

CHAPTER 43

RETRIEVAL AND TRACKING OF WOUNDED DEER USING LEASHED DOGS

H.F. 552

AN ACT relating to requirements for using a dog to track a wounded deer.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. [Section 481A.56A](#), Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

481A.56A Retrieval of wounded deer by leashed dogs.

A person having a valid hunting license and a valid deer hunting license who has wounded a deer while hunting may use a dog to track and retrieve the wounded deer. ~~A dog being used for tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog for tracking a wounded deer shall both be trained in deer blood tracking.~~ An unarmed dog handler assisting in the recovery of a wounded deer is exempt from the licensing requirements as long as the handler is associated with the licensed hunter who wounded the deer. Any person using a dog for tracking wounded deer must maintain physical control of the dog at all times during the search by means of a maximum fifty-foot lead attached to the dog's collar or harness. The person licensed hunter who wounded the deer may dispatch the deer using a legal method of take authorized by the person's deer hunting license consistent with all rules and regulations for that season. A person shall not use that method of take to chase, hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the deer that the hunter is tracking, except in self-defense. Using a dog to track a wounded deer on private property is permissible at any hour with consent of the property owner. A person using a dog to track a wounded deer outside of legal deer hunting hours shall not be in possession of a firearm or archery device. The commission shall may adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to implement [this section](#).

Approved April 12, 2021