



# Modern Hunting in South Australia

A guide for responsible and sustainable hunting



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## Foreword

### Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Responsible hunters all over the world have a major contribution to supporting environmental and wildlife conservation, and South Australia is no exception. It is important for South Australia to encourage responsible hunting, as it plays an important role in environmental and wildlife conservation. For this reason, I am pleased to be involved in the development of a comprehensive Hunting Guide for South Australia.

South Australia has experienced significant changes to its natural environment. As in the rest of the world, wildlife and its natural habitat are declining, while human related demands on natural systems are increasing.

With the widely recognised benefits of spending time in nature on both human physical and mental health being more broadly understood and promoted, it is not surprising that in the early part of the 21st century our largely urban population is seeking to spend more time in the great outdoors for relaxation and recreation, although this shift comes at a time when the natural environment is changing.

Hunters have a special interest in the sustainable management of wildlife and the natural environment that supports it. The modern hunter accepts the accountability that comes with their recreation and recognises the need to act as ambassadors for hunting in a broad conservation context. Without this commitment and compliance with the rules and regulations that underpin hunting, there will, of course, be declining opportunities to hunt for future generations.

The hunting community has many important opportunities to contribute to the monitoring and conservation of wildlife, feral animal management and the restoration of important wildlife habitats on both public and private lands, which I believe gives great effect to their extraordinary relationship with the environment.

I hope this guide helps improve hunting practices and the contribution of hunters to wildlife conservation and our unique natural environment in South Australia.



**JOHN SCHUTZ**  
*Director of National Parks and Wildlife*



## Foreword

### CHASA Chairman

The Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia (CHASA) is proud to launch the first comprehensive guide to Modern Hunting in South Australia so that the wisdom of seasoned hunters representing over 200 years of hunting experience in Australia, is shared with future generations of new and intending hunters.

The guide is a product of the collaboration between hunters and our State Government, being the first hunting guide in South Australia to include all forms of hunting. It has had significant input from the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA).

The guide aims to grow our modern hunting community and keep hunters and intending hunters informed about hunting opportunities, hunting seasons and modern hunting practices, ensuring hunting continues to deliver social, environmental and economic benefits to South Australia.

The term "modern hunting" recognises the importance of environmental care and wellbeing that develops through being in nature and experiencing natural cycles, at a time when urbanisation is disconnecting people from nature and increasing pressure on wildlife habitats.

The hunting community in South Australia has an outstanding track record in responsible hunting, conserving native species through feral animal management programs and restoration of important wildlife habitats, especially our precious wetlands. The benefits of modern hunting are many, including:

- sourcing healthy wild food
- connecting with nature and caring for it
- maintaining mental health and wellbeing
- maintaining links between urban and rural communities
- nurturing friendships built over generations
- securing resources to maintain healthy habitats and rejuvenate habitats in need
- monitoring, protecting and assisting populations of threatened native species
- collaborating with like-minded organisations to achieve mutual objectives of no-species loss.

Whether you are a seasoned hunter or a novice, please share the guide and consider joining a modern hunting organisation (see page 56) to learn from experience.



**TONY SHARLEY**  
*Chairman, CHASA*



# Summary of Hunting in SA

Introduced (feral) animals	Unprotected native animals	Protected native animals (duck and quail)	Protected native animals (other than duck and quail)
Introduced (feral) animals may be hunted at any time.	Unprotected native animals may be hunted at any time.	Only the prescribed species declared by the Minister may be hunted. Duck and quail may be hunted only during declared open seasons.	Hunting is not permitted at any time. Destruction of protected animals must be undertaken in accordance with the appropriate Code of Practice <sup>^</sup> .
A Basic Hunting Permit is required unless:  1. the person carrying out the destruction of introduced (feral) animals is the landowner, a member of their household, or an employee or agent of the landowner, and  2. the introduced (feral) animals are causing damage to crops, stock or other property.	A Basic Hunting Permit is required unless:  1. the person carrying out the destruction of unprotected native animals is the landowner, a member of their household, or an employee or agent of the landowner, and  2. the unprotected native animals are causing damage to crops, stock or other property.	An Open Season Duck Hunting Permit is required to hunt duck.  An Open Season Quail Hunting Permit is required to hunt quail.	A Permit to Destroy Wildlife is required and granted to the landholder where protected animals are causing or likely to cause damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the environment or to crops, stock or other property</li><li>environmental amenity (including built structures), or that</li><li>pose a safety risk or hazard to people or industry.</li></ul> All persons assisting the landholder with the destruction of wildlife must be listed on this permit.
For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rabbit</li><li>Hare</li><li>Cat</li><li>Fox</li><li>Goat</li><li>Pig</li><li>Deer</li><li>Donkey</li><li>Horse</li><li>Camel</li></ul>	As listed in Schedule 10 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Zebra Finch</li><li>Budgerigar</li><li>Red Wattlebird</li><li>Grey-backed Silvereye</li><li>Galah*</li><li>Little Corella*</li><li>Australian Raven</li><li>Little Crow</li><li>Australian Crow</li><li>Little Raven</li><li>Wild Dog (Dingo)</li></ul> *where Galahs or Little Corellas are hunted (taken) from the wild (as chicks or young flyers) for the live pet trade then the following permits are needed: Hunt (Take) Juvenile Galahs and/or Little Corellas from the Nest or Hunt (Take) Juvenile Galahs and/or Little Corellas by Trapping	Duck species <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maned (Australian Wood) duck</li><li>Pacific Black duck</li><li>Grey Teal</li><li>Chestnut Teal</li><li>Australian Shelduck (Mountain duck)</li><li>Hardhead</li><li>Pink-eared duck</li><li>Australasian (Blue-winged) Shoveler</li></ul> Quail species <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stubble Quail</li></ul>	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kangaroo</li><li>Wallaby</li><li>Emu</li><li>Wombat</li></ul> Go to the SSAA Farmer Assist website if you would like to assist landholders to manage wildlife issues on their property.  <sup>^</sup> South Australian Codes of Practice for the humane destruction of protected wildlife set out the minimum specifications of firearm and ammunition combinations to be used.  No Code of Practice permits the use of a bow or cross bow.

A ban on the use of hunting with bows and crossbows commenced in South Australia on 1 December 2024. Visit the Department for Environment and Water's website for more details on the ban: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/bowhunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/bowhunting)

# Doing the Right Thing

*Be mindful that the future of hunting depends on how you conduct yourself as a hunter. Every hunter should be an ambassador for hunting.*

## The modern hunter

Hunters tend to have a great appreciation of the natural environment. There are excellent education opportunities for hunters these days, and many hunters now strongly recognise the importance of environmental issues.

The modern hunter contributes to:

- the restoration of wildlife habitats
- the conservation of threatened species
- research to improve wildlife management
- the management of feral animals and exotic plants
- improvements in farm productivity
- regional economies
- their physical and mental wellbeing
- the creation of strong social bonds between landowners, friends and families.

## Multi-use reserves

It's important that hunters and non-hunters treat all Game Reserve users with respect.





