

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 5008 is added to read:

10 V.S.A. § 5008. Hunting Coyote with Dogs

(a) 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 their discretion. No more than 100 permits shall be issued annually. The number of permits issued to nonresidents in any given year shall not exceed 10 percent of the number of permits issued to residents in the preceding year. The Commissioner shall establish a process and standards for determining which nonresidents are to receive a permit, including who will receive a permit if there are more nonresident applicants than nonresident permits. A nonresident may train dogs to hunt coyote only while the training season is in effect in the nonresident's home state and subject to the laws and regulations of this State.

(b) Permits will be issued to residents for a fee of \$50.00.

(c) Application fees for nonresidents shall be \$10.00 with a permit fee of \$200.00 for successful applicants.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 5009 is added to read:

10 V.S.A. § 5009. Hunting Coyote with Dogs without landowner permission

(a) No person shall release any dog for the purpose of hunting coyote onto land if the landowner or landowner's agent has previously personally communicated to the dog owner or dog handler that dogs hunting coyote are prohibited on the property;

(b) No person shall release a dog for the purpose of hunting coyotes onto property posted in accordance with 5201 unless the dog owner or handler of the hunting dog has permission from the landowner or landowner's agent; and

(c) It is prohibited for any person to release a dog for the purpose of hunting coyotes that enters property upon which, in the previous 365 days, a dog had been previously found, and the dog owner, a handler of the dog or a person participating in the hunt has been personally informed by law enforcement that hunting dogs are not permitted on the property.

(1) Penalties- First offense: A person violating this section shall have committed a minor fish and wildlife violation and will be subject to penalties provided under 10 V.S.A. § 4572.

(2) Penalties- Second and subsequent offenses- A person violating this section shall be subject to the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 4502(b)(2) and subject to a fine not greater than \$1,000.

Sec. 3. MORATORIUM ON HUNTING COYOTE WITH AID OF DOGS

No person shall pursue coyote with the aid of dogs, either for the training of dogs or for the taking of coyote, except as provided for under subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section.

(a) A person may use dogs to hunt coyote in defense of property provided the person is the landowner or has the express permission of a landowner to do so.

(b) A person may use dogs to pursue coyote on land that they own, or

(c) A person may use dogs to pursue coyote on land that they do not own or control provided that the person who owns or controls the land provides the person who controls the dogs with permission to take the coyote on the land with the use of dogs.

(d) The moratorium imposed under this section shall terminate on the effective date of the rules adopted in accordance with Section 4. below.

Sec. 4 THE FISH AND WILDLIFE BOARD RULES: HUNTING COYOTE WITH THE AID OF DOGS

The Fish and Wildlife Board shall adopt a rule regarding the hunting of coyote with the aid of dogs.

(a) The Fish and Wildlife Board Rule shall include at least the following provisions:

- (1) A limit on the number of dogs which may be used to hunt coyote;
- (2) Prohibit the substitution of any new dog for another dog during a hunt for coyote;
- (3) Specify the legal method of take such as; rifle, muzzle loader, crossbow or bow and arrow for coyotes taken with the aid of dogs; and
- (4) Require the reporting of every coyote taken with the aid of dog(s).

(b) The Board shall consider whether to include provisions related to seasonal restrictions, baiting and reasonable control of the dogs in the rule.