

## Quick Facts on Hunting Hounds

### Hounds vs. Sporting Breeds and Beagles

- Coonhounds and Foxhounds are not classified as *Sporting*, *Herding*, or *Working* dogs by the American Kennel Club. Hounds have their own category. Any reference to coyote, bobcat, fox, bear, or raccoon hounds being sporting dogs is inappropriately used.
- Sporting dogs, including all bird dogs, are spaniels, setters, retrievers, and pointers. They are used to point, flush, or retrieve and are bred and/or trained to have “soft mouths.”
- Beagles are used to hunt rabbits. Rabbits typically run in a circle, so beagles tend to keep returning to the original chase point. Beagles are smaller than coonhounds and foxhounds and hunt small, non-aggressive prey.
- Legislation specific to “hounds” will **not** impact bird dogs or sporting breeds.
- Legislation on hounds chasing bears and furbearers will **not** ban beagles from hunting rabbits.
- Coonhounds (American English, Bluetick, Redbone, Treeing Walker, Plott) and Foxhounds (American and English) are powerful, have a strong predatory drive, and are bred for endurance. They are used for attacking large game (bears) and furbearers (bobcats, coyotes, raccoons, foxes).
- Coonhounds and foxhounds work in packs since bears and furbearers can cause serious injury to hounds while defending themselves and offspring.
- During predatory attacks, coonhounds and foxhounds have unrestrained bite inhibition or “hard bites.” Bites are severe and tear, rip, or puncture the victim.
- Due to the nature of pack attacks and the hard bite of hounds, injuries to victims are extremely serious and can be fatal.

### Prey Drive and “Recall” (Training lingo for coming)

- Predatory aggression includes grabbing or biting the jugular or abdomen of the victim and/or attacking the legs to hobble and disable the victim. From a training perspective, predatory behavior is the most difficult to control.
- Whether a hound is sight- or scent-oriented is irrelevant to predatory aggression or an attack.
- Dogs are more aggressive in groups.
- Dogs in a pack prioritize packmates over any attention given to a handler.
- Predatory aggression worsens the more the dog engages in chasing and attacking prey.
- Coonhounds and foxhounds regularly chase deer and other non-target animals. Hound hunting lingo for non-target animals chased and attacked by hounds is “trash” (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

- The hounds determine and control the hunt and the animal pursued determines the direction in which the hounds go, not the handler.
- Fines and remote training equipment will **not** prevent predatory attacks or recall multiple off-leash dogs during predatory pursuit.

### Hounds cannot Distinguish between Dog Breeds

- There are over 20 AKC dog breeds that can resemble black bears and 19 that resemble coyotes, **not** including German Shepherds, mixed breeds, or variations within breeds.
- Professionals who work with dogs can determine breed composition upon visual identification with less than 50% accuracy when compared to DNA analysis. Hounds cannot be expected to do better. This is why pet dogs are frequently attacked.

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