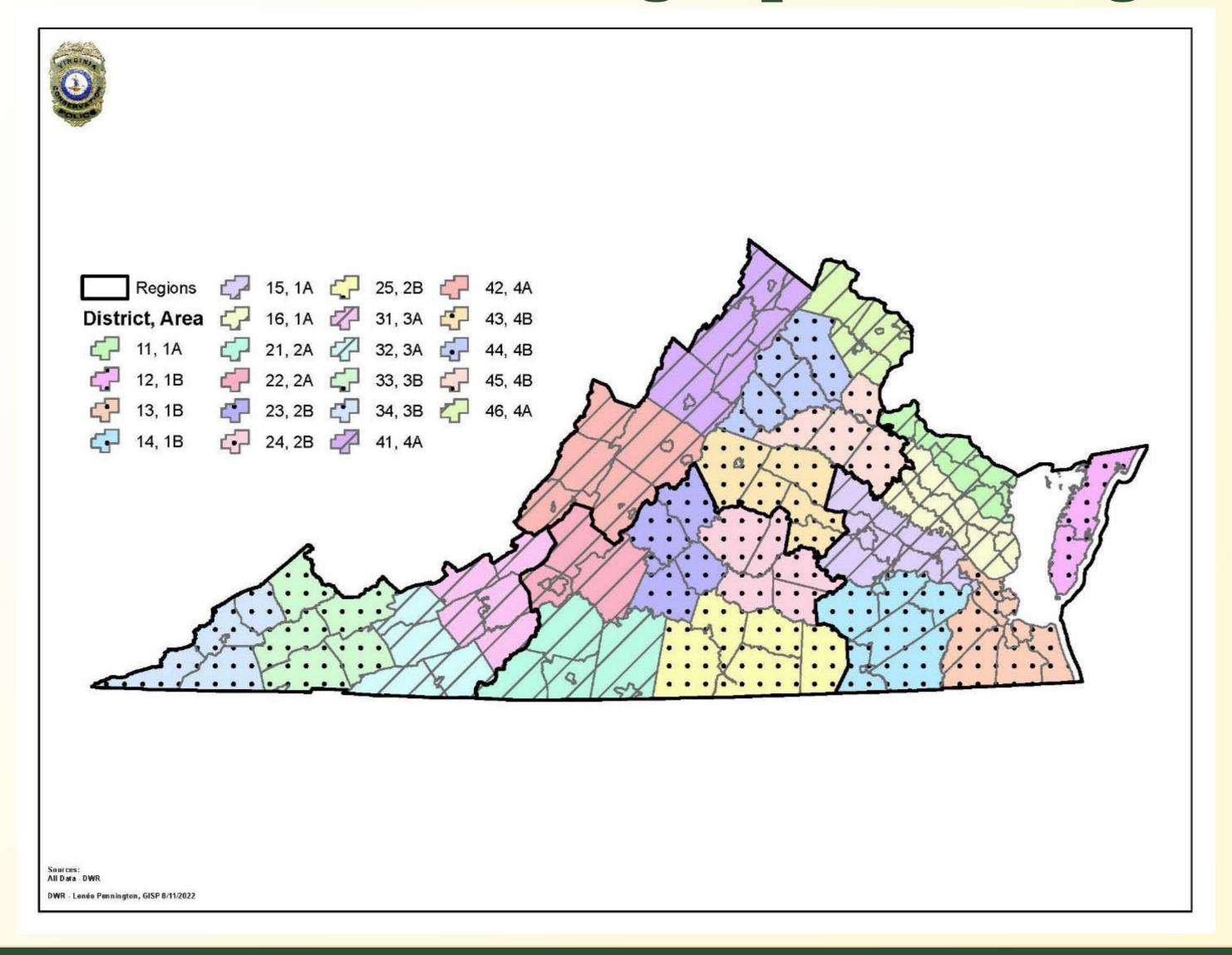


# Conservation Police Officer Staffing Numbers

- Our current approved maximum employee level for all sworn staff is 182
- This number includes all levels of supervision and management (46) as well as administrative positions that work at HQ
  - 1 Colonel
  - 3 Majors (1 designated as the Deputy Chief)
  - 5 Captains
  - 5 Lieutenants (4 operations and 1 administrative)
  - 8 First Sergeants (all are field level)
  - 24 Sergeants (21 field and 3 training)
- Currently hovering around 154 total sworn. This number includes 22 recent academy graduates
- Approved to hire 25 more CPO recruits in February 2024



# Conservation Police Geographical Organization





### Conservation Police Communications Center

- DWR operates a 24-hour dispatch center that dispatches all DWR CPO's as well as DCR Law Enforcement Rangers pursuant to a MOU.
- DWR employees 14 full-time employees in the center
  - This number includes the manager, as well as 2 shift supervisors



### Conservation Police Communications Center

- 2022
- Total CAD calls for service 53,235
- Patrols 20,445
- Hunt/Fish/Boat/Trapping calls for service 5,531
- Wildlife Nuisance/Permit calls for service 4,493
- Service-related type calls 4,241
- Hunting accidents investigated 35
- Boating incidents/sinking/drowning 121
- Distressed/overdue angler-boaters-hunters 226
- Stolen property investigations 133
- Abandoned recovered vessels 179



### Conservation Police Response

- Calls for Service
  - When a complaint is received, the dispatcher creates a call for service (CFS). It is up to the dispatcher to decide, based on the information provided, how to categorize the complaint.
  - The CFS is then picked-up by a CPO via their MDT (vehicle mounted laptop).
  - Depending on the nature of the complaint, the CPO will either respond or contact the complainant
    - We receive a lot of complaints where the caller is looking for a return call and not a physical response.
  - If a response is required, the CPO(s) will respond and either initially meet with the complainant or attempt to locate the reported violation. This varies based on the nature of the complaint.
  - If a violation is detected, the CPO will use their discretion to warn, summons or arrest.



