



# Wisconsin Hound Dog Training Enclosure Regulations

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This publication gives you a summary of Wisconsin's laws which pertain to individuals who possess captive wild coyote, fox or rabbits for hound dog training or trials. It is not a complete set of laws.

## **PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:**

No person may train or trial dogs with captive wild coyote, fox or rabbit unless the training or trial occurs within a permitted hound dog training enclosure. No person may train, trial or otherwise release a dog(s) into a hound dog training enclosure containing captive wild coyote, fox or rabbit unless all of the following are complied with:

1. Only captive wild coyote, fox or rabbits may be used for training or trialing of dogs within a hound dog training enclosure.
2. The person who releases the dog(s), or is conducting the training or trial possess a valid hound dog training or trial license.
3. The owner or operator of the enclosure possesses a current valid hound dog training enclosure permit for that enclosure.

An owner or operator shall first obtain a hound dog training license and must obtain a separate hound dog training enclosure permit for each separate enclosure they own or operate. A hound dog training enclosure may not also be licensed as a captive wild animal farm or as a wild fur farm.

The owner or operator of a hound dog training enclosure shall be at least 18 years of age to apply for and obtain an approved hound dog training enclosure permit from the department prior to using or releasing any captive wild animals or dogs into the enclosure for dog training or trialing purposes. The department must inspect every hound dog training enclosure for which it has received a permit application. The department will issue a permit to an applicant if it finds that the facility meets the requirements of ss. NR 17.045 and 17.11, Wis. Adm. Code. Enclosures that do not meet the requirements of this section will not be issued a permit but may reapply for inspection after 30 days.

Any person operating a hound dog training enclosure prior to July 1, 2007, may continue to operate provided they apply for a hound dog training enclosure permit under this section no later than December 31, 2007. After December 31, 2007, no person may operate a hound dog training enclosure without first obtaining a hound dog training enclosure permit.

**FEE:** There is no fee for issuance of a hound dog training enclosure permit.

**EXPIRATION:** A hound dog training enclosure permit will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year that the owner or operator's hound dog training license expires. The owner or operator will need to reapply for a new permit and an enclosure inspection will be conducted before a new permit will be issued.

## **TRAINING ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS, RECORDS & REPORTING:**

### **Dogs:**

1. **Licensing.** Any person that releases a dog or dogs into a hound dog training enclosure shall keep on the dog or have present at the enclosure any dog license and rabies vaccination tags required for the dog under s. 95.21 (2) (f), 174.05, 174.053 or 174.07 (1), Stats.
2. **Number of dogs.** No person may place or allow the placement of more than 3 dogs into any coyote or fox hound dog training enclosure for each coyote or fox that is present in the enclosure.
3. **Age.** No dogs less than 5 months of age are permitted in hound dog training enclosures that contain coyote or fox.

### **Training periods:**

1. No captive coyote or fox may be used for training exercises for more than 16 hours within a 24-hour period.
2. Captive wild coyote and fox shall be provided with a minimum of 8 consecutive hours of rest within a 24-hour period, when no dog training or trialing may take place.
3. No minimum or maximum training or rest periods for rabbits.

### **Records & Reports:**

1. The owner or operator of any hound dog training enclosure shall maintain a complete and accurate registry which shall include all of the following:
  - a. The name, and address or phone number of each person who releases dogs into the enclosure (Except the name, address or phone number of the enclosure owner and their immediate family members living with them need not be recorded)
  - b. The date and time of each dog training activity including the number of dogs released.
2. The registry shall be kept current, accurate and retained for 3 years from the date of the record, and made available for inspection by the department.

3. The owner or operator of any hound dog training enclosure shall also maintain and report as required complete and accurate records on the number, species and source of all captive coyote, fox and rabbit released into the hound dog training enclosure including the unique individual animal identification number of each coyote or fox, attached to each animal released. The following information shall be recorded or maintained in the owner or operator's records and correspond to the unique individual animal identification number:
  - a. The name, address, phone number, and applicable license number of the person from whom the captive coyote, fox or rabbit was obtained.
  - b. The origin of the coyote, fox or rabbit, including the origin of those animals existing in enclosure prior to July 1, 2007.
  - c. All veterinary care, inoculation records and copies of health certificates or certificates of veterinarian inspections.
  - d. The date of release into the enclosure.
  - e. The date of mortality or discovery of mortality of any coyote or fox.
4. The owner or operator of any hound dog training enclosure shall notify the department regarding any unusual mortality or detection of any disease involving any species of wildlife within the enclosure within 24 hours of becoming aware of the mortality or disease.
5. Maintenance and submittal of records & reports.
  - a. Copies of records or reports required to be kept, shall be furnished to the department by required deadlines or upon request.
  - b. Each person required to hold a hound dog training license, shall provide a copy of the quarterly records required to be maintained for that license to the department as follows:
    - Records to be included in the quarterly report shall consist of accurate and complete records of all transactions, including acquisition, transfer, death or other information requested in writing by the department, involving any captive coyote or fox.
    - Quarterly submission of records shall be provided to the department by April 30, July 31, October 31 and January 31 each year, and shall consist of a copy of all required records that shall be maintained during the 3 previous months.