## Shotgunning education program

The Shotgunning Education Program was designed to improve duck and quail hunting practices by educating hunters on how to be more efficient and effective in the field.

This program was developed by the Victorian Game Management Authority (GMA) with support from the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA, Victoria) and Field and Game Australia (FGA).

Courses are available in South Australia through the South Australian FGA branches.

Build your capabilities through the program's practical and theoretical training to better understand your equipment, your shooting skill level and hunting methods. Qualified trainers will help improve your shooting skills, range estimation and patterning techniques.

Copies of the Shotgunning Education Handbook are available on the Victorian GMA website [www.gma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au)

For more information about the training workshops, or to register, contact the FGA at [www.safga.org.au](http://www.safga.org.au)

Remember, you still need to pass the separate Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT) to be issued an Open Season Duck Hunting Permit.



## Nontoxic Shot Lethality Table

Tom Roster's 2019 Nontoxic Shot Lethality Table (adapted to South Australian Waterfowl)<sup>®</sup> was developed to assist hunters to select the correct shotgun choke and ammunition.

Hunters who become more successful in the field will increase their enjoyment of hunting and reduce the number of wounded birds. This ensures that hunting remains sustainable and humane. Information in the table below has been scientifically tested and peer-reviewed and provides information for selecting the appropriate equipment to effectively dispatch birds when using a 12 gauge shot gun.

Proven Nontoxic Shot Loads For Waterfowl <sup>1</sup> Load Velocity: 1,275 - 1,450 FPS	Typical Shooting Range of Activity (Metres)	Most Effective Steel Shot Size(s) for Activity (USA and Spanish Shot Size Designations)	Minimum Load Weight in Ounces and (Grams)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)
ACTIVITY						
<b>Large Ducks at Close to Medium Range</b> Australian Shelduck (Mountain Duck), Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead Duck	20-40 20-40	4 to 2 HEVI-Shot 4	7/8 (24g) 1 oz. (28g)	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	I.C. <sup>2</sup> (20-32m), Mod. (32-40m) I.C. <sup>2</sup> (20-32m), Mod. (32-40m)
<b>Medium Ducks at Close to Medium Range</b> Maned (Australian Wood) Duck, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Australasian (Blue-winged) Shoveler	20-40 20-40	6 to 3 HEVI-Shot 5	(24g-28g) (28g-36g)	1-2 1-2	115-120 115-120	I.C. <sup>2</sup> (20-32m), Mod. (32-40m) I.C. <sup>2</sup> (20-32m), Mod. (32-40m)
<b>Small Ducks at Close to Medium Range</b> Pink-eared Duck	20-40 20-45	6 to 4 HEVI-Shot 6	(24g-28g) (28g)	1-2 1-2	135-145 135-145	Modified (20-32m) Modified (32-40m)
<b>Swatter Load For Wounded Birds</b>	20-32	7 to 6	1 oz. (28g)	1	225	Improved Modified, Full

This table summarises Tom Roster's analyses to date of the waterfowl and upland game bird lethality data bases for 15 published, peer-reviewed scientific U.S. steel versus lead shooting tests. Data were also derived from the results of birds taken in additional lethality research he conducted and ballistic reports he authored for ammunition companies and/or the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP). This table also relies on anatomical weights and measures for species hunted in South Australia as provided to Roster by the Department for Environment and Water, South Australia.

**Note:** Pellet sizes listed are for steel shot except HEVI-Shot where indicated. With steel shot to date, steel #2 (3.81 mm) has exhibited the best overall performance for taking large ducks; steel #3 (3.56 mm) for taking medium ducks, steel #4 (3.30 mm) for taking small ducks.

<sup>1</sup> Values in this table involved testing 2 3/4" (70 mm) & 3" (76 mm) 20-ga.; 2 3/4" (70 mm), 3" (76 mm) and 3 3/4" (89 mm) 12-ga. steel loads; & 2 3/4" & 3" 12-ga. HEVI-Shot loads.

<sup>2</sup> Improved Cylinder Choke



### Example of Steel Shot Performance

Steel Shot Size 4 to 2  
Minimum Load 7/8 oz. (24 g)

Modified (Half)  
Choke  
32 to 40 metres

Improved Cylinder  
Choke  
20 to 32 metres

### Lead (Forward Allowance) Technique

Use a well practised Lead Technique and always keep your shooting ranges within your known personal shooting skill distance.

### Decoys

The proper use of decoys can attract some ducks to within effective shooting ranges.

### Camouflage and Hides

Use of applicable tools and equipment increases the effectiveness of a hunter.

### Retriever dog

Using a well trained retriever dog assists in locating and collecting downed birds.



# Hunting Safely

## Eight rules of firearms safety

1. Treat all firearms as being loaded.
2. Always point firearms in a safe direction.
3. Never have a loaded firearm in your home, car, boat or camp.
4. Identify your target and what is behind it.
5. Never fire at hard surfaces or water.
6. Store ammunition and firearms separately.
7. No alcohol or drugs when handling firearms.
8. Do not climb fences or obstacles with loaded firearms.

See page 42 for information about transporting firearms safely.

## Safe boating

As a vessel operator, you are responsible for the safety of the vessel and of your passengers. The South Australian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook recommends the following safety measures:

- **Check your boat and equipment.** Do a thorough pre-season check of the vessel and equipment.
- **Carry the required safety equipment.** Check the Boating Safety Handbook to see what you must carry.
- **Carry a mobile phone or UHF Radio.** Place it in a waterproof, sealed bag in case of catastrophic circumstances.
- **Let someone know.** Tell someone where you are going, your point of departure, when you plan to return and the number of passengers with you.
- **Check the weather forecast before you go on the water.** Visit the Bureau of Meteorology's Marine Weather section just before you leave as forecasts can change quickly.
- **Wear a lifejacket.** Laws in South Australia require that you and all of your passengers wear a lifejacket all the time in a boat up to 4.8 metres. Go to [www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au) for more information on lifejacket types and requirements.
- **Check your speed.** Travelling at a safe speed means that your vessel can stop in time to avoid sudden danger. Some SA waters have speed limits.
- **Don't drink alcohol or take drugs.** It's an offence for a vessel operator to have a blood alcohol level or concentration of .05 or more, or to be under the influence of drugs.

Remember you must not shoot from a boat that is under way and you must always store your firearms correctly.

## Fire safety

### General advice about fire restrictions

Restrictions apply to having campfires in South Australia. The restrictions help reduce the chance of a bushfire that could result in loss of life and property, and they are actively enforced. Information on fire bans and restrictions in national parks are available at [www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/fire-management/bushfire-risk-and-recovery/fire-bans-and-restrictions](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/fire-management/bushfire-risk-and-recovery/fire-bans-and-restrictions).

### Bushfire safety information

Further bushfire safety information is available via the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361 (TTY 13 36 77) or by visiting [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au). Throughout the Fire Danger Season, which is generally from November to April each year, you should monitor all available media to be aware of Catastrophic and Total Fire Ban days and prohibited periods, and take appropriate action.

