

07/20/2011

As per your request, this is a comprehensive list of the legal means of dog training within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by residents and non-residents.

1. Title 34, Section 2382 entitled "Training dogs on small game." Allows for a person to train dogs on native small game during any time of the year without the requirement of a hunting license so long as the dog is accompanied by and under the control of the owner or handler. In addition, the owner or handler shall not carry a bow and arrow or a firearm fired from the shoulder while engaged in training. The use of a starter pistol would be an example of a device that would be permitted. No dog shall be permitted to kill or inflict injury upon any game or wildlife. **There is an exception for training dogs with the use of chukar partridges and pigeons, see #2 for this exception.** Dog training may only occur on a Sunday on national or state forest land, state game lands, and on privately owned property when the consent of the person in charge of the land is first obtained. National forest, state forest and state park lands require a letter or authorization to release any birds, including chukars and pigeons on their lands. Please contact the appropriate agency if you desire to conduct this activity on these lands. Dog training may not occur on state game lands during the month of October to facilitate preseason stocking of pheasants.
2. Dog training may occur within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with the chukar partridge and pigeons. Neither of these two species are considered game birds and have no open or closed season in Pennsylvania. Chukars may be used for training at anytime of the year by persons not in possession of a hunting license. Chukars and pigeons may be released and shot on state game lands for dog training year round except during the month of October to facilitate preseason stocking of pheasants. Hunters may lawfully release chukars and pigeons for the purpose of hunting or training dogs on private property year round without the need for a hunting license. Chukars and pigeons may be killed with a firearm fired from the shoulder while training dogs because they are not considered game birds.

3. Dog training may occur on private property using legally acquired propagated ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail, and mallard ducks within the Commonwealth so long as no killing occurs outside of the regular and legal hunting seasons for these species and the training is not an official field trail or hunt test as defined below. The propagated birds must be acquired from a permitted propagator within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If these birds are killed within the legal hunting seasons then bag limits, shooting hours, license requirements and arms and ammunition laws and regulations are applicable. The receipt from the permitted propagator for the birds acquired or purchased must accompany the birds while the birds are held in possession.

*Field trial/hunt test* - A club, group or organization of ten or more dog owners/handlers participating in the actual performance of sporting dogs in one of the following events advertised and registered with AKC, UKC, NAHRA or the NAVHDA:

- (i) *Member trial.*
- (ii) **Licensed trial.**
- (iii) *Sanctioned trial.*

4. As per Title 58, Section 137.1 entitled "Importation, possession, sale and release of certain wildlife." live birds may not be imported into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the purpose of dog training. Any live bird used or possessed for dog training purposes must be purchased or acquired from a permitted propagator within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A list of propagation permit holders is available upon request by calling 717-783-8164.
5. It is unlawful to train dogs in any manner or hunt small game except woodchucks and waterfowl from the first Sunday in February through July 31 within any area designed as a Wild Pheasant Recovery Program. As of 06/30/11, there are five Wild Pheasant Recovery Program areas. Information on the boundaries of these areas may be found on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website at [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us).
6. Dog training may occur on permitted commercial and non-commercial regulated hunting grounds throughout the Commonwealth from the first Monday in September to the last Saturday in April. Sunday hunting is prohibited on commercial areas. Title 34, Section 2928 entitled "Regulated hunting grounds permits." states that the permit holder may release domestically produced ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail, mallard ducks, and chukar partridges on the permitted lands. Dog training may occur during the closed season; however, no game bird may be killed during this time period. This prohibition does not apply to chukar partridges or pigeons because they are not considered game birds in Pennsylvania. No hunting license is required. A list of regulated hunting grounds is available for a fee upon request.

7. Dog training may occur on permitted dog training areas and special retriever training areas throughout the Commonwealth during the entire year. As authorized by Title 34, Section 2941 entitled “Dog training areas.”, and Section 2942 entitled “Special retriever training areas.” the permits allow for the training of dogs on both of these lands. No killing of any game or wildlife, including birds, may occur on a dog training area. Releasing and killing of tagged domestically produced ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail or mallard ducks may occur on a special retriever training area. No hunting license is required for either of these permitted lands.
  
8. Dog training may occur under the authority of a field dog trial permit or a field dog trial for retriever permit. The cost for these permits are \$25.00 for up to three days. As authorized by Title 34, Section 2943 entitled “Field dog trial.” and Section 2944 entitled “Field dog trial for retrievers.” these permits allow for the training of dogs on both private lands or state game lands during certain times of the year. Permit applications must be received at least 30 days prior to the trial. No hunting license is required for either of these two permits. Please note the differences in the two types of permits below:

**\*\*Field dog trials for retrievers**--allow for up to ten official guns to release and kill tagged domestically produced ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail, and mallard ducks for the trial.

**\*\*Field dog** trials--No killing of any game or wildlife, including birds, may occur during a field dog trial. Dogs are only permitted to work on native or liberated small game or raccoons under the authority of this permit.