## **ENCLOSURE SPECIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS**

### **Enclosure size:**

1. Except as provided in subd. 2 and 3 (below), the minimum size of a hound dog training enclosure for **coyote and fox** shall be **75 contiguous completely fenced acres** without interior fences that divide the area into parcels less than 75 acres.
2. A hound dog training enclosure used to train inexperienced dogs may be less than 75 acres if the owner/operator also holds a permit for a facility that meets the requirements of subd. 1 (above), and complies with the following conditions:
  - a. May not be less than **15 acres** in size, except
  - b. Existing enclosures in operation and used under a hound dog training license for training inexperienced dogs on coyote or fox on or before October 1, 2006 may be less than 15 acres in size.
  - c. Shall be **within 2 miles** of the applicants 75 acre or larger enclosure that already has been inspected and permit approved.
3. A hound dog training enclosures for fox and coyote operating under a hound dog training or dog club training license prior to July 1, 2007 that is **at least 60 acres**, but less than 75 acres, may be approved, however, if the holder of the hound dog training enclosure permit fails to renew the permit within 45 days after the permit's expiration date, the permit may not be renewed unless the applicant complies with the acreage requirement under subd. 1 or 2 (above).
4. The minimum size for hound dog training enclosures for **rabbits** shall be **0.5 acres**.

### **Fences:**

1. Coyote and fox.
  - a. Perimeter fences used to confine coyote or fox within a hound dog training enclosure shall be a **minimum of 6 feet in height**, with:
    - a minimum of 12-inches of additional fence material bent inward at a 90 degree angle at the top and the bottom of the fence.
    - The bottom 12-inch section of fence shall be in contact with the ground and secured to the ground to prevent coyotes and fox from entering or leaving the enclosure.
  - b. The outside of the perimeter fence shall either include:
    - a minimum of 12 inches of additional fence material bent outward at a 90 degree angle at the bottom of the fence, or
    - a single strand electric fence may be used to prevent wild coyotes and fox from entering the enclosure.

**NOTE:** Existing enclosures in operation and used under a hound dog training license on or before October 1, 2006 are exempt from the subd. 1. b. requirement listed above, until the original perimeter fence is replaced.
2. Rabbits.
  - a. Perimeter fences used to confine rabbits within a hound dog training enclosure shall be a **minimum of 5 feet in height**, including any part of the fence that is buried, or bent inward or outward at the bottom of the fence.
3. All perimeter fences shall be of sufficient design and strength to prevent any captive coyote, fox or rabbit from escaping or wild coyote, fox or rabbit from entering the enclosure.

### **Corridor Along Perimeter Fence :**

1. A corridor at least **4 feet wide** shall be maintained on the inside or outside of the perimeter fence to allow for easy access and inspection of the fence by the owner or operator and the department by use of an ATV or other vehicle.
2. The corridor does not need to be located immediately adjacent to the fence but shall be close enough to the fence to allow easy access to and visual inspection of the fence.

### **Gates:**

All gates shall remain closed and secured to prevent escape of captive animals and unauthorized access and opening of the gates, except when authorized persons, dogs or equipment are traveling through the gate.

### **Refuge areas:**

1. No person may molest, harass or chase a captive coyote or fox utilizing a refuge area.
2. Coyote and fox. Captive animal refuge areas shall be available or provided for coyote and fox at a rate of:
  - **Not less than one area for each captive animal within the enclosure**, and
  - **Not less than one per full 15 acres**.
  - Each refuge area shall be readily available to any coyote or fox held inside the hound dog training enclosure.
  - Each refuge area may not be located immediately adjacent to any other refuge area.
  - All minimum required captive animal refuge areas shall be evenly distributed throughout the enclosure.
3. Rabbits. Sufficient barrier areas shall be provided within an enclosure to provide refuge and escape areas for all of the rabbits within the enclosure.

### **Density of captive animals:**

1. No less than 2 coyote or fox may be present in a hound dog training enclosure, and
2. No more than 2 coyote or fox may be present per each full 15 acres in a hound dog training enclosure.
3. No minimum or maximum density for rabbits.

### **Age of Animals:**

All captive coyote and fox released into a hound dog training enclosure shall be at least 9 months of age.

### **Tagging or Marking:**

Coyote and fox may not be released into a hound dog training enclosure unless first individually tagged, tattooed or otherwise permanently marked with a unique individual animal identification number which is recorded in the records required to be kept by the permit holder (see below).

