



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

---

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622  
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • [www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com)

**Date:** 30 March 2011  
**To:** House Game and Fisheries Committee  
**From:** Kip Adams, Northern Director of Education and Outreach  
**Re:** HB 881

---

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for HB 881 which would allow the use of leashed tracking dogs to help recover wounded big game animals. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has 50,000 members nationwide with Pennsylvania ranking fifth in statewide membership. Our membership includes more than 2,500 of the nation's leading wildlife and forestry professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

The inability to locate a wounded game animal is devastating to a hunter. Irrespective of skill level, most hunters will at some point in their hunting career be unable to find an animal they have wounded. Rain, terrain and several other factors can play a role in these unfortunate situations, but regardless of cause, society does not like to see or hear about such events. Hunters and policy makers have a moral and ethical responsibility to do everything in their power to make sure every wounded animal is recovered.

Twenty-six states in the East and Midwest have helped reduce the rate that wounded animals are not located by allowing the use of leashed tracking dogs. Trained dogs can be extremely effective at locating wounded or dead game, and since they are leashed they do not harass other wildlife. Tracking dogs locate specific animals by following blood and scent of the wounded individual rather than haphazardly searching for other animals. Their use has received overwhelming support in these states. This common-sense measure has also helped improve hunting's public image by providing ethical hunters with another tool to demonstrate their dedication to and appreciation of the wildlife resource.

In closing, we ask your support for HB 881. The Bill is good for hunters, society and Pennsylvania's natural resources. Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

*Kip Adams*

Kip Adams  
Northern Director of Education & Outreach