

Act 165: An Act Relating to Best Management Practices for Trapping Proposed Amendments to the Furbearing Species Rules

This table shows: 1) the areas Act 159 required the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Board to strengthen safety and animal welfare regulations in the lefthand column; and 2) the proposed regulations developed by the department and advanced by the board at their April 5, 2022.

Act 165 directives	Proposed regulations advanced by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board on April 5, 2023
No person shall pursue coyote with the aid of dogs, either for training or taking purposes, without a permit issued by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may deny any permit at the Commissioner’s discretion. The Commissioner shall not issue more than 100 permits annually.	<p>4.22.3 (a) Licenses and permits</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1. Any person who intends to train, hunt, pursue, harvest, or in any manner take a coyote with the aid of dogs shall apply for a permit from the Commissioner...</p> <p>4.22.3 (b) Lottery – in the event that more than 100 permit applications are received, the Department shall hold a transparent, random drawing to ensure that at least 10% of the [100 total] permits issued by the Department are issued to Vermont residents who have either served on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they have not received a dishonorable discharge (eligible veterans) or, are certified citizens of a Native American Indian tribe recognized by the State pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 32.</p>
A limit on the number of dogs that may be used to pursue coyote.	<p>3.9 “Department Registered Dog” means a dog bearing a numbered identification dog-tag (Department Registration Dog-Tag) approved or issued by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, with the permit holder's coyote dog permit number and a number one through four.</p> <p>3.11 “Pack of dogs” means one to four dogs, acting as a unit during taking coyote with the aid of dogs.</p>
A prohibition on the substitution of any new dog for another dog during pursuit of a coyote.	<p>3.14 “Relaying packs and dogs” means the removal and replacement of one or more dog or dogs, during taking coyote with the aid of dogs, to the original pack of dogs once the pursuit has begun.</p> <p>4.21.3 d (4) A person taking a coyote with the aid of dogs shall only take a coyote with a Pack of Dogs as defined in this rule. No person shall pursue, hunt, or take coyote by Relaying any Dog or Pack of Dogs.</p>
The legal method of taking coyote pursued with the aid of dogs, such as rifle, muzzle loader, crossbow, or bow and arrow;	4.21.3 (c) Legal methods

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person shall not take a coyote into their possession except by killing the coyote by legal means or methods. Legal means includes utilizing a muzzleloader, gun, bow and arrow or crossbow. 2. A person taking coyote with the use of a bow and arrow or crossbow shall, upon demand of a game warden or other law enforcement personnel, show proof of having a prior archery license, or of having passed a bow hunter education course in Vermont, another state or a province of Canada approved by the Commissioner <p>4.22 Taking Coyote by Bow and Arrow and Crossbow</p> <p>4.22.1 No person shall take coyote with or without the aid of dogs, with a bow and arrow or crossbow if the arrow or bolt has an arrowhead that measures less than seven-eighths of an inch at its widest point or that has less than two sharp cutting edges.</p>
<p>A definition of control to minimize the risk that dogs pursuing coyote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enter onto land that is posted against hunting; • enter onto land where pursuit of coyote with dogs is not authorized; • harass or harm people or domestic animals; and • cause other unintentional damages to people or property. 	<p>3.6 “Control of dog/dogs” means the transportation, loading, or unloading of dogs from vehicle(s); and the handling, catching, restraining, or releasing dogs to take coyote with the aid of dogs. GPS collars with track log and training/ control functions or separate GPS and training/ control collars shall be required to locate and track dogs at all times while taking coyote with the aid of dogs. At no time shall dogs be in pursuit of coyote without a GPS track log being maintained by the permit holder.</p> <p>3.9 “Department Registered Dog” means a dog bearing a numbered identification dog-tag (Department Registration Dog-Tag) approved or issued by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, with the permit holder's coyote dog permit number and a number one through four.</p> <p>3.16 “Training/control” collar is any family of collars that deliver electrical stimulation of varying intensity and duration to the neck of a dog via a radio-controlled electronic device incorporated into the collar.</p> <p>4.21.3 (d) Dogs and Packs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A person shall not take coyote with the aid of dogs unless the person is in control of the dog or dogs. (2) No person shall take a coyote with the aid of dogs by using any Unregistered Dog. No person shall have an Unregistered Dog in their possession while hunting, pursuing, or taking a coyote. Requires Department registered dogs with GPS collars, a GPS track log, and behavioral control collars. Requires the permit holder to be in control of the dogs at all times.

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	(3) A person hunting with dogs, pursuing, and taking coyote with the aid of dogs shall attach a Department Registration Dog-Tag and a metal identification name plate with the person's name, address and telephone number to the dog's collar.
Provisions to encourage persons pursuing coyote with the aid of dogs to seek landowner permission before entering or releasing dogs onto land that is not posted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 5201	<p>4.22.3 (a) Licenses and permits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any person training, hunting, pursuing, harvesting or in any manner involved in the taking of a coyote with the aid of dogs must hold a valid Coyote Dog Permit issued by the Department, or accompany a Coyote Dog Permit Holder. The Permit shall be carried at all times by the permittee while taking coyote with the aid of dogs, and [be] exhibited to a game warden, landowner, or law enforcement officer on demand. <p>4.22.3 (a) Licenses and permits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person shall not take coyote with the aid of dogs unless the person is in control of the dog or dogs.
Required reporting of every coyote killed during pursuit with the aid of dogs.	4.21.6 Reporting - A person taking coyote with the aid of dogs shall, no later than 48 hours after the close of season, report the taking of all coyotes during the season in a manner required by the Commissioner.
The Board shall consider whether to include within the rule required by this section provisions related to seasonal restrictions and baiting.	<p>4.21.4 Seasons and Shooting Hours for Taking Coyote with the Aid of Dogs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coyote Dog Training Season: For Vermont Resident and Nonresident Permit Holder: June 1 through September 15, all dates inclusive, except that a nonresident may train dogs to pursue coyote only while the training season is in effect in the nonresident's home state and subject to the requirements of these rules. b) Coyote Dog Hunting Season December 15 through March 31, all dates inclusive. c) Legal hours for taking coyote with the aid of dogs: One half hour before sunrise until one half hour after sunset.