### On Catastrophic fire danger rating days

Game Reserves will be closed on days with a Catastrophic fire rating. You need to put your survival first and leave bushfire prone areas the night before or early in the day – this is your safest option. Act immediately – do not wait and see. Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass.

### On all Total Fire Ban days

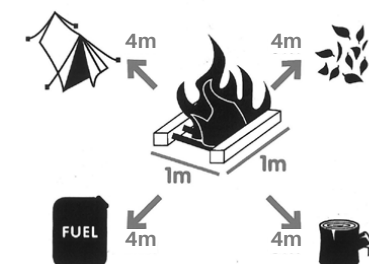
A Total Fire Ban day can be declared at any time of year and for any fire ban district, or sometimes the whole state. Fires cannot be lit in the open, unless an exemption has been granted. Campfires are not permitted on Total Fire Ban days. Solid and liquid fuel barbecues and ovens are also banned on Total Fire Ban days. Avoid severe penalties by checking [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) before lighting any fires.

Check the rules with the local council as the restrictions change in different areas.

### At all other times

Campfires are permitted in the open air as long as you observe the following conditions:

- The fire is in a 30 cm deep trench and no more than one square metre in area.
- You have a four-metre cleared space around and above the fire.
- You bring your own wood or use liquid fuel or a gas stove.
- A responsible person is in attendance at all times with water and/or an extinguisher.
- You extinguish the fire before you leave.



*You must have a four-metre cleared space around and above the fire.*

## Report illegal hunting

Call the South Australian Police (SAPOL) on 131 444 to report a suspicious activity. Call 000 (Triple Zero) if there is an emergency.

The irresponsible or illegal behaviour of some people can damage the reputation of hunters and create unsafe or unsustainable situations. It is important that hunters act responsibly and encourage the rest of the community to do the right thing.

When reporting a suspicious activity, helpful information includes:

- Time and date of activity
- Is the activity happening now, or did you witness it previously?
- Location
- Number of people involved
- Vehicle registration
- Description of the activity
- Equipment used.

All information will be treated in confidence. Information provided will help plan patrols and enforcement operations when no immediate field response is possible.

### Resources

- See SAPOL's information on firearms and weapons at [www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons](http://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons).
- Download a copy of the South Australian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook [www.sa.gov.au/topics/boating-and-marine/marine-publications/sa-recreational-boating-safety-handbook](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/boating-and-marine/marine-publications/sa-recreational-boating-safety-handbook).
- Visit the CFS website to check on the fire rating on the day and region you are hunting [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au).
- Call the South Australian Police (SAPOL) on 131 444 to report a suspicious activity.
- Call 000 (Triple Zero) if there is an emergency.

## Caring for the Environment

There are many areas in South Australia that are available for hunting. Ensure you have the landowner's written permission to hunt. Remember, it is illegal to hunt on any reserve under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* unless approved to do so.

Our wetlands and other landscapes are unique and fragile. You can help to minimise damage to the environment by:

- keeping to the tracks
- picking up spent shotgun shells, wads and cartridge cases
- burying feathers and carcasses
- taking all other rubbish home
- disposing of large carcasses (deer, goat, pig) thoughtfully.

You must not damage trees, nests and other natural assets for the purposes of hunting wildlife. Penalties apply.

*A person must not, for the purposes of hunting any vertebrate animal that is indigenous to Australia (whether a protected animal or not)— (a) cut down, lop branches from or otherwise destroy or damage any tree (whether living or dead); or (b) destroy, damage or disturb the animal's burrow or nest.*

### On private land

There are some basic rules you can follow while on private land.

- Thank the landowner for allowing you access.
- Before going hunting, seek the landowner's approval on where you plan to go and for how long.
- Discuss with the landowner how you'll dispose of carcasses.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- After hunting, report to the landowner where you went and what you found.
- Assist the landowner and report any damage to fences or sick/injured stock.
- Respect property boundaries.





## Camping

There are basic rules you can follow while camping to help preserve the environment.

- Camp in an existing campsite at least 20 metres from any creek, lake or wetland.
- Only drive on formed tracks and roads. Park immediately adjacent to tracks where it is safe to do so.
- Stop the spread of root rot fungus - clean your footwear before you leave an area to prevent the transfer of contaminated soil.
- Do not dig trenches around tents.
- Adhere to fire safety (see page 11).
- Firewood is in short supply in many areas. Use only dead fallen wood. Standing trees, even dead ones, are a home for wildlife and a part of the scenery. Do not cut down or damage standing trees or vegetation. Wherever possible, bring your own firewood. Check with the landowner about using firewood on their property.
- If dogs are permitted at your campsite, ensure they are under effective control to protect wildlife and other campers. Clean up after your dogs.
- Protect water quality - wash up at least 50 metres from streams and avoid using soap (use gritty sand and a scourer instead).
- Leave campsites tidy.

## Be considerate

Be aware of any damage you might be doing to the local environment and waterways. Also think about leaving the area as you found it for the next group of hunters that come along.

- If cleaning animals on site such as plucking or breasting your birds, make sure you bury feathers, offal and carcasses in a site clear of vegetation and at least 50 metres from waterways. Better still, store them in a rubbish bag and take home for disposal.
- Spent cartridges must be picked up and disposed of correctly. The cartridges are usually made of plastic and brass and if left on the wetland don't break down.

## Dogs and Hunting

*Some hunters use trained dogs to assist them while hunting. Dogs can be useful to flush game and to locate downed birds that may otherwise be lost. Hunting dogs are bred and trained to carry out certain tasks, such as to flush, point, set, retrieve, track and more. Dogs should obey your commands, only hunt certain types of animals and ignore distractions in the field.*

### Your responsibility

If you choose to use hunting dogs, you are responsible for their training, behaviour and condition.

You must ensure that your dogs are always under effective control so that they do not interfere with other hunters or chase wildlife or livestock. You are responsible for the actions of your dogs. They should be muzzled if necessary.

Unless on private land, dogs must also wear their ID (registration tags) at all times - as per the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Under no circumstances should dogs be encouraged to attack animals. It is an offence for a person to urge a dog to attack or maim another animal.

### Caring for dogs when hunting

It is your responsibility to care for your dogs in the field and be aware of any signs of stress or injury. Hunting dogs should be healthy and in good physical condition.

Do not use hunting dogs if there is an unacceptable risk of injury or heat stress.

For example:

- Hunt early in the morning and in the evening when temperatures are mild, so your dog doesn't suffer heat exhaustion.
- Provide your dogs with plenty of water to keep them hydrated.
- If a dog is injured in the field, ensure it receives first aid or professional attention as soon as possible.

### TIP

#### JOIN A GUN DOG CLUB

It takes time and dedication to train a gun dog to hunt effectively. Join a club that helps members train their dogs. Many clubs organise field trials where you and your dogs can practise and compete.

