

**CHAPTER W-8 - FIELD TRIALS AND TRAINING OF HUNTING DOGS**  
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## **CHAPTER W-8 - FIELD TRIALS AND TRAINING OF HUNTING DOGS**

### **ARTICLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **#800 - DEFINITIONS**

See also 24-4-104 CRS, relative to public records and due process; importation, exportation, and release restrictions in Chapter 0 of these regulations; bird holding and release for hunting regulations and commercial wildlife park license regulations in Chapter W-11; and property specific regulations in Chapter W-9.

- A. "Field Trial" means any hunting dog trial held under the rules of a dog or kennel club for the purpose of gaining points toward a hunting dog championship, including any sanctioned practice or training trial where there is organized competition; and any hunt test or other performance event in which hunting dogs compete against an accepted standard.
- B. "Training" means the noncommercial act of a person(s) instructing a hunting dog(s) to follow scent, point or flush birds, retrieve and respond to related verbal and nonverbal commands to improve the dog's performance in hunting wildlife or for field trials. Merely exercising or conditioning a dog is not training. "Group training" means training involving 10 or more people and their associated hunting dogs.

#### **#801 - LICENSE AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Division Properties
  - 1. A field trial license must be obtained prior to holding any field trial or group training on any Division property. Participants in field trials may be charged a nominal fee by the licensee to cover the costs associated with the field trial. Field trials and group training of hunting dogs on Division properties may be held only as specified in Chapter W-9 of these regulations.
  - 2. An annual dog training permit, valid from April 1 through March 31 must be obtained by each individual intending to release and shoot privately-owned game birds during training on Division properties where such release is authorized in Chapter W-9 of these regulations. A maximum of two dogs may be trained by an individual at any time. No permit is required for individual dog training by nine or fewer people who are not releasing privately-owned game birds during training. Horses cannot be used during individual dog training.
- B. Private Lands and Other Public Lands
  - 1. No license is required to hold any field trial on private land, or on public lands managed by agencies other than Colorado Parks and Wildlife. However, the person sponsoring the event is required to notify Colorado Parks and Wildlife on forms provided by the Division at least 30 days in advance of the trial, providing the date, location, species and number of birds to be released. Such field trials may be held anywhere in the state, year-round, provided permission to hold such trial has been obtained from the owner of the property, person in charge, or land managing agency.

### **ARTICLE II - APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

#### **#802 - FIELD TRIAL PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESSING**

- A. Application Requirements
  - 1. Prior to the processing of any license application, the applicant is required to submit the

following:

- a. A completed application on forms provided by the Division, which shall include, at a minimum:
    - 1) information about the dates and type of trial, location, and name of property.
    - 2) acreage needs and specific portion of property to be used, if known.
    - 3) estimated minimum and maximum number of participants, dogs and horses.
    - 4) species and number of game birds to be released.
    - 5) anticipated impact to wildlife resources and habitat, including any actions proposed to avoid or remediate such impact, if any.
    - 6) anticipated conflict with other wildlife-related recreational activities, including actions proposed to avoid or reduce such conflict, if any.
  - b. Such application shall be accompanied by the statutory license fee.
  - c. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude application for a field trial permit which may authorize a field trial to be held during a closed season.
2. Applications to hold a field trial must be submitted to the Division at least sixty (60) days but not more than 11 months prior to the date of the field trial.

#### B. Criteria for Approval or Denial

1. Applications will be evaluated and approved, conditioned, or denied based on the following criteria:
  - a. Significant adverse impact to wildlife resources or wildlife habitat.
  - b. Irresolvable conflict with other wildlife-related recreational activities, including established hunting or fishing seasons.
  - c. Compliance with application requirements and other applicable regulations.
  - d. Applicant's failure to comply with previous field trial license conditions, including, but not limited to, post-field trial habitat rehabilitation requirements.
2. Conditions may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. maximum number of participants and dogs.
  - b. maximum number, use, and picketing of horses.
  - c. type and scope of infrastructures specific to the field trials that would be required or allowed.
  - d. type and scope of vegetation management for the field trials that would be allowed, including any rehabilitation requirements.
  - e. the approach for dealing with time and space conflicts between field trials and hunting seasons and other public uses.
  - f. any other condition intended to avoid or reduce impact to wildlife resources or wildlife habitat or avoid or reduce conflict with other wildlife-related recreational activities.
3. Previously issued licenses may be modified, suspended, or revoked based on the following criteria:
  - a. impact to wildlife resources or wildlife habitat beyond that identified and considered as part of the application and license approval process.
  - b. conflict with other wildlife-related recreational activities beyond that identified and considered as part of the application and license approval process.
  - c. failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the field trial license.

