

1 AN ACT concerning animals.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing Section
5 2.34 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/2.34) (from Ch. 61, par. 2.34)
7 Sec. 2.34. Dog Trials.

8 (a) Dogs of any breed may be trained the year round in
9 accordance with the provisions of this Act.

10 (b) During the periods of time when it is unlawful to take
11 species protected by this Act, the only firearms which shall be
12 used in the training of dogs from sunrise to sunset shall be
13 pistols with blank cartridges. No other gun or ammunition may
14 be in immediate possession during this time. No person or
15 persons in, along with, or accompanying the dog training party,
16 shall be in possession of any firearm or live ammunition,
17 except pistols capable of firing only blank cartridges during
18 the hours from sunset to sunrise. All organized field trials or
19 training grounds approved by the Department shall be exempt
20 from this provision.

21 (c) No field trial shall be held without a permit from the
22 Department.

23 The following Department areas shall be designated as

1 horseback field trial sites; Lee County Conservation Area, Des
2 Plains Conservation Area, Moraine View State Park, Middle Fork
3 Fish and Wildlife Area, Hamilton County Conservation Area, and
4 Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. The Department shall provide and
5 maintain quality wildlife habitat on these sites.

6 Field trials shall be scheduled only from September 1
7 through April 30 in the Northern Zone and September 1 through
8 April 15 in the Southern Zone. The Department maintains the
9 authority to schedule and administer field trials. The boundary
10 between the Northern Zone and the Southern Zone shall be U.S.
11 Route 36. However, (i) if the opening date of the field trial
12 season falls on Sunday, the season will begin on Saturday of
13 that weekend; and (ii) if the closing date of the field trial
14 season falls on Saturday, the season will conclude on Sunday of
15 that weekend; and (iii) if during the final days of the field
16 trial season a field trial organization begins a field trial
17 which is subsequently interrupted due to inclement weather, the
18 field trial organization may complete the trial, subject to the
19 Department's approval, even though the field trial season has
20 ended. The field trial organization must complete the trial on
21 the first possible day or days. Field trials for the retrieving
22 breeds are exempt from these field trials season provisions and
23 shall have no closed season.

24 The fee for field trials shall be established by the
25 Department by rule.

26 (d) The Department is authorized to designate dog training

1 areas and to grant permits for all field trials including those
2 field trials where game birds reared under Section 3.23 are
3 released and taken in accordance with the rules and regulations
4 set forth by the Department. Applications for permits for such
5 trials and training areas shall be accompanied by detailed
6 information as to the date and the location of the grounds
7 where such trial area or training grounds is located.
8 Applicants for field trial or dog training permits must have
9 the consent of the landowner prior to applying for such permit.
10 Fees and other regulations will be set by administrative rule.

11 (e) All permits for designated dog training areas shall
12 expire March 31st of each year.

13 (f) Permit holders for designated dog training areas must
14 possess a wild game breeder's permit or a game breeding and
15 hunting preserve area permit and may utilize live bird recall
16 devices on such areas.

17 (g) Nothing shall prevent an individual from using a dog in
18 the taking of squirrel during the open season.

19 (h) All hand reared game released and shot at field trials
20 shall be properly identified with tags as provided for by this
21 Act and such birds shall be banded before they are removed from
22 the field trial area.

23 (i) Prior to holding any organized coonhound event with at
24 least 25 participants, the individual or organization
25 responsible for the event is required to notify adjacent
26 landowners of the upcoming event except when an organized

1 coonhound event involves only local organizers, same day
2 registration, and the event reasonably expects fewer than 25
3 participants. The local organizers of an organized coonhound
4 event meeting the notification exception requirements of this
5 subsection shall not be in violation of this subsection if more
6 than 25 participants are registered at the start of the event.
7 The notice, in writing, shall be delivered to the adjacent
8 landowners 30 days prior to the organized coonhound event by
9 certified mail. The notice shall include the name of the
10 sanctioning individual or organization responsible for the
11 organized coonhound event, the date or dates, the hours of the
12 events, the locations the events are to be held and a valid,
13 operational phone number of the sanctioning individual or
14 organization for the day of the event, which shall not exceed
15 14 consecutive days.

16 For the purposes of this subsection "participant" means a
17 coonhound.

18 (Source: P.A. 86-920; 87-1051.)