## Conservation and Hunting

*As a hunter, you pay close attention to the environment, the way animals move around and what animals are doing. This makes you very in tune with the environment. Some hunters contribute to wildlife conservation and habitat restoration on both public and private lands. Protecting the environment protects hunting, so why not help out if you can?*

### Feral animal management

The effects of feral animals on the natural environment are devastating. For example, studies in South Australia have shown that native ecosystems can change dramatically and may never return to normal as a result of grazing by feral herbivores like rabbits, goats, deer and camels. These feral animals also eat our agricultural crops, damage fences and compete with stock for feed and water. For example, rabbits cause more than \$200 million worth of damage to Australia's agricultural industries each year.

Recreational hunting at a local property level can suppress feral animal populations to achieve asset protection and conservation goals of individual landholders. For example recreational hunters that target foxes during lambing season can help boost lambing rates by lowering fox predation of newborn lambs. However, property-scale hunting is not effective at the landscape-scale unless all properties in a region are participating in a coordinated program.

At the landscape-level, recreational hunting needs to be part of a coordinated feral animal program to be most effective. Pest managers need to assess and utilise a variety of tools (such as shooting, trapping and poisoning) to achieve the best outcome for their project goals.

Feral animal programs have been shown to make an impact. These programs take place when hunting associations and the South Australian Government plan and work together to achieve a conservation goal. They are generally called culling programs.

### POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF HUNTING

- Removal of feral animals from private properties where the landowner may not have the time or capacity to protect all of their land (note that private landowners are obliged to manage feral animals on their land).
- Short-term, temporary reductions in numbers of feral animals preying on native animals and destroying native plants.
- Ongoing and persistent removal of many feral animals due to year-round recreational hunting.



### Habitat restoration

Wetland quality and habitat availability are important issues for wildlife conservation in South Australia. As a hunter, you can help with the conservation of wetlands and other important habitats.

You'll spend more time in the great outdoors by protecting and preserving natural environments now and for the future.

Here are some ways you can help improve the environment and wildlife habitat:

- Wetlands - rejuvenating them by reinstating more natural water regimes that create habitats and trigger breeding cycles.
- Revegetation - planting native trees and shrubs.
- Scientific research - for example by sending samples from birds, filling out surveys, collecting insects or plants or recording species sightings.
- Fundraising, donations and grants - helping to raise money for conservation programs.

### Get involved

To get involved in wildlife monitoring or habitat restoration and participate in other activities such as feral animal control, it's important to join a conservation and hunting club so that you are part of coordinated programs. See page 56 for a list of clubs and associations.



# Where You Can Hunt

Land classifications in South Australia determine where you can hunt. The table below provides general information. Almost all land is managed for private or public purposes.

Location	Types of Hunting	Requirements
Game Reserves	Duck may be hunted only during the open season on the dates and locations gazetted by the Minister. Unprotected species (such as feral animals) may not be hunted at any time, unless authorised by DEW.	You must hold a valid Open Season Duck Hunting Permit and comply with the relevant codes of practice.
Private Land	Duck and quail may be hunted on private land only during prescribed open seasons. Unprotected species (such as feral animals) may be hunted on private land at any time.	You must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hold a valid Open Season Duck Hunting Permit and/or Open Season Quail Hunting Permit dependent on the species you wish to shoot; and/or</li><li>• hold a valid Basic Hunting Permit to hunt unprotected species (if you are hunting on land that is not owned by you); and</li><li>• obtain and carry written permission from the landowner (this permission must be renewed every 6 months).</li></ul>
Forest Reserves, Regional Reserves, National Parks, Marine Parks, Conservation Reserves	Hunting is not permitted at any time.	N/A

Note that the *Firearms Act 2015* may override other legislation in site-specific areas, such as populous places.

## TIP

### BE THE BEST HUNTER

True hunters are defined by more than their shooting skills and field craft. They check that their gear is safe and functioning properly, and take the time to visit the places where they plan to hunt. The best hunters respect others, the environment and the animals. They spend time just watching animals and their behaviour – field observations are part of improving your hunting skills and provide knowledge for you to share with others.

## Game Reserves

There are ten Game Reserves in South Australia where duck hunting is permitted during an open season when seasonal conditions allow. Not all of these will be open every open season. Check the DEW website for exclusion zones and opening times.

Game Reserve	Location, nearest landmark or town
Tolderol	North-west side of Lake Alexandrina, 11 km south-east of Langhorne Creek
Mud Islands	Lake Alexandrina, 19 km south-east of Goolwa
Currency Creek	South-west side of Lake Alexandrina, 0.5 km north-east of Goolwa
Poocher Swamp	8 km west of Bordertown
Lake Robe	6 km south of Robe
Chowilla	32 km north-east of Renmark
Loch Luna	11 km north-west of Barmera
Moorook	3 km north-east of Moorook
Bool Lagoon	24 km south of Naracoorte
Bucks Lake	40 km south-west of Mount Gambier

## Act responsibly

No matter where you hunt, it is important that you act responsibly and ensure that your actions do not put the safety of yourself or others at risk. Avoid hunting in Game Reserve exclusion zones or close to boundaries. Never carry a loaded firearm or use a firearm near towns or populous places (e.g. picnic area, camp site).



## Check before you go

- » **Are you planning to hunt duck in a Game Reserve?** Check that the reserve you want to hunt is on the list of permitted reserves for the current season.
- » **If you are planning to hunt elsewhere, have you identified the area?** On a map, narrow down the areas to those likely to have species you want to hunt. Then talk to a hunting club (see page 56) to learn the process for obtaining permission from landowners.
- » **Is it legal?** If in doubt about an area, do not hunt until you are sure. Hunting in a prohibited area could result in the loss of your Hunting Permits and your Firearms Licence, and the confiscation of your firearm, vehicle or other belongings.
- » **Is hunting permitted?** Be aware of and comply with hunting exclusion zones within Game Reserves and on private land.
- » **Do you have permission?** Find out for yourself if you are entitled to use a particular area. Check the table on the previous page and make sure you have the right permit. For areas other than Game Reserves, contact the landholder or land manager directly to get written permission.

## Resources

- Check the duck open season restrictions in Game Reserves and location maps on the DEW website: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting)
- To plan your duck or quail hunt, contact the nearest DEW office, see: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/contact-us)
- To plan your feral animal hunt, become familiar with areas to hunt and the process to obtain landowner permission by joining a hunting organisation. See page 56.

## TIP

## PREPARE AND PRACTISE

Before the hunting season starts, sort and prepare your equipment and service, repair or replace old equipment. This will ensure your equipment doesn't let you down at a critical moment. Organise your pack well in advance so you don't forget anything. Also, maintain your shooting skills by practising regularly.

## What You Can Hunt

In South Australia, you are permitted to hunt the following animals as long as you carry a correct and current hunting permit (see page 43) and abide by restrictions such as open season dates, bag limits and locations.