# Conservation Police Response

- Calls for Service (Cont.)
  - If a violation is detected and an enforcement action is taken beyond a verbal warning, a case report will be created that documents the nature of the complaint, offense(s) committed, suspect information, witness information, photographs (when applicable), evidence (when applicable) and a narrative.
    - If contact is made and it is determined that there was not a violation of law, or
      the nature of the complaint is such that a verbal warning is given, a case report
      will not normally be created (officers have the discretion to create a case when
      they feel it necessary).
    - If the complaint involved a hunting dog, a custom form will be completed and attached to the CFS and the case. This is a new procedure implemented in February 2023.



# Conservation Police Response

• The command log is the section in the CFS where the CPO and dispatcher enter notes. This section is what has been searched in the past to pull out all complaints referencing a dog or hound.

CAD Command Log	
09/13/23 18:26:41	New CFS
09/13/23 18:29:04	Log - Boat left at this location now taking on water. boat was recently sold with a house but previous owner has no information on current owner. reg# VA4531BC goes bac owner.
09/13/23 18:29:18 152	Assign
09/13/23 18:39:03	Log - Spoke with Ofc Ashby boat is secured to end of dock with approximately 30 feet of line out from the dock. boat is submerged. Was able to find out that A Solodar Proposity in question 804-282-3203 but no further info.
09/13/23 18:39:17	Log - House address is 323 Koch Ave Richmond
09/13/23 18:40:56	Log - Ofc states boat appears well enough secured to dock that it will not become a hazard to navigation. I will contact VMRC officer that works that area so that they are a follow up tomorrow and try to contact new property owner.
09/13/23 18:48:42 152	Available
09/14/23 07:15:29 166	Assign
09/14/23 07:15:33 166	Enroute
09/14/23 07:16:00 166	Waiting
09/14/23 07:16:09 152, 16	6 Enroute
09/14/23 08:05:44 152, 16	6 On Scene
09/14/23 08:19:56	Log - Boat is tied up to dock, appears to be an abandoned/dumped vessel. Will follow up with Parks and Rec. to have vessel removed.
09/14/23 08:34:28	Log - Waste Water Plant will attempt to pull security footage
09/14/23 08:34:57 152, 16	6 Available
09/14/23 11:56:10 152, 16	5 Assign
09/14/23 11:56:22 152, 16	6 On Scene
09/14/23 12:40:18 152, 16	6 Leaving Scene (Location: enrt to 323 Koch Ave)
09/14/23 12:58:26 152, 16	6 On Scene

