

Proposed Resolution #K
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, State Advisory Council President, NDA
Proposed: December 3, 2022 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: Game Tracking Dog Use

1. **WHEREAS:** The use of game tracking dogs is becoming increasingly popular to aid in the
2. recovery of wounded deer, elk and bear; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** the use of trained game tracking dogs and their skilled handlers is of immeasurable
4. benefit to ethical hunters seeking to do all they can to recover wounded or lost deer, elk and
5. bear; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** Fees for the services for the use of tracking dogs can range from free to hundreds
7. of dollars; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** unregulated, unethical and uncontrolled use of tracking dogs could lead to increase
9. trespassing, unethical behavior and poaching; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** Unscrupulous dog handlers with poorly trained dogs could cheat Michigan hunters
11. out of large sums; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** Uncontrolled tracking dogs and their handlers entering properties without
13. permission and in uncontrolled manner can have a negative impact on hunting opportunities on
14. those neighboring properties for up to a week and lead to dangerous conflicts with property
15. owners; and,
16. **WHEREAS:** Dispatch of wounded animals by trackers can end suffering more quickly if the
17. hunter is disabled and incapable of accompanying the tracker, but also has the potential to
18. create situations where unethical requirements or illegal hunting take place; and,
19. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That MUCC shall support changes and amendments to
20. tracking dog regulations to encourage the increased use of trained game tracking dogs and
21. skilled dog handlers whose dogs are under control at all times and will not enter properties
22. without permission; NOW,
23. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the MUCC shall support for tracking dogs and their
24. handlers to be: registered with the DNR, possess a valid CPL, have passed a United Blood
25. Trackers level 1 or greater test, and be required to call/text DNR law enforcement to inform
26. them when they begin tracking a deer and report results within 12 hours; and,
27. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the MUCC shall support regulations that require that the

28. tracking dog be on a lead of up to 50 feet OR wearing an e-collar with GPS with recall capability
29. (this could include use tone, vibration, and/or shock) and property line mapping (ie: Garmin 200i
30. Alpha) to stop it from entering properties where the handler has not obtained permission to
31. enter; and,
32. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** If the dog is off lead, the dog and handler should successfully
33. complete the new United Blood Trackers off lead test that was established in 2022; and,
34. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That If the handler loses control of the tracking dog and it enters
35. an adjoining property without permission, the handler should be required to inform DNR law
36. enforcement with detailed track information, and make a good faith effort to inform the
37. landowner that they are entering the property to retrieve their dog. If the handler takes these
38. steps and enters the property alone, without a firearm or bow of the season, to retrieve their
39. dog, they will not be subject to penalties; and,
40. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the MUCC shall support DNR registered tracker dispatch in
41. situations where the hunter is disabled as described in MUCC's 2019 resolution AC02B0619
42. and thus unable to accompany the tracker. When the hunter is physically capable of
43. accompanying the tracker the MUCC shall support requirements that the hunter promptly
44. dispatch the wounded animal if needed.