Animal	Restrictions	Page
Duck	Only the prescribed species declared by the Minister may be hunted.  Hunting may only take place during an open season declared by the Minister.	22
Stubble quail	Hunting may only take place during an open season declared by the Minister.	27
Deer	Hunting may take place at any time, but you must obtain written permission from the landowner.	30
Other feral animals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rabbit</li> <li>• Hare</li> <li>• Cat</li> <li>• Fox</li> <li>• Goat</li> <li>• Pig</li> <li>• Camel</li> </ul>	Hunting may take place at any time, but you must obtain written permission from the landowner.	34
Unprotected native animals	Hunting may take place at any time, but you must obtain permission from the landowner.	N/A



## Duck

Up to eight species of native duck may be hunted during an open season if prescribed. Duck hunting open seasons typically start in late summer and end in mid winter. The exact dates can be found on [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting). See page 39 for a description of the restrictions during an open season.

Outside of an open season, all ducks are protected and must not be taken.

### Taxidermy

Taxidermy is for personal use only. You will need an additional permit to sell the work. Preparation begins in the field. Take care not to damage the plumage and wash any marks off the bird before it dries. Back at camp, clean off any remaining marks, place cotton wool into the mouth and slide the bird into an old stocking to protect and hold the plumage in place. Cool the bird as soon as possible and freeze it at the first opportunity.

### TIP

#### PATIENCE

Patience can be the difference between meat for the table and an empty bag. Think about the shot you are going to take. It only takes a couple of pellets accurately placed to humanely take a bird. Don't shoot beyond your skill level. Put time into hides, decoys and calling. With patience, you are more likely to fill your bag with fewer shots – and know the ones that got away weren't wounded from poor shots or poor choices.

### TIP

#### 'GOING AWAY' BIRDS

Don't fire at game birds flying away from you ('going away') at a range further than 35 metres. A 'going away' bird has its vital organs protected by its gizzard and backbone structure, reducing the likelihood of adequate pellet penetration into the vital organs. This can result in a lost or wounded bird.

### Check which species can be hunted each season

The following duck species may be prescribed as being available for hunting in an open season. Each season, you must check which ones. Sometimes not all of them will be available for hunting, if for example environmental conditions indicate one or more species need protection. Remember, you need to pass the Waterfowl Identification Test to be issued an Open Season Duck Hunting Permit.



*Hardhead*



*Pacific black duck*



*Chestnut teal*



*Australian shelduck  
(Mountain duck)*



*Australasian (Blue-winged)  
shoveler*



*Grey teal*



*Pink-eared duck*

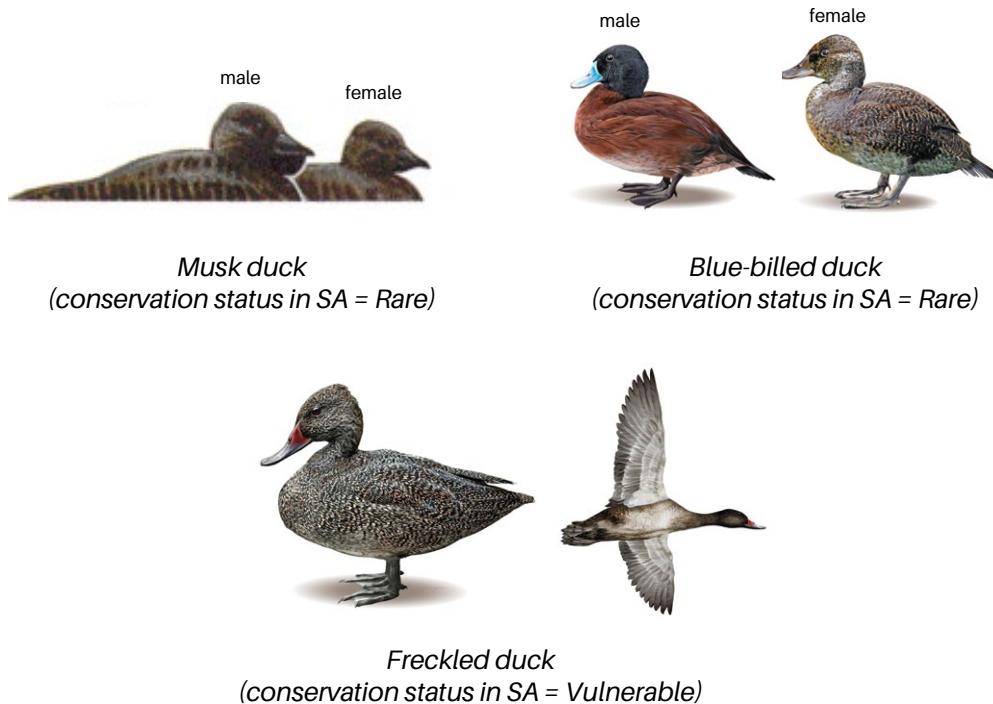


*Maned (Australian wood) duck*

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## Ducks you must not hunt at any time

The ducks pictured below are threatened species and must not be taken at any time. The Duck WISE video will help you identify protected ducks from prescribed ones. If you are not sure, don't shoot, otherwise you could face a substantial fine, imprisonment or both. The eggs of any duck must not be taken at any time, including those for which an open season has been proclaimed.



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### TIP

#### USE DECOYS

Decoys can improve your success rate when duck hunting. Rather than landing directly among the decoys, game ducks generally fly over them and land some 20 metres beyond, almost always into the wind. With this in mind, position your stand or blind upwind of your decoys.

## Shotguns and shot types

Hunting duck in South Australia is only permitted by shotgun. Shotguns must:

- have a smooth bore not exceeding 19 millimetres in diameter (12 gauge)
- be capable of being raised at arm's length and fired from the shoulder without any support
- only be used with non-toxic shot the diameter of which must not exceed 4.1 millimetres (indicatively US shot size #1 or UK shot size BB).

Lead shot for duck hunting in South Australia has been prohibited thanks to vital field research carried out by hunters in collaboration with DEW. For further information refer to the *National Parks and Wildlife (Hunting) Regulations 2011*.

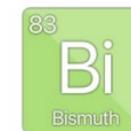
The shot types listed below have been extensively tested and found to be non-toxic to waterfowl and other wildlife. Check with your:

- ammunition supplier which type will best suit your needs.
- firearm manufacturer that it is safe to use these shot types in your firearm.

It is an offence in South Australia to carry lead shot while hunting for duck. Wardens will check your shot type throughout the season.



## Non-toxic shot types



- Bismuth-tin
- Iron (steel)
- Iron-tungsten
- Iron-tungsten-nickel
- Tungsten-bronze
- Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- Tungsten-matrix
- Tungsten-polymer
- Tungsten-tin-iron
- Tungsten-tin-bismuth
- Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
- Tungsten-iron-polymer



## Bag survey

Please record the details of your duck hunt each day on a bag survey record sheet. At the end of the season, transfer the information to a duck season hunter survey form and send to DEW via [hunterreturns@sa.gov.au](mailto:hunterreturns@sa.gov.au) or to CHASA via [admin@chasa.org.au](mailto:admin@chasa.org.au)

Your information is vital. It helps us to set sustainable duck seasons. See page 39 for open season restrictions.

### TIP

## BIRD RETRIEVAL

Select hunting sites clear of vegetation and obstacles that will impede retrieval of birds. Pass up shots where the bird will fall into heavy cover. Also, never take your eye from where a struck bird falls and don't shoot at other birds until you have retrieved your shot bird.