### **Spay or neuter Requirements – Propagation & Reproduction Not Allowed:**

1. When more than one coyote or fox is released into a hound dog training enclosure, all additional animals of the same species that are of a different sex shall be spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian prior to release into the hound dog training enclosure.
2. Breeding or propagating of captive wild animals is not authorized under a hound dog training, dog trial or dog club training license. However, the unintentional breeding of rabbits within in a hound dog training enclosure is not a violation of this restriction.

### **Surgical modifications:**

Any physical modifications, including the docking of tails, done to a coyote or fox shall be done by a licensed veterinarian. The hound dog training enclosure permittee shall maintain written documentation of veterinary involvement in any physical modification done to a coyote or fox.

### **Veterinarian of record:**

The applicant of any hound dog training enclosure permit shall provide the department with a written statement, by a Wisconsin certified veterinarian, which certifies that the veterinarian is the training enclosure veterinarian, having established a valid veterinarian-client relationship with the applicant.

### **Existing enclosures:**

1. Coyote, fox, rabbit or hare within an enclosure constructed and operating as a hound dog training enclosure under a hound dog training license prior to July 1, 2006 shall be considered captive. The owners or operators of the enclosure must ensure that all captive coyote or fox are tagged or marked and spayed or neutered as required above by December 31, 2007.

### **Enforcement:**

Owners or operators of hound dog training enclosures that have applied for a permit by **December 31, 2007** that do not meet the minimum structural or design requirements under this section shall bring their enclosures into compliance by **December 31, 2008**.

## **SOURCES OF CAPTIVE WILD ANIMALS FOR HOUND DOG TRAINING.**

1. **Resident Sources.** Except as provided below, coyote, fox and rabbits or hares used for hound dog training shall be obtained from a legal captive bred source from within this state.
2. **Wild sources.** No free-ranging wild animals captured from the wild may be used for hound dog training purposes, except:
  - (a) Coyotes that are live trapped on a Wisconsin licensed wild fur farm.
  - (b) Coyotes and rabbits that are a nuisance or causing damage and were live trapped for relocation under s. NR 12.10(1)(a)5. and (b)5.
3. **Transfer.** Coyotes or rabbits live trapped because they were causing damage or a nuisance under the authority of s. NR 12.10(1)(a)5. and (b)5., may not be live trapped and relocated from one enclosure to another, unless the animal is transferred to the owner or operator of an enclosure with a valid hound dog training enclosure permit for that enclosure.  
**Note:** such live trapped nuisance wild animals may not be transferred to and held captive under a captive wild animal farm license.
4. **Nonresident captive source.** Unless authorized by the department, captive wild animals from out of state may not be used within a hound dog training enclosure. If the department authorizes use of an imported captive animal for use in hound dog training enclosures, the animal shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection as required under s. ATCP 11.02 and a copy of the certificate maintained with the records required to be kept by the permittee (see below) and a copy shall be provided to the department with quarterly reports required under s. 169.36(9)(b), Stats. When determining whether to issue an authorization under this subsection the department shall consider whether the animal originates from a state or country with suspected or known infectious wildlife diseases.  
**Note:** To request the use of an imported captive wild animal, applicant must contact the state wildlife veterinarian, (608) 266-8204.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

**“Barrier area”** means natural or artificial escape and refuge cover for rabbits which provides protection for rabbits located inside a hound dog training enclosure.

**“Captive animal refuge area”** means a natural or artificially constructed den, shelter or other protective structure located under, at or above ground level, which provides protection for a coyote or fox and is not accessible by any dog released into the hound dog training enclosure.

**“Club”** means at least 2 or more individuals, of whom at least one is eligible to obtain a dog club training license and participate in legal hound dog training activities, who are identified in writing as members of a licensed dog training club on a list retained by the license holder, which shall be made available to the department upon request.

**“Fox”** means red and gray fox and includes all color phases of the red fox.

**“Hound dog training enclosure”** means a fenced area of land that is used as the primary enclosure for captive wild coyote, fox, or rabbit held under a dog training club, hound dog training or hound dog trial license into which dogs are released for the purpose of dog training or trials.

**“Owner” or “operator”** means the person who owns the property on which a hound dog training enclosure exists, or a manager, or a lessee of the property who has an agreement with the owner of the enclosed lands to retain possession or control of the improvements to the property during the term of the lease.

**“Rabbit”** means cottontail rabbits, jack rabbits and snowshoe hare.

## **Application Instructions :**

Applications may be obtained on-line at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/captive/captive.htm> or from a DNR Service Center. Completed applications should be submitted to the Local Wildlife Biologist through the nearest DNR Service Center.

Copies of the Annual and Quarterly Report forms may be obtained on-line at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/captive/captive.htm> or from a DNR Service Center.

### **The form numbers to request are:**

Hound Dog Training Enclosure Application & Permit – Form 9400-168

Annual Report - Form 9400-579A

Quarterly Report - Form 9400-579 (only required for activities involving Coyote or Fox)

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