such designated grounds and shall be attached to quails, chukar partridges, pheasants, ducks, or other game birds, as prescribed by the chief of the division of wildlife, prior to being released. The division of wildlife shall provide such bands and collect a nominal fee for each band.

If unbanded wild quails, chukar partridges, pheasants, ducks, or other game birds are accidentally shot on such grounds they shall be immediately banded with a band furnished by the division of wildlife and replaced by releasing an equal number of live quails, chukar partridges, pheasants, ducks, and other game birds under the supervision of the division of wildlife.

"Designated grounds" are areas of land not exceeding fifty acres where permission from the owner or lessee has first been obtained and the exact location and description of the area together with the name of the club or individual operator has been furnished in writing to the division of wildlife. The division shall formulate and provide suitable signs to be placed around the boundaries of such grounds and a nominal fee shall be collected for such signs. The division may then issue a permit, which shall expire at midnight on the thirtieth day of April following the date of issuance, when it is satisfied that the use thereof is a bona fide use in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Any permit issued to a club or individual under the provisions of this section may be revoked at any time for cause, by the chief of the division of wildlife, and no other permit shall be issued to such club or individual during the period for which such revoked permit was issued.

Each quail, chukar partridge, pheasant, duck, or other game bird or common pigeon taken in violation of this section constitutes a separate offense.

Dog training grounds shall not be used to conduct shooting trials except as provided in section 1533.19 of the Revised Code.