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## Dogs at Bay

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If someone moved to Manhattan and then complained that there was no place nearby to go fly fishing, you'd think he was a couple of cards short of a full deck. Likewise, if a Manhattanite moved to Kilmarnock and then complained that there was no deli within walking distance, you would wonder how many ants short of a picnic he was.

But according to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, some newcomers who have moved to rural Virginia have been dismayed to discover people hunt with dogs. Indeed, tens of thousands of Virginians do just that — sometimes noisily, and often at hours that must seem odd to city folk.

There has been an increase in complaints about dog hunting. Complainers have been particularly upset when hunting dogs stray onto their land and the hunters show up to retrieve them.

No doubt some hunters trespass on the patience, never mind the property, of their neighbors, and could use a refresher course in etiquette. On the other hand, it's slightly ridiculous to move out of town in search of the charms of the country — and then gripe about it when you find them.

Hunters should do their best to keep their dogs off the property of people who haven't given permission to hunt on their land. But newcomers should also realize property lines in the great outdoors can be difficult to discern. Maybe they should acquaint themselves with an old country trick that's often used to discourage unwanted guests: building a fence.