

# Citizen Resolution # 680623



## Reduce the Hound Training Season Pursuing the Black Bear (legislation required)

The current hound training season pursuing bear in Wisconsin is July 1 – August 31 bumping up against the start of the bear hunt. Hunters release their dogs on bears during the 2 hottest summer months.

Up to 6 dogs pursue bears and other wildlife, until eventually a bear finds safety in a tree, and the dogs' owner catches up to the pack, sometimes hours after start of the chase. Legally, a tired or overheated dog can be replaced with a fresh one and the chase continues.

No license is required, for hunters who have tags and those without a tag, running dogs for the sport or to exercise their dogs.

The proposed hound training schedule is modeled after the Wisconsin Spring Turkey Hunt and will reduce the season to 30 days.

Period 1: July 16-July 25; Period 2: July 26-Aug. 4; Period 3: August 5-Aug. 14. To ensure hunter spread with dogs during the training season, it is proposed that hunters apply for a \$3 permit on his/her GoWild account for one of the periods. Resident hunters will have first pick from 200 permits per period. Hunters may apply for additional permits where there are unfilled slots. This training schedule with a permitting component provides the following benefits:

- Continuous physical pressure on the black bear is reduced with a shorter training season and spread of dogs.
- The potential for conflict at bait sites between hounds and wolves is reduced.
- Informs the DNR of the number of hunters, both resident and nonresident, with and without a tag, and hunter behavior.
- Conflict with property rights and law enforcement involvement is reduced.
- Revenue to the DNR will offset administrative costs to implement.

Sources: NR 17.04; Wisconsin Hunting Regulations/Spring Turkey Hunting 2022 Season; DNR Facebook, 9-5-2018; Dr. Lynn Rogers, PhD, Founder, North American Bear Center.

**Do you favor adopting a shorter hound training season that will benefit the physical health and welfare of the bears and dogs? If yes, the WCC will propose the DNR and NRB implement a rule change.**

Additional Information provided by author:

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