

Ontario Hawking Club

Sponsor & Apprentice Agreement

1. Sponsor Responsibilities/Expectations

As a sponsor, I am an experienced falconer that has actively hunted wild quarry with multiple raptors for a period of at least 5 years and therefore qualified to instruct my apprentice in the sport of falconry.

I understand that I am accepting the responsibility of instructing and mentoring my apprentice. Although my sponsorship is voluntary, when I make the decision to take on an apprentice, I am dedicated to helping them pursue the the taking of wild quarry with a trained raptor in a legal, ethical manner.

I agree to the following:

1. I will be reasonably available to my apprentice for hands-on instruction as often as possible.
2. I will instruct my apprentice on the proper care and handling of a raptor, including proper falconry equipment and its use.
3. I will ensure my apprentice is carefully instructed on maintaining the overall health of their raptor, emphasizing the importance of: high quality diet, clean water, and proper housing/tethering to prevent damage to legs, feet, and plumage.
4. I will assist my apprentice with the trapping, manning, training, and hunting of their raptor.
5. As often as possible, I will demonstrate hunting with my own raptor.
6. I will ensure that my apprentice is aware of how to conduct themselves ethically and lawfully, including responsible posting to social media, the treatment of landowners, wildlife and other falconers.
7. I will conduct myself ethically and respectfully at all times, including treating my apprentice with dignity during our interactions.

What I can expect from my Apprentice:

1. I can expect that my apprentice will keep his/her raptor in good feather and in good health and conditioning through proper exercise and flying.
2. My apprentice will earn advancement to a general falconry licence by showing me success with his/her raptor in: field control, hunting opportunities, and hunting success.
3. I understand that if my apprentice is unable or unwilling to: train their raptor, take wild quarry, provide good care, and uphold the ethics of falconry that I may withdraw my sponsorship by notifying them and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

2. Apprentice Responsibilities/Expectations

As an apprentice, I understand that I am accepting the responsibility of training under a sponsor to learn the sport of falconry. Specifically, I agree to successfully train a raptor to hunt and take wild game cooperatively with me.

I agree to the following:

1. I understand and uphold that falconry is the taking of wild quarry in its natural state with a trained raptor. Imprinted or previously trained raptors are not suitable.
2. I am a hunter or am dedicated to becoming a hunter. I understand that as an apprentice falconer, I will be helping my raptor hunt and kill wild game such as rabbits, squirrels, English house sparrows, starlings, etc.
3. I am required to have a valid Ontario Small Game Hunting license and I understand that if I do not actively pursue wild game with my raptor, I will be removed from sponsorship and/or not advanced to a general falconry licence. I understand and agree that it is unacceptable for me to keep a raptor as a pet.
4. I will strive to practice falconry at a high level of competence, sportsmanship and ethics.
5. I understand my sponsor is volunteering, and he/she has the right to withdraw sponsorship at any time. Sponsorship is typically withdrawn if the sponsor feels that I am not changing behavior deemed inappropriate after I am given feedback and instruction on properly caring for, handling or actively hunting my raptor. Further, I understand my sponsor will only pass me on to general falconry licence if I am successful as an apprentice as outlined below in part 3.
6. I agree to be familiar with and uphold all the applicable provincial laws and regulations regarding falconry. Provincial falconry regulations require an apprentice period of at least 15 months including two October hunting seasons. However, a sponsor is not required to sign off until the apprentice has proved their competence.
7. I understand that I will be expected to conduct myself professionally in public and use careful judgment about televised or printed media, including posting on any social media venue.
8. I will conduct myself ethically and respectfully at all times, including treating my sponsor with dignity during our interactions.

What I Can Expect From My Sponsor:

1. I can expect that my sponsor will provide hands on instruction whenever reasonably possible in areas of: trapping, manning, training, housing, health-care, equipment, hunting, legalities, and ethics.

2. I can reasonably expect that my sponsor will allow me access to additional mentors or information that he/she has not directly provided, given an effort is made by me to communicate with him/her in order to seamlessly incorporate ideas, concepts and techniques into my raptor's training regime.
3. I can expect that if my sponsor is unable or unwilling to provide me with instruction that I have the right to acquire another sponsor.

2. How success is measured by my sponsor & other falconers

The apprentices's success is measured by the raptor's

1. **Good Health:** I will provide them with high quality food, monitor their weight closely, and be observant of, and treat any illnesses. I will not hesitate to pay for professional veterinarian care when necessary.
2. **Good Feather:** little to no feather breakage unless it occurs while struggling with game.
3. **Good Conditioning:** hunting once a day or 3 times a week provides only basic exercise for raptors. Hawks and falcons that do other exercises (i.e. jump-ups) are healthier, faster, more successful hunters.
4. **Field Control:** I will have solid field control of my raptor as shown by recall and pick up.
5. **Hunting Opportunities / Success:** The more slips and opportunities I provide for my raptor, the more successful we will be.
6. **Additionally, by the apprentice's ethics:** I will endeavour to be a responsible falconer, conscious of public opinion, the reputation of falconry and the OHC, and conducting myself in a legal and sportsman like manner.

APPRENTICE Signature

Date

APPRENTICE Printed Name

SPONSOR Signature

Date

SPONSOR Printed Name

(document updated: Jan 2019)