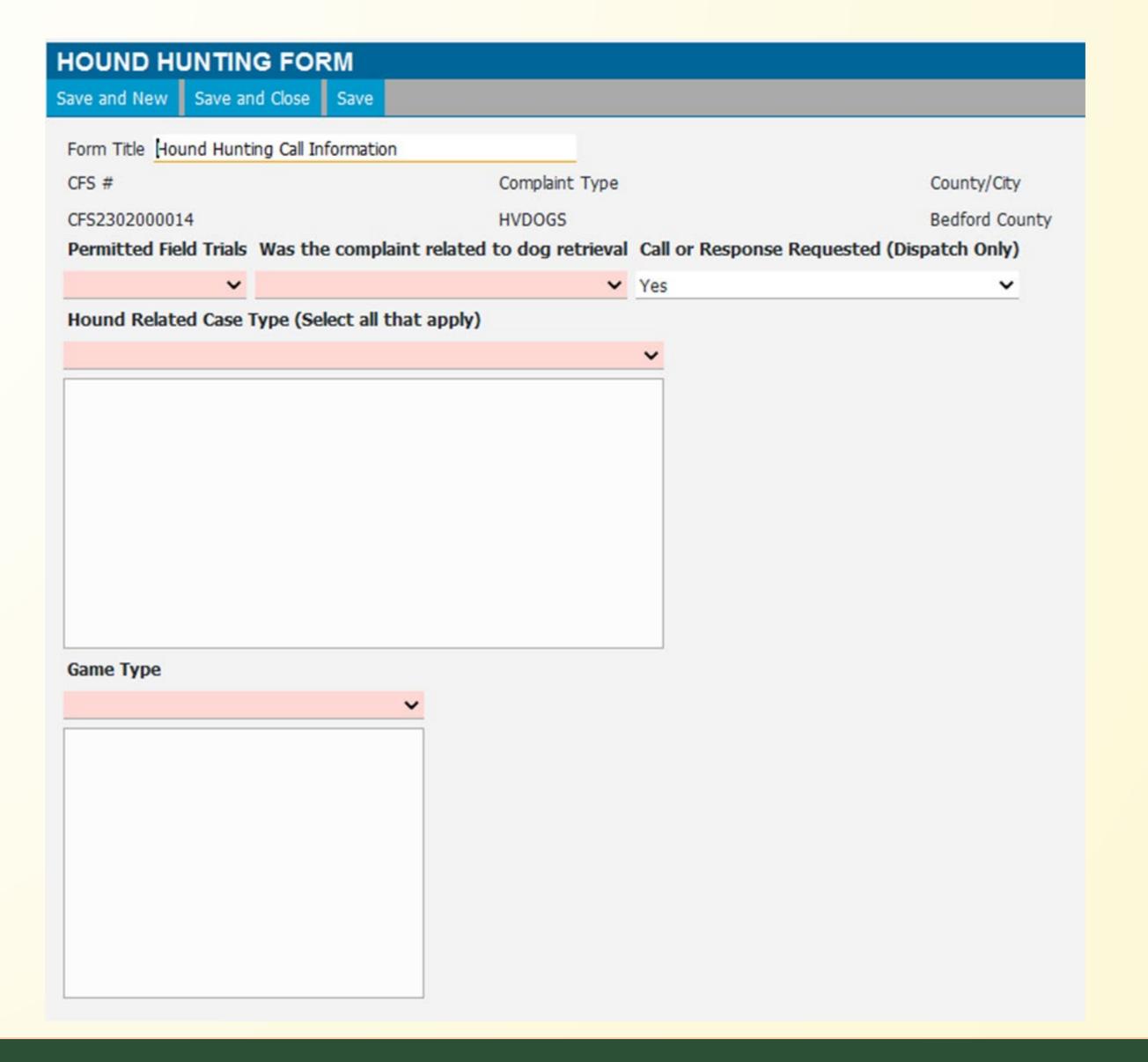


# Dog Hunting Complaints

- Incident Codes
  - **HDOGS**: This call type will be used when the complaint being made does not involve a violation of law. Examples would be when a caller reports hunting dogs running at large across their property, or when a hunter is on foot retrieving a hunting dog, identifies her/himself if asked, and is not armed.
  - **HVDOGS**: This call type will be used when there is a hunting related violation reported that involves a hunting dog, or a person that is actively hunting with dogs.
  - **OMDOGS**: This call type will be used for all other complaints that are received that involve a dog. This call type will primarily be used when communications receive a complaint of a dog running at large on DCR property, etc.
  - All complaints from the public involving a hunting dog will require a CFS and the Hound Hunting Form.



### Conservation Police Documentation





#### Conservation Police Documentation

Dog Related Case Category Fields:

```
01 Dogs running across prohibited property (no violation of law)
02 Dog retrieval (no violation)
03 Dog retrieval (with violation of law)
04 Trespass to hunt with dogs
05 Dog hunting closed season (running dogs outside season)
06 Dog traffic (hunters parking in road right-of-way, reckless driving ect.)
07 Dog injury (shot, caught in a trap)
08 Dogs bait (release dogs on a baited site)
09 Dogs chasing/injuring livestock
10 Dogs ID Tag (hunting dogs without collar/tag)
11 Dog theft (stolen dog)
12 Dog collar theft (take collar off of dog)
13 Hunting Accident while Hunting with Dog(s)
```



#### Conservation Police Documentation

#### Game Type:

```
Big Game - Bear
Big Game - Deer
Big Game - Elk
Big Game - Turkey
