



**Foxhound Field Trials Permit**

Customer ID:	1753990	Mobile:	(757)377-6741
Permittee:	DANNY M EDWARDS		
Mailing Address:	29232 Smiths Ferry Rd Franklin, VA 23851-4213	City/County:	Southampton
Email:	ibhead@charter.net		

**Business:** FORKS OF THE RIVER HUNT CLUB

**Location:** 33106 SCHOOL HOUSE RD. FRANKLIN 23851 USA

**Sanctioned By:** VOFTA

**Number of Participants:** 40

**Number of Dogs:** 200

**Date(s) of Trial:** 02/15/2025

**Start Time of Trial:** 8:00 AM

**Person In Charge of Records:** MARK WILKERSON

**Authorized Counties**

Southampton

Applicants may appeal permit decisions within 60 days of issuance. The appeal must be in writing to the Director, Department of Wildlife Resources.

Issued By: Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Date: 1/27/2025

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Permit Effective: 02/15/2025

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
FOXHOUND FIELD TRIAL PERMIT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND CONDITIONS

A. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS:

1. A foxhound field trial is defined as an organized competition event in which hunting dogs are judged against accepted performance standards while chasing live foxes (or coyotes outside of training preserves). Field trials are NOT intended to be training opportunities and must be conducted in accordance with the rules of a bona fide dog kennel club or field trial sanctioning organization recognized in advance by the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). These organizations include the National Kennel Club (NKC), Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA), National Fox Hunters Association (NFHA), and the Virginia Outside Field Trial Association (VOFTA). All foxhound field trials conducted outside of training preserves must be sanctioned by one of these organizations. Permit applications for unsanctioned events will not be approved. The list of clubs and organizations recognized by DWR to sanction permitted field trial events in Virginia shall be reviewed at least once every 2 years.

2. Authorized dates for foxhound field trials outside of preserves shall be the second Saturday in January (one week following the end of the general firearms deer season) through the last Saturday in March (1 week prior to the youth/apprentice spring turkey weekend), and August 1 through the Saturday prior to the last Saturday in September (1 week prior to the youth/apprentice deer hunting weekend), starting and ending dates inclusive.

3. Under authority of § 29.1-422 of the Code of Virginia, foxhound field trials, as defined above, cannot be held without first obtaining permission from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, and then only under permit conditions and other applicable laws and regulations.

4. Resident and nonresident participants in authorized foxhound field trials are not required to have a hunting license.

5. It is unlawful to hold a field trial in Virginia without first obtaining appropriate permission from all landowners on whose property the field trial is being conducted. The field trial area must consist of a minimum of 2,500 contiguous acres. A map delineating the outside boundary of the field trial area on which landowner permission has been secured must be submitted with the application. A specific 911 address or GPS map coordinates of all cast site locations must also be provided. Cast sites must be at least 500 yards from properties where permission has not been secured. Clubs and organizations shall notify landowners and the community adjacent to the field trial area of an upcoming trial at least 1 week prior to the event. Examples of acceptable notification methods include, but are not limited to, personal contacts, phone calls, emails, mailings, social media posts, or signage. Clubs and organizations shall maintain a record of all notifications.

6. Applications for foxhound field trials must be received by the Department at least forty-five (45) days prior to the event. A separate application must be filed for each field trial. To avoid conflicts, no two clubs or organizations will be issued a permit for events scheduled on the same day that have cast sites within 15 miles of each other. Precedence will be given to the permit application that was first received.

If adverse weather or natural disaster preclude conducting the field trial on the date indicated on the approved permit, the applicant must contact the organization which sanctioned the event and the Department's Permits Section (804) 367-1000 to coordinate rescheduling of the field trial. Field trials rescheduled within a six-month period of the date indicated on the original approved permit shall not require resubmission of the permit application.

7. The maximum number of dogs permitted to participate in a foxhound field trial is dependent on the size of the field trial area. No trial, regardless of area, shall allow more than 350 dogs to participate. The following table shall be used to determine the maximum number of dogs allowed for different size field trial areas:

Field Trial Area (Acres)	Maximum # Dogs Allowed
2,500-2,999	125
3,000-3,499	200
3,500-3,999	275
4,000 or greater	350

8. No foxes or other wildlife species may be killed by any person during a field trial event. Participants, club members, observers, and judges shall not possess a shotgun, rifle, or muzzleloader while on authorized field trial grounds. The word possession shall include, but is not limited to, having one of these weapons on one's person, or uncased in a vehicle or conveyance. This permit condition shall not apply to the possession of handguns, however, no handgun may be used for hunting during a field trial event.

9. Foxes and coyotes are the only species authorized to be pursued in foxhound field trial events outside of training enclosures. The permitted club or organization is expected to ensure that participating dogs are trained to chase foxes or coyotes and not other species and to exclude from future events any dog found to be trained to chase other species. In the event that a deer or other off-game species is pursued during a trial, judges and club members shall attempt to immediately break up the chase. Any hound involved in a deer or other off-game species chase shall not be scored for the cast involving the deer chase. The Department may revoke the permit of any permittee found to intentionally allow the running of deer during an event and not issue any future permit to such permittee.

10. Permitted clubs and organizations shall make every effort to keep dogs and participants within the boundaries of the authorized field trial area. All participating dogs must wear a tracking collar during the event. When dogs venture off the field trial grounds, judges and club members shall contact the owners of the dogs to capture them as quickly as possible and recast them on the permitted field trial area or remove them from the competition.

11. Participants in foxhound field trials (including judges and club members assisting with trials) are not permitted to block or disrupt traffic on public roads. Participants shall not park next to roads, including the area defined as the public right-of-way, except in the case of emergency (§ 46.2-888 of the Code of Virginia and 24 VAC 30-21-30 of the Virginia Administrative Code). Participants who drive on to private lands beyond the established right-of-way distance must have permission of the landowner to access these lands.

12. Public lands may not be used to host foxhound field trials or to meet the 2,500-acre requirement for contiguous lands upon which a foxhound field trial is to be conducted, except when permission is granted by the agency responsible for managing these public lands.

#### B. PENALTIES:

A permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the Department of Wildlife Resources pursuant to 4 VAC 15-290-130 of the Virginia Administrative Code. Penalties for violations are specified in § 29.1-505 of the Code of Virginia.

The Department may also revoke, suspend, or disapprove future field trial permit applications for failure to comply with permit conditions. Details regarding administrative permit actions and appeal processes can be found in the Department's "Appeals and Proceedings Regarding Denial, Suspension, Revocation, and Reinstatement of Wildlife Permits" document, available at: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/permit-appeal-process.pdf>. The Department may revoke the permit of any permittee found to intentionally allow the running of deer during an event and not issue any future permit to such permittee.

#### C. RECORD KEEPING:

Records at field trial headquarters must be made available to Department representatives upon request. While the field trial is in progress, a club member or organization representative must be present at the field trial headquarters to make these records available, if requested. Records shall include a copy of the permit (must be posted during the event), permit conditions, the names, addresses, and phone numbers of registered participants, and a list of the names of all judges. The names and contact information for landowners who provided permission to use their lands for the event shall also be available upon request. In the field, each judge must have an official score card or sheet that lists the field trial permit number assigned by the Department and is signed and dated by the club or organization secretary. All required records associated with a field trial event shall be retained by the club for a period of 2 years following the date of the field trial and shall be subject to inspection by the Department upon request.

#### D. OTHER AUTHORITIES:

This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations.