

## Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance

### Sunday Hunting

The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance has adopted a position opposing hunting on Sunday for many reasons. It is first and foremost an expression of the vast majority of our membership, even though all may not subscribe to all of the stated reasons in this paper.

1. The first and foremost reason is our faith. The Fourth Commandment is reason enough to oppose hunting on Sunday. **"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God."**<sup>1</sup> We also recognize that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
2. We believe that all can use a day of rest. It is a time to recover and reflect. You may look for lost dogs or game animals, declared by the law to be hunting, but the retrieval of lost sheep is consistent with the gospel. We believe that the hunted also benefit from the day of rest.
3. We believe landowners want a day to rest. To enjoy the quiet of their property, absent their guests of the rest of the week, no matter how welcome they may be at other times. Sunday is a day of reflection.
4. We believe that even the most supportive families would benefit from this positive statement of family values.
5. Other outdoor users appreciate a day to themselves. Without this day, they may turn against the selfish hunters who demand hunting on Sunday and place all hunting at risk. Remember all hunting is not done on large private tracts.
6. Virginia has the most generous limits on deer kill of any state in the nation. No hunter, no matter how they plead otherwise, is so deprived as not to be able to find an opportunity to hunt during the long seasons. We acknowledge that some of our number have a limited number of vacation days, but believe that resulting public opinion would inescapably be negative, and give anti-hunters a big hammer to bludgeon us with.
7. Modern wildlife management bases its hunting seasons on range carrying capacities, species reproductive rates and mortality rates. One significant factor in determining any hunting season is the number of animals harvested by hunters. The number of animals harvested by hunters is determined by man-days a field times the success rate. Most studies have shown that typically 40% of total man-hours of hunting occur on Saturday. The addition of Sunday would be certain to require the eventual adjustment of the seasons for most if not all species that are hunted. This would result in the eventual shortening of the hunting season.

The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance acknowledges that hunters are coming to Virginia from other areas having Sunday hunting. Many areas allow other practices that have also long been against the law in Virginia such as hunting over bait and hunting big game animals in small enclosures. We see no reason to support hunting on Sunday in the Commonwealth of Virginia at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://70030.netministry.com/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=34808&columnid=3803>