Migratory - Other
Migratory - Waterfowl
Non-Game
Protected Federal
Small Game - Coyote/Fox
Small Game - Fowl/Preserve
Small Game - Non-Migratory Birds
Small Game - Other
Small Game - Rabbit
Small Game - Racoon
Small Game - Squirrel
Threatened and Endangered Species
Unknown
```



#### Arrest Procedures

- § 19.2-81. Arrest without warrant authorized in certain cases.
  - 5. Regular conservation police officers appointed pursuant to § 29.1-200;
  - B. Such officers may arrest without a warrant any person who commits any crime in the presence of the officer and any person whom he has reasonable grounds or probable cause to suspect of having committed a felony not in his presence.
  - There are exceptions, but they do not include any of the hunting laws or regulations
  - o If the CPO did not witness the violation, they will need to provide probable cause to a magistrate who can then issue a warrant or magistrate summons that will then need to be served on the suspected offender.



# Common Complaints

- ~48% of all hunting dog related complaints can be lumped into two main categories:
  - 1. Hunting dogs running at large -(371) = 21%
  - 2. Trespassing to hunt with dogs -(491) = 27%



# Additional Complaint Data

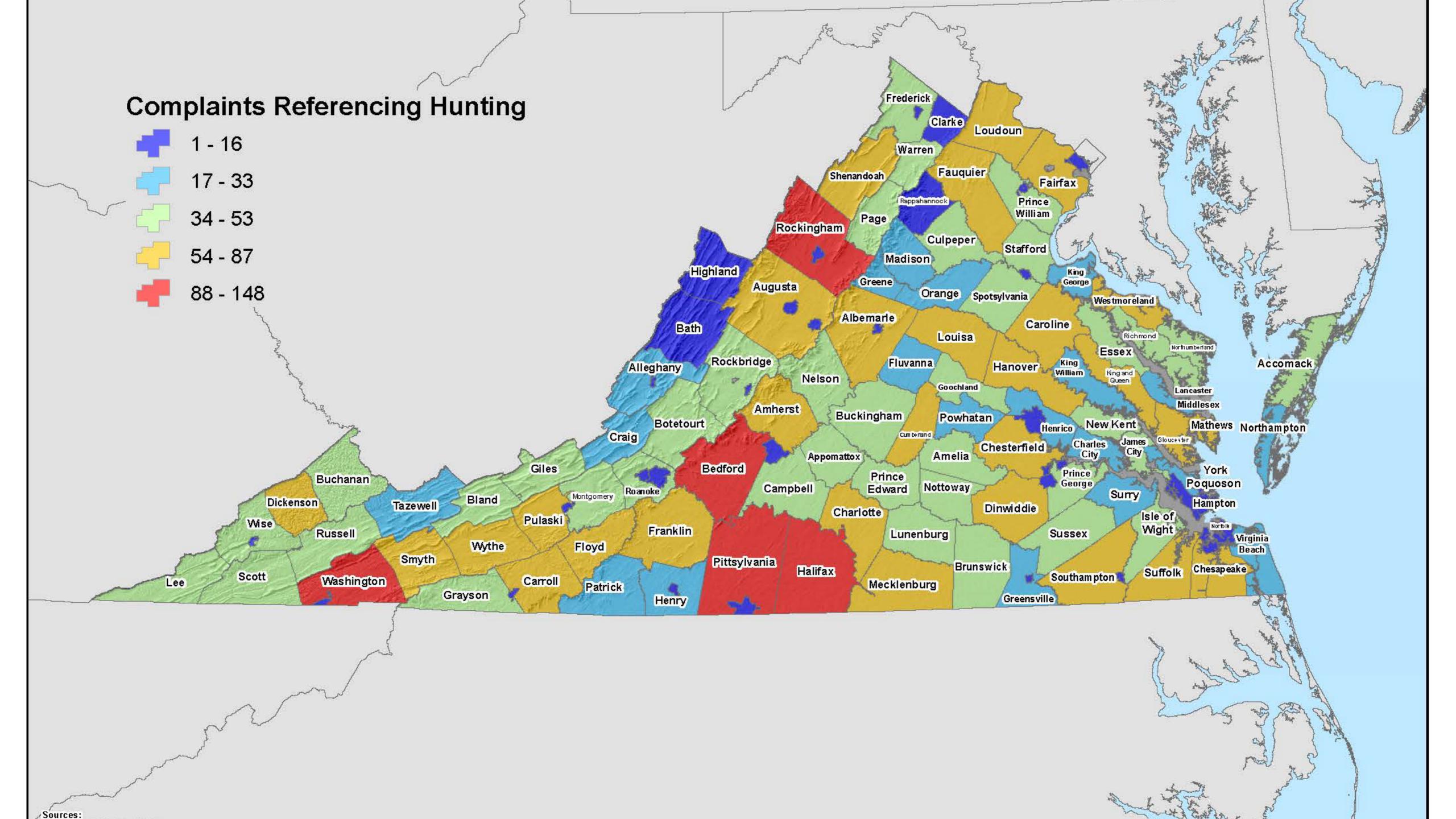
- 50 complaints of hunting dog retrieval
- 313 complaints requesting a call back from a CPO referencing hunting dogs
- 41 calls from local LE requesting assistance with a hunting dog related complaint
- 37 closed season hunting complaints reference hunting dogs
- 50 CFS's reference hunters in the road while hunting with dogs
- 12 CFS's involving the complaint of a tracking collar being removed
- 14 CFS's involving the complaint of a hunting dog being killed or injured

