

Hunter Conduct And Safety (Taken from Property Based Wildlife Management Plan)

Property Hunters

Think about the number of hunters who can safely operate on your property and your shooting needs.

What working arrangements need to be put in place.

If you have hunting groups should there be membership criteria and arrangements

Would hunters be required to be covered by separate insurance, such as that offered by some hunting/shooting associations.

Do you require hunters to sign a waiver and indemnity prior to shooting commencing.

It is a good idea to record hunter contact details. This may involve selecting one main contact for each group.

Hunter / Hunting Group Objectives:

- To retain access to the property for hunting.
- Have the opportunity to participate in social gathering and develop friendships with like-minded people.
- To actively participate in a successful property-based wildlife management plan.
- To improve wild deer herd quality through the implementation of Quality Deer Management practices.
- To provide hunters with the opportunity to be involved with wildlife management and control on the property.
- To ensure that sustainable wildlife populations are maintained for future generations.
- To provide education, training and hunting opportunities to young hunters.
- To maintain effective lines of communication between hunters and property management.
- To conduct organised wildlife culling programs as required by the Owner.
- To participate in the collection of data which will provide for the better management of wildlife on the property.

Agreement / Hunter Responsibilities

- Payment of the agreed property entry fee.
- Payment of hunting group membership fee.
- Regular attendance at hunter group meetings.
- Minimum of ____ trips per year (non-deer season) to control wallaby, possum and other wildlife species.
- Recording the details of all wildlife species taken and seen on the property.
- Ethical, lawful and responsible conduct whilst on the property.
- Where game hunting, holder of the relevant game licence (wallaby, deer, duck, pheasant or quail).
- Compliance with the property rules and the provisions of this management plan.
- Reporting any suspicious activities to property management or the authorities and record relevant data in property's logbook.
- Participation in initiatives to deter poaching.
- Approval from the property Owners is needed if hunters wish to bring guests on to the property. All guests must be accompanied by a property hunter.

Property Security

Would property hunters be your agents, and therefore authorised under the Police Offences Act to ask for the names and addresses of people trespassing and to request that they leave the property immediately by the most direct route?

Are there any other security issues on your property?

Additional Permitted Activities

Are there activities hunters would, or would not be permitted to do on your property? These may be fishing, camping, firewood cutting (require a current chainsaw certificate?), bushwalking, horse riding, use of motorbikes and hunting dogs.

Hunter Code Of Safety

One of the main objectives of firearm safety is to reduce the incidence of firearm accidents. In reality, there is no such thing as a firearm accident. In every case at least one of the firearms safety rules will have been broken. It is essential that all hunters are aware of their responsibilities to themselves, their family and to fellow hunters. Therefore, all hunters are required to abide by the following Firearms Safety rules suggested by the Police.

1. Treat Every Firearm As Being Loaded

Check every firearm yourself. Ensure that the firearm is unloaded and that the action is open when carrying, accepting, passing or when removing it from storage. Remember, it is the "empty" firearm that kills.

2. Always Point Firearms In A Safe Direction

Whether loaded or unloaded, make sure that the muzzle is pointed in a SAFE direction.

3. Never Have Loaded Firearms In The Car, Home Or Camp

Ensure that when entering a car, house or camp all ammunition has been removed from all firearms.

4. Identify Your Target And What Is Behind It

Make certain of your target before shooting, also be aware of what is behind your target.

5. Never Fire At A Hard Surface Or Water

Consider the area your target is in: could a ricochet occur? A ricochet will almost certainly result from shooting at smooth or flat surfaces, water or rocks.

6. Store Ammunition And Firearms Separately

When not in use, your ammunition and your firearm are to be stored separately under lock and key in appropriate cabinets.

7. No Alcohol Or Drugs Prior To Or During The Use Of Firearms

Alcohol, drugs and medicines impair judgement. Good judgement is the key to the safe use of firearms.

8. Do Not Climb Fences Or Obstacles With Loaded Firearms

Make sure before attempting to climb through the fence or negotiate any obstacle that your firearm is unloaded. Do not rely on safety catches.

Observe this code and insist that others do the same.

An Example Of Property Rules

All hunters are required to:

- Act in a responsible and ethical manner at all times.
- Not exceed the speed limit of 40 kph on any property road, especially at night.
- Drive only on formed tracks, especially during severe weather.
- Seek approval from property management before lighting fires.
- Avoid causing damage to locks, fences, gates or any other such structures.
- Sign a 'Waiver and Indemnity' form before hunting on the property.
- Record the species and number of animals sighted and harvested in the data collection book before leaving the property.
- Foster good relations with fellow hunters, neighbouring property personnel, DPI/PWE officers and the Police.
- Dispose of all rubbish, especially around camp sites. Take all litter home, including that which is not yours.
- Notify property management of any broken fences, escaped stock or property that has been vandalised.
- Promote and participate in the conservation of all flora and fauna.
- Take care not to disturb stock or cause damage to trees.
- Minimise disturbance to property works and activities.
- Ensure all camp fires are extinguished prior to leaving the property.
- Hunt only on their allocated hunting area unless special permission is obtained from the Owner to hunt another area.
- Attend the property on the number of visits as determined by the Owners for the control of browsing animals and to assist with property security.