



The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance has fought hard to preserve the hunting with dogs tradition in Virginia. Our membership numbers have grown continuously. Today, our membership stands close to 60,000 and it is our goal to enlist all of the 190,000 hunting with dogs in Virginia.

We have fought some extremely tough battles. The infamous hound study conducted by the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) was derailed due to the work of the VaHDA. In 2010, there were eleven bills introduced in the General Assembly that were detrimental to hunting or hunting dog owners. Through the hard work of our lobbyist, ten of them were killed in committee and the 11<sup>th</sup> was rewritten to protect dog hunters. In the last three years, over 30 bills that were detrimental to hunting with dogs were defeated.

All of our working members, including our lobbyist are unpaid. Until now, the VaHDA has managed to operate on a minimal budget, but tougher fights lie ahead. Our available funds have dwindled and an army cannot be successful without sufficient funding. The time has come when we must all make a commitment to a strategy that will win this ongoing fight. Through their experiences, both the NC hound hunting lobbyist and the VaHDA lobbyists have independently stated that it will take roughly \$50,000 annually to sustain this fight against the United States Humane Society (HSUS) and other anti-hunting groups. The VaHDA is asking that hunt clubs and non-club affiliated individuals step up and do their part in this fight by supporting the Alliance in making a donation of \$5 per member. This is a nominal request when you consider 1) What is at stake, 2) What VaHDA has achieved up to this point, 3) \$5 is trivial when measured against the price of victory. By adopting this annual commitment, you will help to provide the much-needed funds the VaHDA needs to stay in the fight. We must proactively plan ahead and prepare ourselves for the continued attacks. With the speed at which bills get introduced, enacted, or killed in the General Assembly, failing to prepare strategies in advance will only lead to a loss of our beloved sport.

The HSUS and their associates are determined to end hunting with dogs. This enemy has millions of tax free money to spend and arrives with a paid lobbyist and drafted set of bills for introduction. We have just seen them in action with their recent attack on the fox preserves (HB695 and SB202). The efforts to defeat these two bills heavily taxed our manpower and our finances. Though we won the battle this year, HSUS has promised to return in 2013 with an even broader attack on our sport. This means that the hours of dedication that we must spend and the money it will cost us will be much higher.

In 2005 the deer hunting clubs of Georgia ignored a call for solidarity. When regulations were changed to a 1000-acre rule amongst others, 30% of the organized clubs folded, and 20% of the license holders did likewise. In 2009, 34 (all) fox pens in Florida were closed statewide due to HSUS efforts and failure of pen owners to organize or get involved. In North Carolina, hound hunters, plagued by attacks, are led by a lobbyist who has to charge larger clubs \$500 and smaller clubs \$250 to carry out the fight. In 2011 an attempt was made to pave the way for the introduction of the 1000 acre Georgia rule.

For the past three years, Virginia hunt clubs have had the VaHDA fighting and winning battles to protect your hunting rights. A successful strategy going forward involves skilled lobbying at the legislative level, grass roots organizing at each local county level, and a well-oiled system of communicating with politicians and among ourselves at both levels. We cannot achieve these goals without your support. Now is the time to get involved.

Please do not ignore this request for support. This fight can only be won if we all stand together. We have an obligation to our children and grandchildren to defend the Heritage that has been entrusted to THIS GENERATION. Most of us can trace our family roots back to the patriots who founded this great country. Our enemies are at the gate. The time has come for our patriot blood to boil and stand together. The amounts needed are inconsequential to each individual, but significant to the overall fight.

**The VaHDA needs your financial support TODAY. Stand United with the VaHDA and be a patriot. Please send your donations to the address above.**

Jim Hackett  
State Chairman