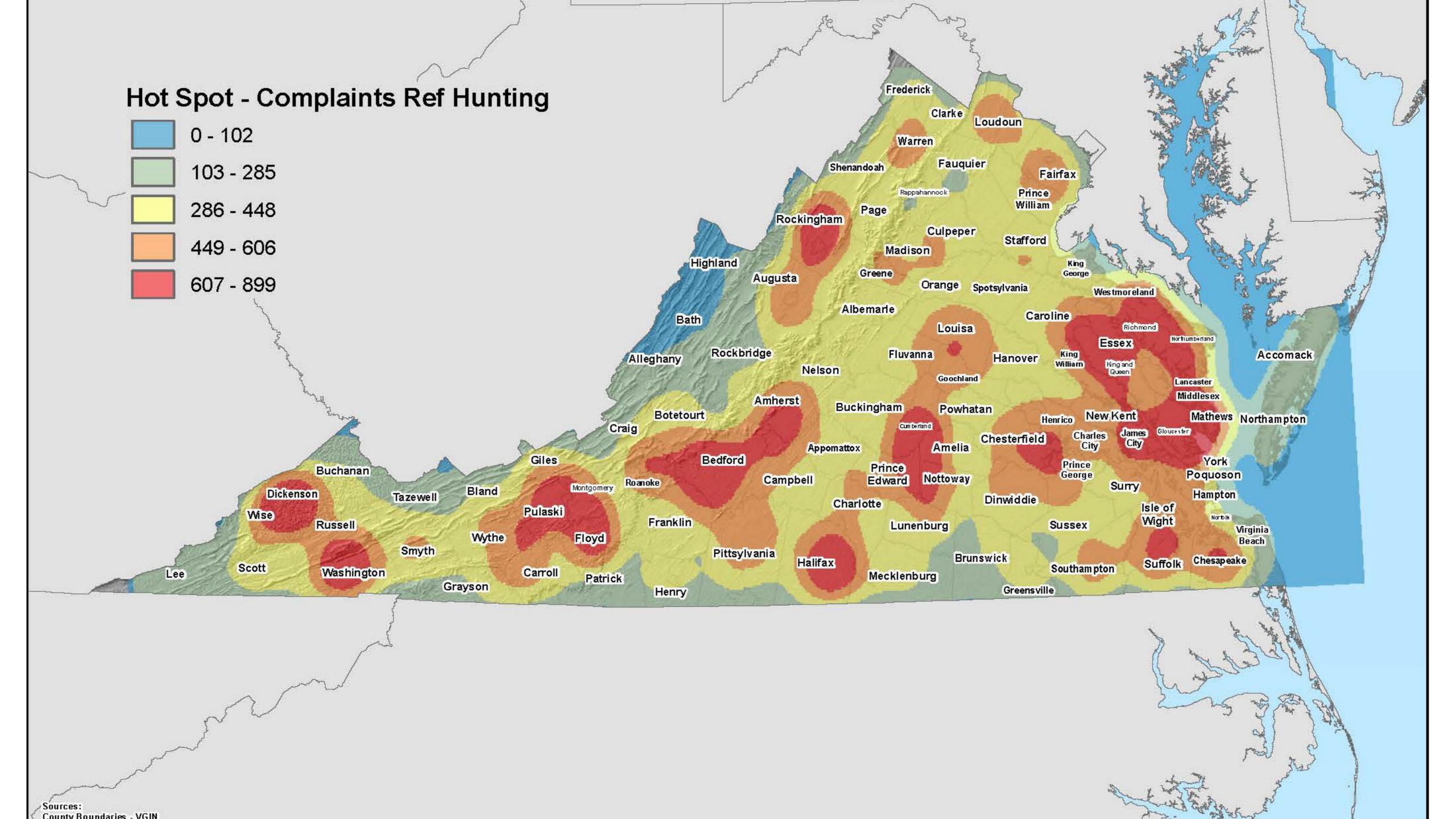


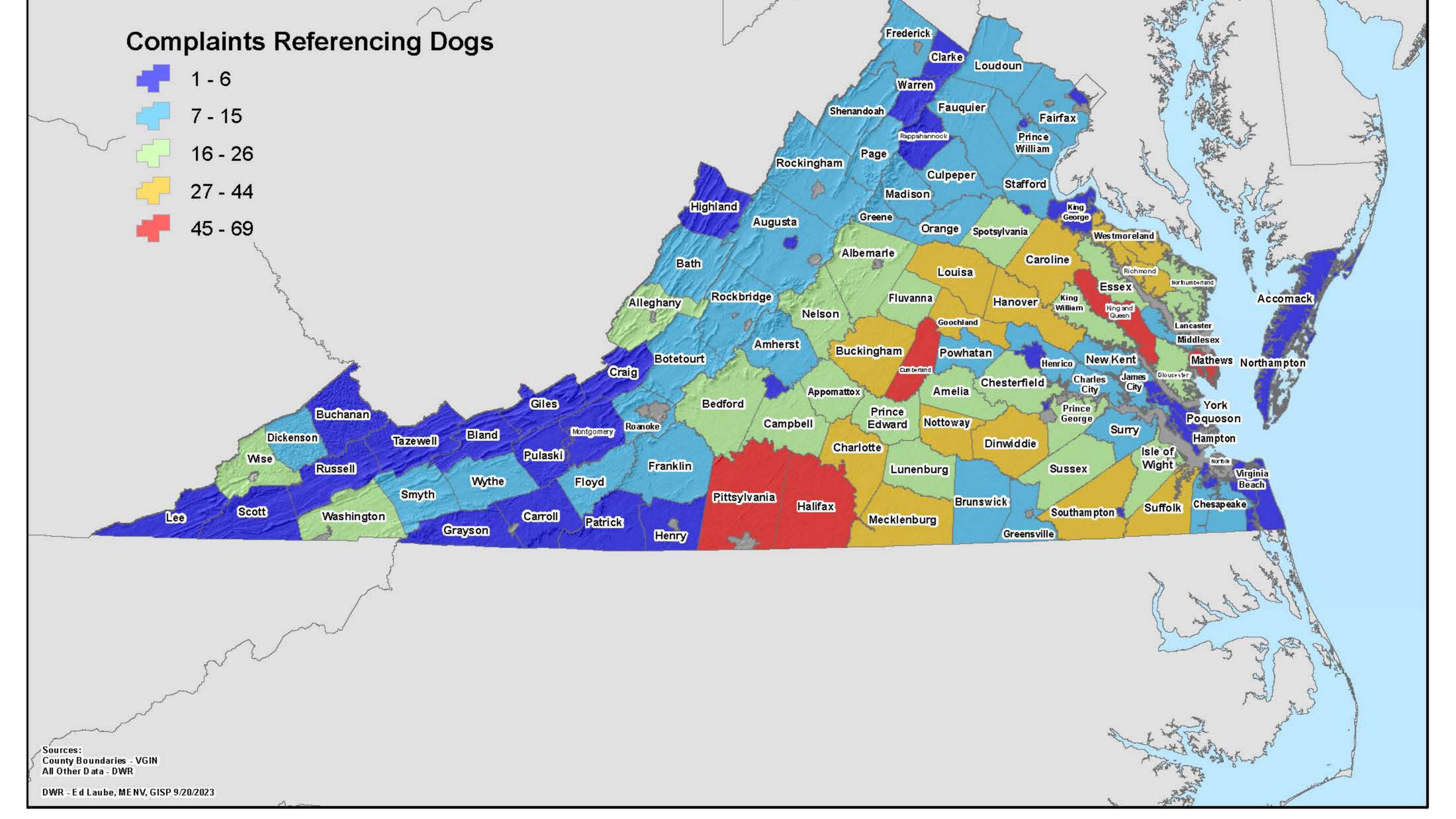
# Hunting Dog Summons Data

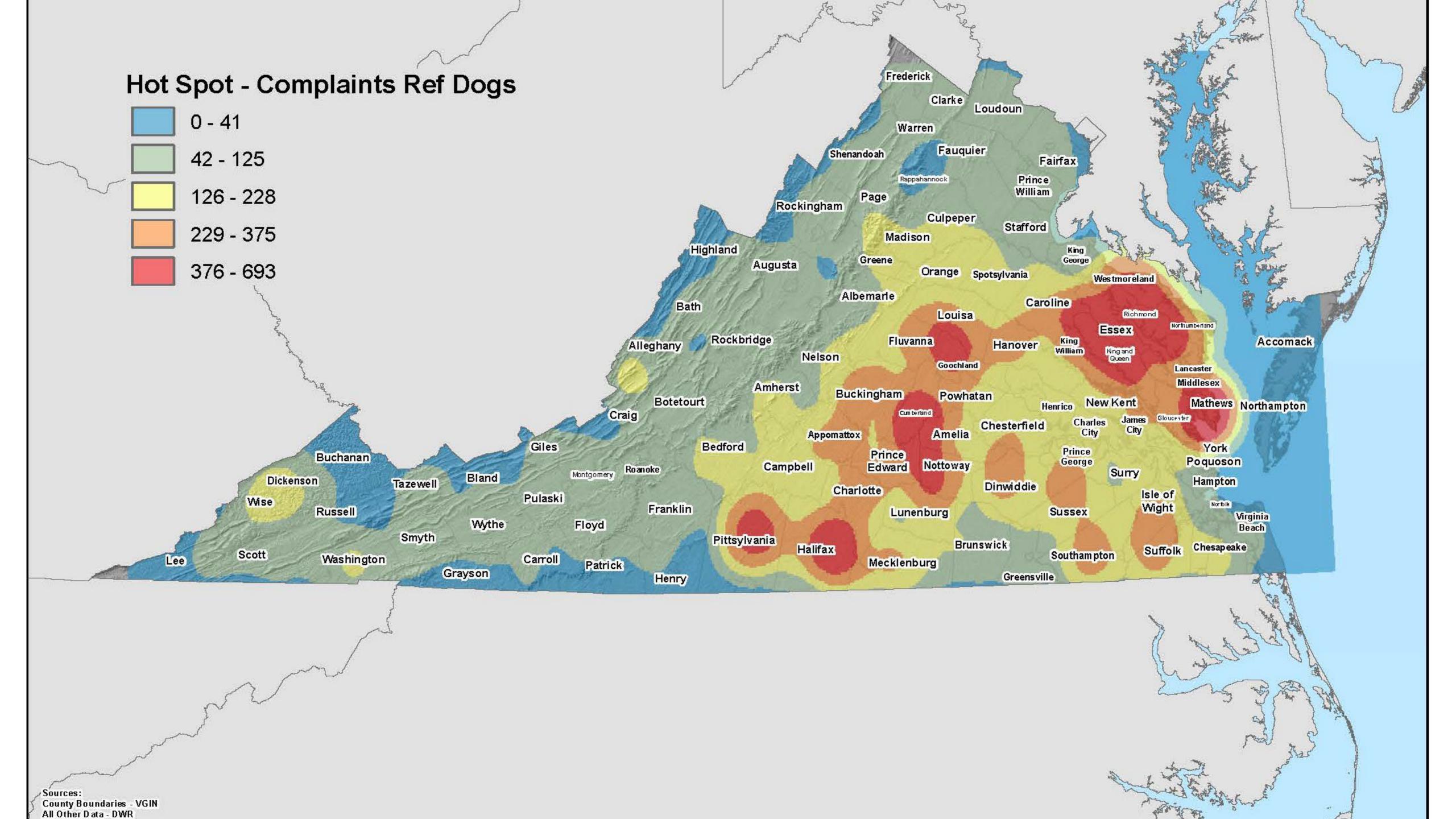
- · 199 total summonses issued in 2022 where a hunting dog was involved
  - 8 hunting incident with dogs
  - 133 general hunting violations with dogs
    - ex. License violation by a hound hunter
  - 5 killed or injured hunting dog
  - 3 non-hunting dog related (pets)
  - 3 tracking collar removal
  - 8 stopping in the road to retrieve dogs
  - 19 trespass to hunt with dogs
  - 20 trespass to retrieve dogs