## Check before you go

- » Have you got an Open Season Duck Hunting Permit for the current season? Permits are only valid for one season.
- » Have you checked the current rules and restrictions this year? Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting).
- » Have you checked what time dawn and dusk will be? Remember that you must not hunt at night. See page 39 for details on this and other restrictions during open seasons.

## Resources

- Watch Duck WISE to see information, illustrations and video clips of ducks. See page 46.
- Apply for an Open Season Duck Hunting Permit. See page 43.
- Understand your responsibilities under the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in SA. Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/humane-destruction-of-wildlife](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/humane-destruction-of-wildlife)
- Do the Shotgunning Education Program. See page 6.
- Use the correct ammunition and choke combination. Check the lethality table on page 7.
- For information about ducks and restrictions in South Australia, and to obtain a permission to hunt on private land form, visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting).

## Stubble Quail

The only native quail species you may legally hunt in South Australia is the stubble quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), but only during an open season. Quail hunting open seasons typically start in late summer and end in late winter. See page 39 for a description of the restrictions during an open season.

At all other times, stubble quail is a protected species. The eggs of quail may not be taken at any time, not even in an open season.

Stubble quail is the most common quail species in Australia and is found throughout South Australia in wetter years across a range of habitats. Stubble quail can be found in tall, dense ground vegetation, including in grasslands, leafy crops and cereal stubble.

Stubble quail are exceptionally nomadic and may be present in their thousands one year and completely absent the next.



Stubble quail - female



Stubble quail - male

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## Quail hunting areas

In South Australia, quail hunting can be carried out on private or leasehold land. You must obtain the written permission of the landowner and must carry this permission with you at all times whilst hunting.

## Shotguns and shot types

Hunting quail in South Australia is only permitted by shotgun. Shotguns must:

- have a smooth bore not exceeding 19 millimetres in diameter (12 gauge)
- be capable of being raised at arm's length and fired from the shoulder without any support
- only be used with shot the diameter of which must not exceed 4.1 millimetres (indicatively US shot size #1 or UK shot size BB).

## Quail-like birds must not be hunted at any time

It is important that you can readily distinguish between stubble quail and protected species while hunting. Pay particular attention to the size and flight characteristics of the bird, the habitat that you are hunting in, and the social organisation of the birds. If you are not sure, don't shoot.

All other species of native quail are protected and must not be hunted, including:

- brown quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*), which is most commonly found in well-watered habitats and can be widespread in wetter years. They often rise as a bevy flush, are very talkative and only fly a short distance, usually higher than stubble quail, and they glide like a crested pigeon.
- painted buttonquail (*Turnix varia*), which is a very fast long winged bird that makes a clapping sound with its wings. They are often found in pairs and always near scrub cover.
- little buttonquail (*Turnix velox*), which is easy to distinguish as it is very small and found in grassland habitat.

Be aware of the plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*), which is a critically endangered bird that looks similar to quail. It is fully protected and must not be hunted. Often its long yellow legs can be seen trailing behind in flight. If you're not sure, don't shoot.



Plains-wanderer - female



Plains-wanderer - male

## Bag survey

Please record the details of your quail hunt each day on a bag survey record sheet. At the end of the season, transfer the information to a quail season hunter survey form and send it to DEW via [hunterreturns@sa.gov.au](mailto:hunterreturns@sa.gov.au) or to CHASA via [admin@chasa.org.au](mailto:admin@chasa.org.au). Your information is vital. It helps us to set sustainable quail seasons. See page 39 for open season restrictions.

## Quail research

Every quail hunter should support the SSAA Quail Research Project as it is providing valuable information about population dynamics and bird movements, and contributes information that helps to set stubble quail open seasons. Visit [www.ssaa.org.au/hunting/quail-research-project](http://www.ssaa.org.au/hunting/quail-research-project) for more.

## Gun dogs

You may consider using a trained gun dog when hunting quail to help point, flush and retrieve downed birds. Gun dogs can increase hunting success. Using trained dogs to hunt quail has the same requirements as for ducks. For further information regarding hunting with dogs see pages 15 and 41.

### TIP

### PREPARE YOUR DOG

Don't let an unruly dog ruin your hunting experience. Before quail season, get your dog fit with plenty of exercise. Go back to basics with plenty of short (10 minutes or so) training regimes and get your dog used to listening to your commands. Keep frozen quail wings in the freezer so you can tack them to a block of wood and lay scent trails for your dog to practise retrieving. A fit, well-mannered and keen dog will add to your quail hunting experience.

## Check before you go

- » Have you got an Open Season Quail Hunting Permit for the current season? Permits are only valid for one season.
- » Have you checked the current rules and restrictions this year? Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting)
- » Have you checked what time dawn and dusk will be? Remember that you must not hunt at night. See page 39 for details on this and other restrictions during open seasons.

## Resources

- Apply for an Open Season Quail Hunting Permit. See page 43.
- Understand your responsibilities under the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in SA. Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/humane-destruction-of-wildlife](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/humane-destruction-of-wildlife)
- Do the Shotgunning Education Program. See page 6.
- Use the correct ammunition and choke combination. Check the lethality table on page 7.
- For information about quail and restrictions on hunting in South Australia, visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting)
- Obtain a permission to hunt on private land form. Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting)



## Deer

Deer are classified as feral animals in South Australia and six species can be legally hunted. Deer can be hunted year round and there is no bag limit. A Basic Hunting Permit and written permission from the landholder is required to hunt deer. The two main species encountered are Fallow deer and Red deer.

Wild deer populations have developed in South Australia following their introduction in the 1860s and more recently following escapes from deer farms. Some of the most costly impacts of deer result from collisions with cars. To measure the crop impacts caused by deer, information on their diet, energy requirements, distribution and abundance is collected by PIRSA Biosecurity SA. Visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds\\_and\\_pest\\_animals/animal\\_pests\\_in\\_south\\_australia](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/animal_pests_in_south_australia)

Deer hunting is only permitted on private land. You must obtain written permission from the landowner to access hunting areas. We recommend that you join an organisation such as the Australian Deer Association (ADA) or SSAA. They can help and mentor you in deer hunting.



*Fallow deer*

*Widespread in South Australia. Bucks can be 90 cm tall at the shoulder and weigh 90 kg. Does can be 76 cm and weigh 40 kg. Colour can be red, black, or creamy white.*



*Red deer*

*Widespread in South Australia. Stags can be 120 cm tall at the shoulder and weigh 135-160 kg. Hinds can be 90 cm and weigh 92 kg. Colour is a rich russet-brown on the body and outer legs and grey underneath and on the neck.*



*Sambar*

*Rarely seen in the wild. The largest of deer in Australia. Stags can be 130 cm tall at the shoulder and weigh over 300 kg. Hinds can be 115 cm and weigh 230 kg.*



*Rusa*

*Rarely seen in the wild. Biologically related to the sambar. Stags can be 110 cm tall at the shoulder and weigh 136 kg. Hinds can be 95 cm and weigh 60 kg. Their coat hair is coarse and sparse and generally a greyish brown in colour.*



*Chital*

*Seen in low numbers in the wild. Stags can be 86 cm tall at the shoulder and weigh 80 kg and hinds considerably less. Colouring is striking; a reddish to brown coat with white spots, white upper throat patch and black dorsal stripe.*



*Hog*

*Rarely seen in the wild. They are the smallest deer in Australia and although they are a close relative of the chital, they bear little resemblance to them. Stags can be 70 cm tall at the shoulder and weigh 50 kg, with the hind being smaller and weighing 30 kg.*

Deer hunting regions

Deer have spread throughout most of the cooler, well vegetated areas in South Australia including the upper and lower South East, Adelaide Hills, Limestone Coast, Eyre Peninsula, Clare Valley, Adelaide Plains and the Mid North.

