

Blood Tracking Big Game with Dogs



Law Enforcement Division
Acting Assistant Chief David Shaw



Blood Tracking Big Game with Dogs

Current Approval Process

- Handler must have dog complete a tracking test by a department approved organization (United Blood Trackers).
- Carry a valid Concealed Pistol License.
- Receive written authorization from DNR-LED.



Certified Trackers

2021 – 5 (as of June 1)

2020 – 22

2019 – 21

2018 – 17

2017 – 19

2016 – 17

2015 – 19

2014 – 15



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Current Process

- Tracker's information and accompanying hunter's license information must be provided to the DNR's Communications Section prior to each tracking activity.
- Dogs must be on a lead.
- Only the licensed hunter may dispatch and tag the wounded deer, elk, or bear.



Requested Changes

Change Tracking Test

- Test the tracker and not the dog.
- Tracker must possess a valid hunting license.
- Tracking test every 3 years.



Requested Changes

Off Lead Tracking

Statutes and state land use rules that would require updating:

- 324.73102 - states a person can retrieve a hunting dog on another person's property without a firearm.
- R299.924 states that on department managed lands you cannot have a dog unless it's on a leash in a designated day use area.
- R299.927 states that at State parks and recreation areas dogs must be on a leash not more than 6 ft in length.



Requested Changes

Tracker to Dispatch Wounded Animal

Statutes that would require updating:

- 324.43510 - states a person cannot carry or transport a firearm unless they have a hunting license (does not prohibit under CPL law).
- 324.43513 - states a person may carry or possess a firearm without a hunting license if it is enclosed in a case and unloaded.
- 324.43516 - states that you cannot carry or possess a handgun during firearm season unless the individual has a valid deer license (does not prohibit under CPL law).
- 324.43588 - states that a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if the person takes or possess a wild animal without a license.



Comparison

	MI	MN	WI	IL	IN	OH	PA
Only licensed hunter may dispatch wounded game.	X	X		X	X	X	X
Dog must be on a leash.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Certification required.	X						
No weapon allowed while tracking.			X				



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Thank you!