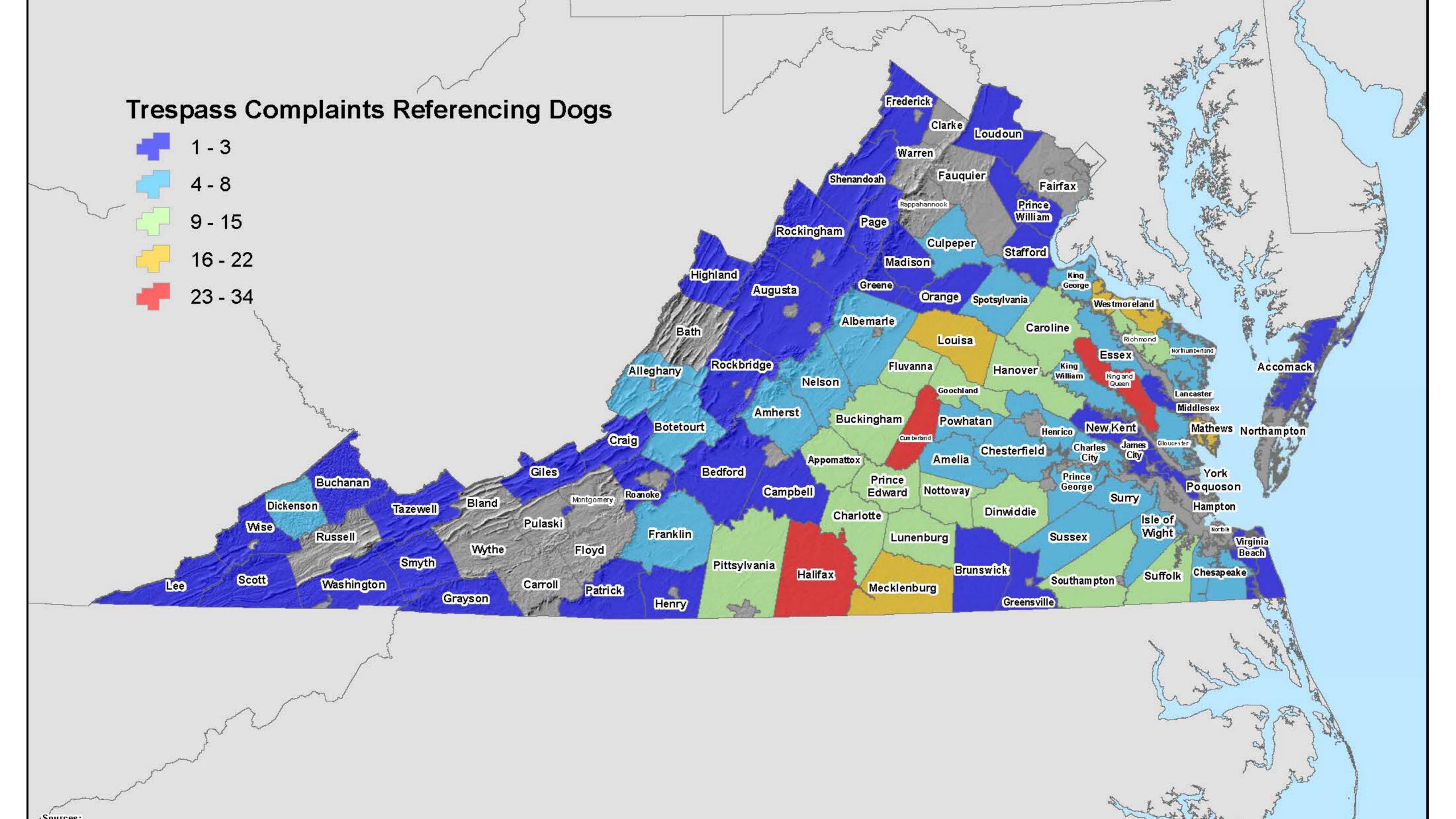


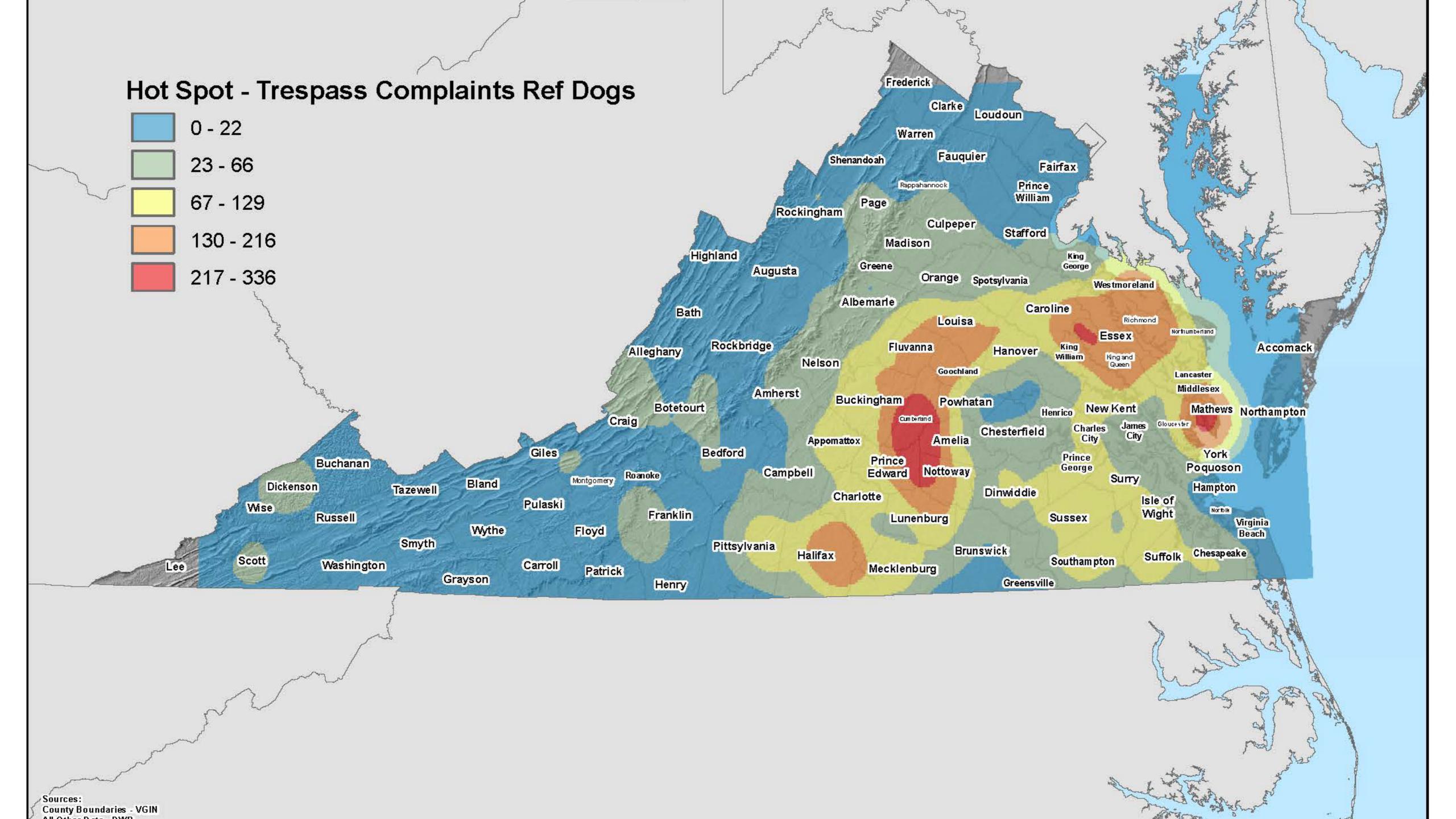


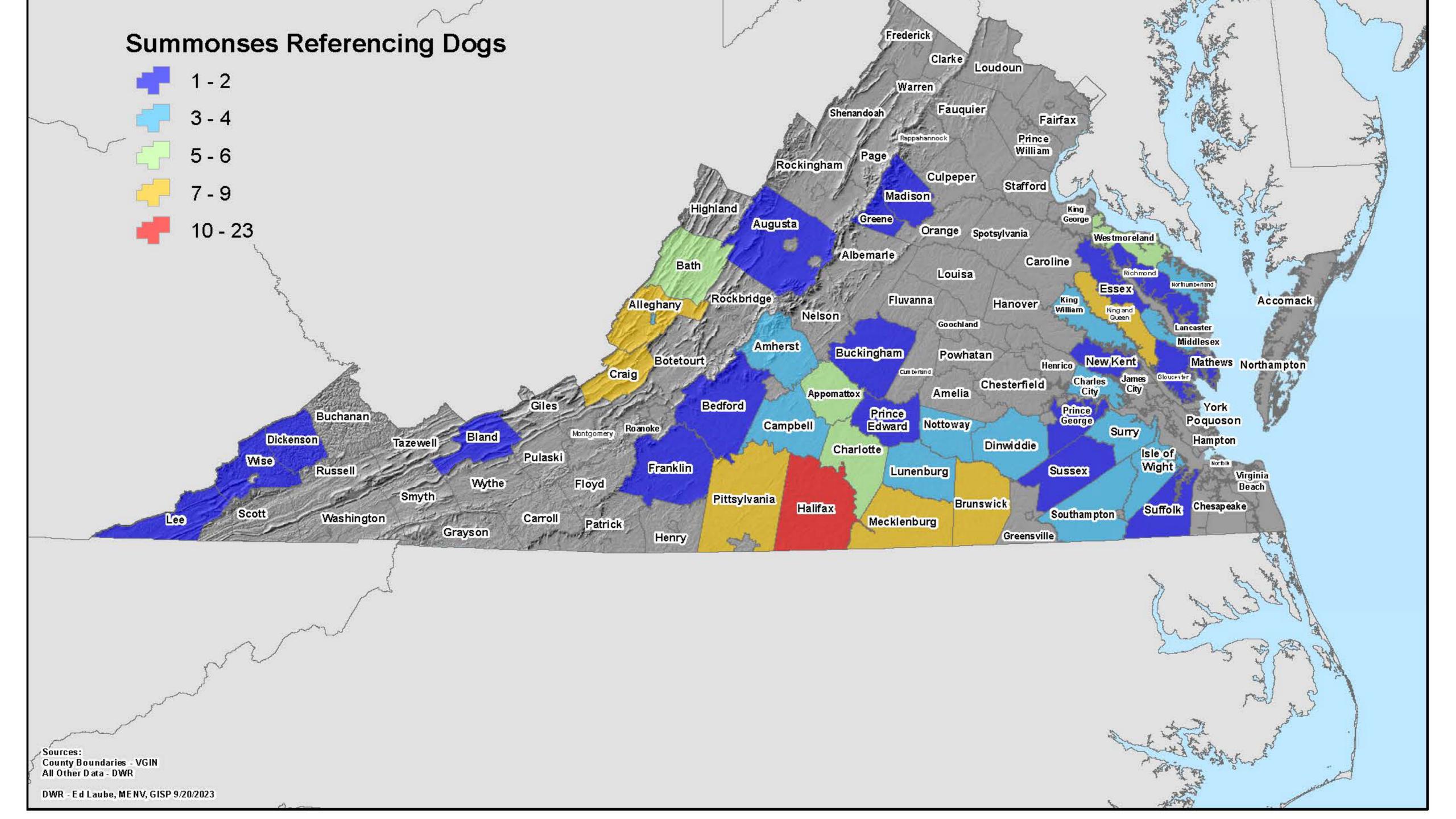


