

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DOG RUNS ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY:

Pennsylvania is only one of a handful of states with a hound retrieval bill. PA Game Law Title 34, Section 2314 (b) allows unarmed hunters to enter private property to retrieve their hounds without subjecting them to enhanced trespass penalties.

*\*\*\*The PSFCHA recommends that you make every attempt to secure permission from the landowner prior to entering property unarmed for purposes of retrieving your dogs.*

*Although this law allows you to retrieve your hounds, if a landowner is surprised by your presence, it may result in a confrontation.*

*Any attempts to flaunt the language or abuse its provisions is strongly discouraged because such abuses may jeopardize the continuance of this exemption.*

## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE INTERFERES WITH YOUR HUNT:

- Contact your PA State Game Warden.

PA Game Law Title 34, Section 2302 prohibits the interference with the lawful taking of wildlife or other activities permitted by this title. It is unlawful for another person at the location where the activity is taking place to intentionally obstruct or interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife or other activities.

- These types of activities may also constitute charges such as: Disorderly Conduct and Harassment. Review the circumstances with Local or State Police to determine if additional charges may apply.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this brochure has been compiled by the **Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Association Inc.** and is provided to our members as a resource. While the PSFCHA cannot represent an individual or provide legal counsel, this brochure provides general guidance and direction; it is intended as a starting point, in the event a hunter encounters an applicable situation.

## **This brochure is not legal advice.**

**The Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Association** was established in 1936 and continues to gain membership participation and enrollment. We are the primary advocate for the foxhunter with the PA Game Commission and related agencies. We strive to make the sport of foxhunting and field trialing available to everyone and take the necessary steps needed to preserve the tradition and heritage of hunting with hounds.

If you are interested in becoming a member and enjoying the benefits or if you would like additional information, please visit the PSFCHA website:

[www.pafoxhunters.com](http://www.pafoxhunters.com)

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**pennsylvania**  
GAME COMMISSION

**Northwest Region 814-432-3187**  
**Southwest Region 724-238-9523**  
**Northcentral Region 570-398-4744**  
**Southcentral Region 814-643-1831**  
**Northeast Region 570-675-1143**  
**Southeast Region 610-926-3136**

## *Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Association Inc.*



*A Foxhunter's Rights  
and Obligations*



[www.pafoxhunters.com](http://www.pafoxhunters.com)

### WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE SHOOTS YOUR DOG:

Contact your Local Police, State Police, PA Game Warden and the county PSPCA. Ask them to respond to the scene.

Attempt to gather persons or vehicle information that may be pertinent to the case.

### SAVE YOUR GPS TRACKS:

Hunters involved in incidents are urged to save their GPS tracks from the hunt. These tracks may be useful in solving any disputes concerning permission, trespassing and the like.

Gather evidence to support your case that the shooting was unjustified. This may include:

- a). Photographing any footprints (if applicable) where the dog was shot.
- b). Photographing any footprints (if applicable) of the game it was chasing, even if the dog was chasing, pursuing or following the track of big game (as described by the Game Commission).
- c). Photographing the crime scene. This may establish that the hound(s) did not catch or attack the game. Title 34 Section 2385(a) specifically states that a dog declared a public nuisance may be killed when the dog is found to be in the **act of attacking** a big game animal.

•The killing of a hound should be investigated/prosecuted by the PSPCA in your county, under Title 18 Chapter 55 Section 5533 and 5534 Cruelty to Animals. Local police officers can bring charges as well.

•Members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. are reminded to call Dick Bednarczyk promptly (570)586-9270, if you are ever victimized in this manner.

### Title 18 Chapter 55 Subchapter B Cruelty to Animals

#### § 5532. Neglect of animal.

- (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if the person fails to provide for the basic needs of each animal to which the person has a duty of care, whether belonging to himself or otherwise, including any of the following:
- (1) Necessary sustenance and potable water.
  - (2) Access to clean and sanitary shelter and protection from the weather. The shelter must be sufficient to permit the animal to retain body heat and keep the animal dry.
  - (3) Necessary veterinary care.

#### § 5533. Cruelty to animal.

- (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly illtreats, overloads, beats, abandons or abuses an animal.

#### § 5534. Aggravated cruelty to animal.

- (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly does any of the following:
- (1) Tortures an animal.
  - (2) Violates section 5532 or 5533 causing serious bodily injury to the animal or the death of the animal.

#### § 5561. Nonapplicability of subchapter.

- (a) Game law.--This subchapter shall not apply to Title 34-PA Game Law,
- (b) Exemptions.--This subchapter shall not apply to the following:
- (1) The killing of a dog or cat by the owner of that animal if it is accomplished in accordance with the act of December 22, 1983 (P.L.303, No.83), known as the Animal Destruction Method Authorization Law.
  - (2) The killing of an animal found pursuing, wounding or killing a domestic animal or domestic fowl.
  - (3) The killing of an animal or fowl under Title 34 Sections 2384 (relating to declaring dogs public nuisances) and 2385 (relating to destruction of dogs declared public nuisances).

### WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE REMOVES A COLLAR FROM YOUR DOG:

•If your hound's collar (any type collar) has been removed or stolen, the PA Game Commission has jurisdiction under **PA Game Law Title 34, Section 2302 (a.1) (6) Interference with Lawful Taking of Wildlife.**

•Contact your local PA State Game Warden for assistance.

•If you are receiving a signal from a parked vehicle, residence or building, stress the urgency of response time since battery life may be limited.

Note: If it can be proven that your collar has been stolen, charges may also be brought under the criminal code, through the local District Attorney, with increased penalties. A procedure developed by the PA Game Commission has been provided to State Game Wardens for guidance in such cases.



### Know Your Rights To Tether Hounds Outdoors:

Title 18, Section 5536 bans tethering outside dogs for more than 9 hours in a day or for more than 30 minutes if temperatures are below 32 or over 90 degrees, except that Section 5536(b)(2) states this law does not prohibit **“Tethering a hunting, sporting or sledding dog breed where tethering is integral to the training, conditioning or purpose of the dog.”**

Anyone that is challenged by humane society police officers, local or state police, or township officials should cite this exception.