Recommended minimum calibres for deer

There are no mandatory minimum calibres required to hunt deer in South Australia. To ensure deer hunting is humane, organisations like the Australian Deer Association recommend the following minimum specifications for firearms.

Firearm	Sambar, rusa and red deer	Fallow, chital and hog deer
Centre fire rifle	A minimum calibre of .270" (6.85 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 130 grains (8.45 grams).	A minimum calibre of .243" (6.17 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 80 grains (5.18 grams).
Muzzle-loading rifle	A minimum calibre of .45" (11.45 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 230 grains (14.91 grams).	A minimum calibre of .38" (9.65 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 200 grains (12.96 grams).

The above table formerly included information on the use of bows and crossbows to hunt deer.

A ban on the use of hunting with bows and crossbows commenced in South Australia on 1 December 2024.

Please visit the Department for Environment and Water's website for more information on the ban: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/bowhunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/bowhunting)

Source: Australian Deer Association

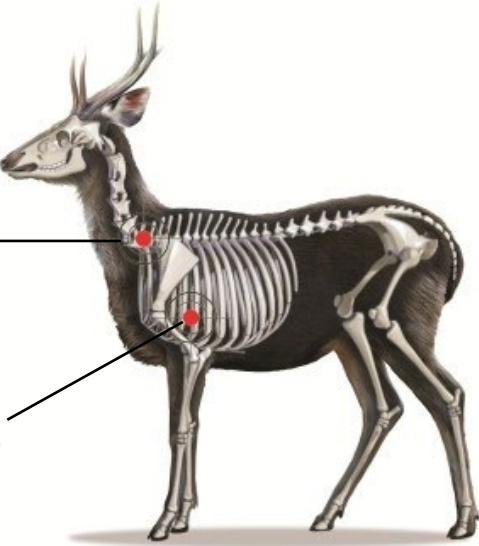
Recommended shot placement

Effective

The neck region may be appropriate if a heart/lung shot is not available.

Most effective

Placing your shot in the heart/ lung region is recommended to ensure a humane kill.



The above shot placement illustration was supplied and is copyrighted by the Victorian Game Management Authority and must not be reproduced without written permission.



Source: Australian Deer Association

## Other Feral Animals

Many hunters target feral animals such as pigs, goats and rabbits to harvest high quality meat.

Feral animals such as rabbits, feral cats, foxes and feral goats can be found throughout South Australia and hunted year round. A Basic Hunting Permit is required to hunt feral animals, however a bag limit or open season is not applicable. They may only be hunted on private land and you must obtain written permission from the landowner to access hunting areas.

We recommend that you join an organisation such as the SSAA. They can help you gain access to areas for hunting feral animals and they will teach you how to safely harvest meat from your hunt.

Feral animals may not be hunted in:

- Game Reserves
- National Parks, Conservation Parks and Wilderness Protection Areas
- ForestrySA or SA Water land.

### Feral animal species

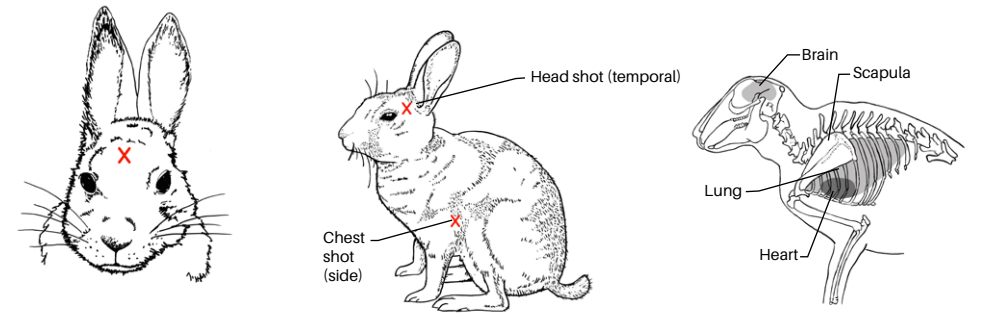
In addition to deer, other feral animals that are commonly hunted in South Australia include:

- Rabbit
- European brown hare
- Cat
- Fox
- Wild dog, including dingoes and their hybrids with domestic dogs
- Goat
- Pig
- Donkey
- Camel

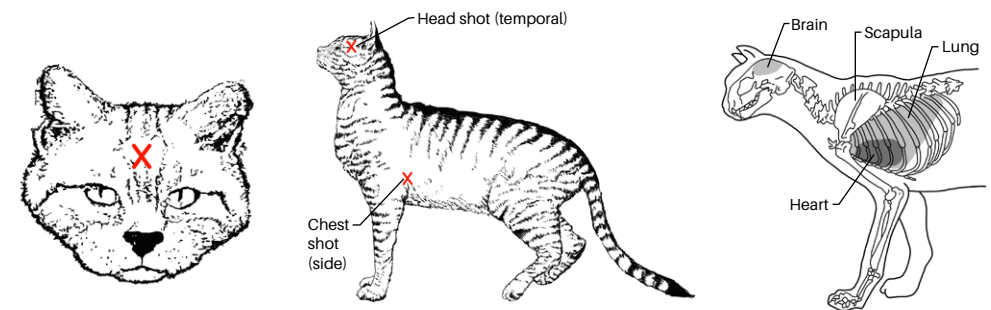


### Recommended shot placement

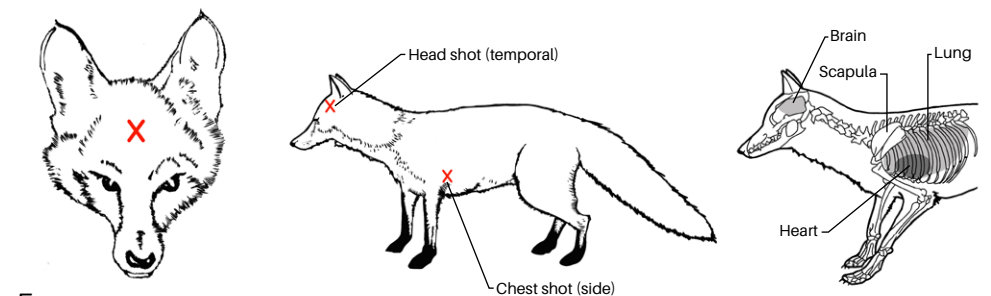
The recommended shot placements are marked with an 'X'.