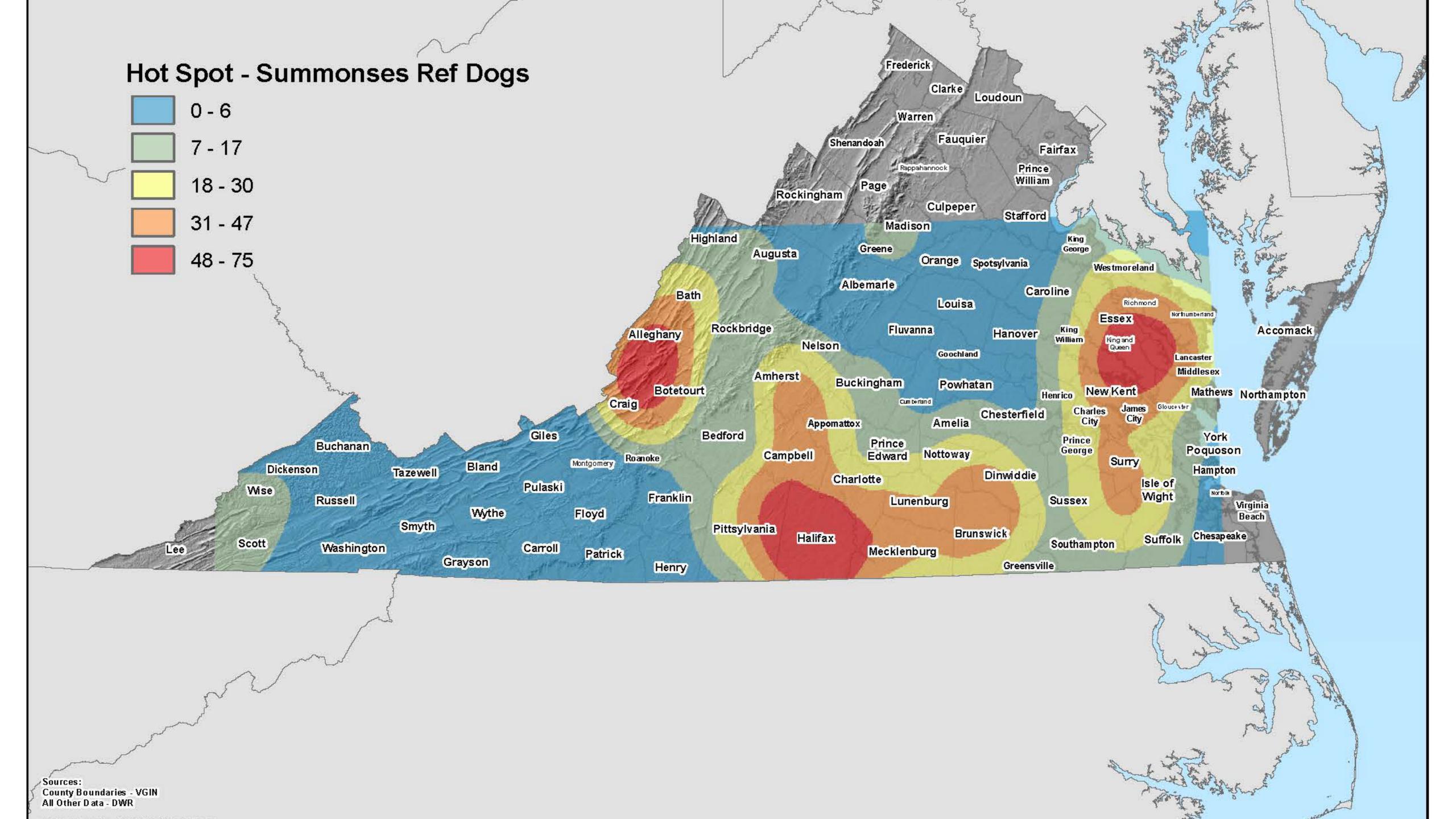












# Common Complaints / Summonses

• § 18.2-132.1. Trespass by hunters using dogs; penalty.