### **#803 - INDIVIDUAL DOG TRAINING PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESSING**

#### A. Application Requirements

1. Prior to the processing of any license application, the applicant is required to submit the following:
  - a. A completed application on forms provided by the Division, which shall include, at a

minimum:

- 1) the applicant's name, and the name of the Division property to be used. 2) specific portion of property to be used, if known.
  - 3) species of privately-owned game birds to be released.
- b. Such application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable \$20 permit fee.
2. Applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the first anticipated training date of the year.

**B. Criteria for Approval or Denial**

1. Applications will be evaluated and approved, conditioned, or denied based on the following criteria:
  - a. irremediable conflict with other wildlife-related recreational activities, including established hunting or fishing seasons.
  - b. compliance with application requirements and other applicable regulations.
  - c. applicant's failure to comply with previous dog training permit conditions.
2. Conditions may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. specific portion of the property to be used.
  - b. any other condition intended to avoid or reduce conflict with other wildlife-related recreational activities.
3. Previously issued licenses may be modified, suspended, or revoked based on the following criteria:
  - a. failure to comply with restrictions on the maximum number of participants and dogs.
  - b. conflict with other wildlife-related recreational activities beyond that identified and considered as part of the application and license approval process.
  - c. failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the dog training permit.

**#804 - RELEASE AND TAKING OF WILDLIFE**

- A. The only wildlife which may be released for field trials or hunting dog training are privately-owned game birds. All releases must be done in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and other applicable regulations, including, but not limited to, #007, #008, and #009 of these regulations.
- B. The person in charge of any field trial or dog training is authorized to designate official gunners to kill, take, or attempt to kill or take game birds released during the field trial or training activity. A valid small game license is required for all designated gunners participating in dog training activities pursuant to this section.
- C. The taking of any wildlife not authorized in accordance with this chapter shall immediately be reported to the Division.

**ARTICLE III - TRAINING OF HUNTING DOGS FOR HUNTING**

**#805 - TRAINING ON WILDLIFE**

- A. Individuals may train hunting dogs on wild game birds from August 1st through April 15.
- B. Only firearms shooting blank cartridges or shells shall be used while training hunting dogs on wild game when a hunting season is not in progress for such wildlife.
- C. The training of dogs on coyotes is permitted except from April 16 through July 15 of each

calendar year.

- D. The training of dogs on raccoons is permitted except from May 1 through June 30 of each calendar year.

11/16/2017  
**Basis and Purpose**  
**Chapter W-8 - Field Trials and Hunting Dog Training**

**Basis and Purpose Statement:**

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be viewed and copies obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager, Policy and Planning Unit, 1313 Sherman, Room 111, Denver, CO 80203.

**The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Parks Act, §§ 33-10-101 to 33-33-113, C.R.S., and specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-10-106 and 33-10-107, C.R.S.**

**EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.**

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017.**

**APPROVED:**  
**John V. Howard**  
**Acting Chairman**

**ATTEST:**  
**Michelle Zimmerman**  
**Secretary**

**Basis and Purpose:**

In January 2012, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper directed all state agencies to perform regulatory efficiency reviews. Executive Order D 2012-002 directed each department and state agency to undertake a periodic review of its existing rules. These changes constitute a regulatory clean-up of Chapter W-8 that resulted from the opening of this chapter for review from staff and the public.

Specific changes include adjusting the dog training permit license year to April 1-March 31 to coincide with our small game license year, no longer allowing sub-permittees on training permits, and limiting each individual to training two dogs at any one time. The definition of "training" has also been modified to clarify that training is not merely exercising or conditioning a dog, but specifically means instructing a dog to follow scent, point or flush birds, retrieve and respond to commands. To ease the regulatory burden on the public, these revisions also include streamlining the application form and removing the annual reporting requirement.

**The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Parks Act, §§ 33-10-101 to 33-33-113, C.R.S., and specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-10-106 and 33-10-107, C.R.S.**

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