



Code of Conduct for Hunting With Dogs



Hunting with dogs is a heritage hunting activity that has been a tradition in Ontario for over 150 years, predating Confederation.

The activity of hunting with dogs is slowly changing in Ontario due to “rural urbanization”. Therefore, dog hunters will need to become more aware of, and sensitive to, the changing demographics on the landscape.

This Code of Conduct is designed to help dog hunters adapt in order to protect our hunting heritage for future generations to enjoy.

1. PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Public image is the key to success for landowner/hunter relations; be mindful that you represent all hunters who use dogs when in the community and in the field.



- Remember that it is a privilege to be allowed to hunt on private property.
- Treat landowners with respect and follow any instructions given by the landowner.



2. ASK PERMISSION

- Before the hunt, ask for permission from as many landowners as possible whose property your dog may cross, realizing that dogs may travel several kilometers in pursuit of game.
- Obtain permission before releasing dogs onto private property.
- Hunters entering private property to retrieve dogs or game need to be aware of landowners' wishes and have their permission to enter.



- Obtain permission before dispatching game, especially near buildings.
- When entering the property to retrieve game, leave firearms off the property or in your vehicle unless permission is granted, otherwise retrieve dogs and leave the property.
- Get written permission from property owners, when possible, to avoid misunderstandings.

The OFAH recognizes the importance of using sporting dogs in various different types of hunting. In addition to enhancing hunting opportunities, sporting dogs are used to promote responsible stewardship of wildlife by locating, tracking and recovering game. The OFAH ensures that the use of sporting dogs is understood and protected in provincial wildlife management, regulations and policy.

Supported by:



Ontario Sporting Dog Association

North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association,
Ontario Grand River Chapter

Ontario Deer Hound Association

Big Game Blood Trackers Ontario

ofah.org/sportingdogs

3. PRECAUTIONS

- Make every reasonable attempt to prevent dogs from entering areas where they are not permitted to be.
- Avoid unaccepting landowners and areas that could create conflict.
- Attempt to intercept and retrieve dogs before they leave the areas that you are permitted to hunt on.
- If an incident arises, remain calm, courteous, and respectful to landowners. Explain the unintended situation and contact police and/or conservation officers if problems arise.



4. DOG TRACKING AND RETRIEVAL

- Ensure there is proper identification and contact information on each dog.
- It is highly recommended that hunters use tracking collars on hounds used to hunt deer, coyotes, and other game so that they can be tracked, intercepted, and retrieved as quickly as possible.

5. FIREARMS

- Comply with all rules and regulations laid out in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act understanding that different areas of the Province may have different requirements.

6. CARE AND TRAINING OF HUNTING DOGS

- Keep hunting dogs in good health and condition. Supply them with food, water, medical care, and especially weather appropriate shelter.
- Do your utmost to have a well-trained, obedient dog for the particular hunting activity you are engaged in.

