

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 707

TRAINING AND FIELD TRIALS

Sec.

- 3551. Training of dogs.
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- 3553. Field trials for bird dogs or coon dogs.
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§ 3551. Training of dogs

Except as provided in section 3552, it shall be lawful to train dogs on foxes, raccoons and rabbits from September 1st to the following October 15th in each calendar year, providing the dogs are under the personal supervision of the owner or trainer at all times.

R.S.1954, c. 37, § 115.

§ 3552. Special dog training areas

Upon application of any club or organization having 25 or more members who are citizens who have been residents of the State for at least 6 months immediately prior to making application, and the payment of a fee of \$10, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game may issue a license authorizing the establishment and maintenance by such club or organization on land owned by them, or over which they have legal control, of a special dog training area wherein and whereon dogs may be trained at any time during the year. Each club so licensed may establish not more than 2 special dog training areas, each of which shall be not less than 100 acres. No club shall control more than a total of 400 acres. Licenses shall not be issued to more than 2 clubs in any one county.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Game may from time to time during each year stock pieces of game and shall charge the licensees a reasonable price therefor. Nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing licensees to liberate on such area any wild bird or quadruped coming from without the State. The licensees may at any time during the year train their own dogs or the dogs of other persons on such area. Any person not a licensee may do likewise by making application in writing to licensee and receiving a permit to do so, for which a charge of not to exceed \$1.10 may be made for residents, of which amount \$1

shall be paid to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game, and for nonresidents a charge of not to exceed \$5.10 may be made, of which amount \$5 shall be paid to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game. Failure of a licensee to make reasonable provision for the use of such area by persons not licensees shall be deemed sufficient grounds for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game to deny a renewal of license. No person shall hunt on a licensed dog training area except the owner of the lands who may hunt unprotected birds and animals only. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Game may make rules regulating the use of such areas.

The boundary line of such special dog training area shall be plainly and conspicuously posted prior to October 1st of each year with legible notices at least 11 inches square, placed not more than 100 yards apart which shall bear the following warning:

“SPECIAL DOG TRAINING FIELD TRIAL AREA—HUNTING AND TRAPPING IS UNLAWFUL. This land is set aside under special license for the training of dogs and the holding of field trials. Entering hereon for the purpose of hunting or permitting dogs to enter without proper authorization is prohibited. (Name and address of licensee to be printed on notice.)”

The licensees may hold field trials at any time on such area or permit in writing others to hold such trials thereon under such conditions as shall be mutually agreed upon.

No person shall train a dog, hold a field trial, enter accompanied by a dog or permit a dog of which he is the owner or trainer to enter upon an area licensed and posted as provided in this section, except as provided.

R.S.1954, c. 37, § 116; 1957, c. 305; 1959, c. 117.

§ 3553. Fields trials for bird dogs or coon dogs

It shall be lawful to hold bird dog or coon dog field trials at any time. During the field trials permitted in this section, no person shall use any firearm other than a pistol loaded with blank ammunition.

R.S.1954, c. 37, § 117.

§ 3554. Field trials for retrieving dogs

Upon application of any incorporated or unincorporated club or organization having in its membership 25 or more members

who are citizens who have been residents of the State for at least 6 months immediately prior to making application and the payment of a fee of \$10, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game may at its discretion issue a license to such club or organization to hold at the time and place stated in such license a field trial for retrieving dogs for the purpose of demonstrating the skill of such dogs in retrieving dead or wounded game birds. A separate application shall be filed for each field trial proposed to be held by any such club or organization. Such license when issued shall authorize members of the licensee to shoot and kill with firearms, under supervision of a representative of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, game birds propagated or legally acquired by members of the licensee and released by members of the licensee at the field trial held at the time and place specified in such license, but only during the daylight hours and only with the consent of the owner of or person having legal control of the land on which such field trial is held. Before any game bird so shot is consumed or removed from the premises, a representative of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game shall attach a tag thereto. Such tag shall be furnished by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game for a reasonable fee and shall remain attached to the bird until the same is prepared for consumption. Licensees shall pay the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game for services of its representative at such field trials at the rate of \$15 per day. Persons participating in any such field trial pursuant to this section shall not be required to have hunting licenses. Game birds so released or shot pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to be wild birds.

1955, c. 290, § 22.

§ 3555. Training and field trials for beagles and other rabbit hounds

It shall be lawful to train and hold field trials for beagles and other rabbit hounds between September 1st and April 10th. During the training and field trials permitted in this section, no person shall use any firearm, other than a pistol loaded with blank ammunition, except during open season for hunting.

R.S.1954, c. 37, § 118.