*Rabbit and hare*

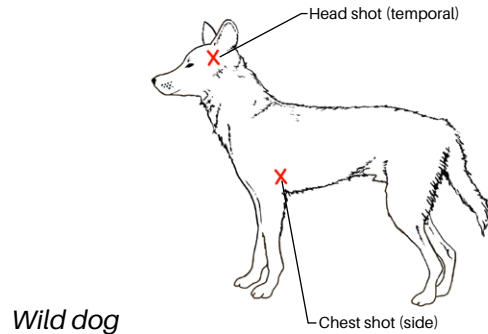


*Feral cat*

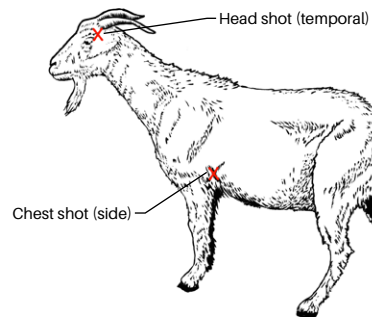
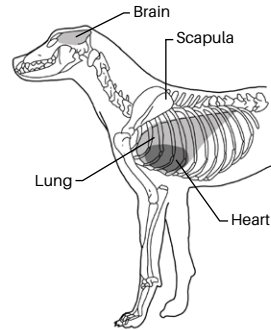


*Fox*

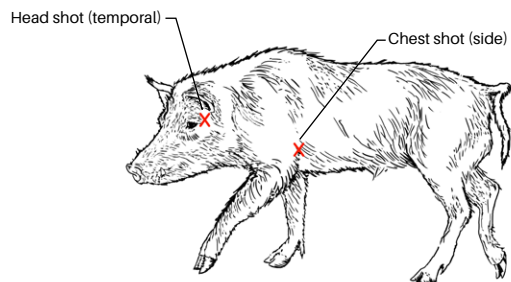
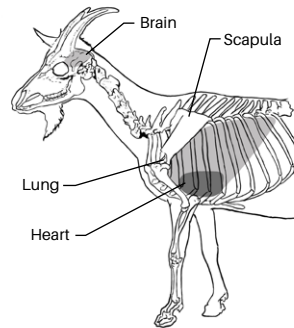




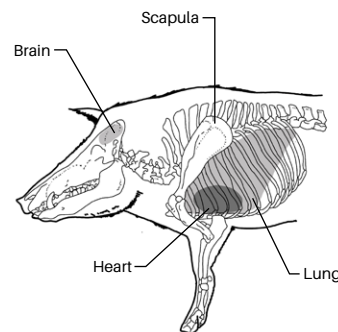
Wild dog



Feral goat



Feral pig



## Tips for hunting other feral animals

If you plan to hunt feral animals:

- Familiarise yourself with the animals you intend to hunt and the area you will be hunting. Prepare yourself physically prior to your trip, this could be tied in with visiting the area before the planned hunt.
- Select the suitable calibre, firearm and ammunition for the species being hunted. Practise so that you are familiar with your firearm and it is sighted in for the ammunition you intend to use.
- Clearly identify your animal and ensure you are within your effective range.
- Check the foreground and background, ensuring it is safe to take the shot. Do not shoot if the animal is on the skyline or behind vegetation that would prevent a clear shot.
- Be patient and only shoot when you are confident of taking a well-aimed shot to the vital area of the animal. Once the shot has been made, continue to watch the animal to ensure it is down.

## Resources

- Apply for a Basic Hunting Permit. See page 43.
- Obtain a permission to hunt on private land form. Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting).
- Choose the right calibre for the animal by consulting the table on the inside back cover of this guide.
- Additional information on hunting can be found at: [www.ssaa.org.au/hunting](http://www.ssaa.org.au/hunting) and [www.austdeer.com.au/deer-hunting](http://www.austdeer.com.au/deer-hunting).
- Additional information on pest animals, their biology and impacts can be found at: Pest Smart (IA - CRC) [www.pestsmart.org.au/animal-welfare/humane-codes/](http://www.pestsmart.org.au/animal-welfare/humane-codes/) and [www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/](http://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/).
- For information about feral animals and restrictions on hunting in South Australia, visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/hunting).



# General Laws and Definitions

## Definitions

**Open season** is a period typically set each year that lasts four or five months when hunting restrictions are lifted on some protected duck and quail species. It is usually timed to occur after a breeding season when annual populations are at their peak. Restrictions such as bag limits are made based on the availability of habitat, pre-season population counts, and hunter bag survey reports from the previous season. The rest of the year – the closed season – ensures undisturbed breeding to conserve the species.

**Prescribed species** are protected species that you may hunt during an open season. The species, dates, number and location you may hunt vary from year to year. A current Open Season Duck Hunting Permit and Open Season Quail Hunting Permit must be carried in the field when you are hunting.

**Protected species** are native animals that are protected in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act). You must not hunt or take a protected animal or the eggs of a protected animal unless it is prescribed and hunted in accordance with the requirements of the NPW Act. Protected species (and their eggs) can only be taken (i.e. captured, injured or killed) if a permit has been issued that allows you to do so.

**Unprotected native species** are the 11 species listed in Schedule 10 of the NPW Act. They are wild dog (dingo), budgerigar, galah, little corella, zebra finch, grey-backed silver eye, red wattlebird, Australian raven, little crow, little raven and Torrensian crow.

**Unprotected non-native (or 'feral') species** are animals which are not native to Australia. This includes deer, foxes, cats, pigs, rabbits and goats.

## Laws

There are rules about what, where, when and how you can hunt in South Australia. The regulations apply to both public and private land. It is your responsibility to know them.

The relevant legislation is:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (the NPW Act)*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Regulations 2011 (the Hunting Regulations)*
- *Animal Welfare Act 1985*
- *Firearms Act 2015*
- *Firearms Regulations 2017*

Other relevant legislation includes the *Summary Offences Act 1953*, *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, associated regulations, council by-laws and proclamations in the South Australian Government Gazette.

The Minister for Environment and Water (DEW) has general administrative powers under the NPW Act and Hunting Regulations. This means the Minister can make decisions regarding the issuing of hunting permits and the declaration of open seasons.

DEW administers the NPW Act and Hunting Regulations, and is the go-to agency for hunters seeking a permit or information and advice. Its authorised officers, DEW Wardens, with the assistance of the South Australian Police (SAPOL), are responsible for enforcement of the Act and its regulations.

## Open season restrictions

Each year, the Minister will declare whether there will be an open season for duck and quail hunting. The Minister will also declare:

- species that may be taken
- bag limits – maximum number of each species that may be taken per hunter per day
- season length, including start and finish dates
- areas open to hunting – Game Reserves and other government-controlled land (if any).

The Minister will consider scientific research on seasonal conditions and will consult with conservation and hunting organisations.

When hunting duck and quail in an open season, you must not:

- Hunt at night, which means from half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, except on the first day of the season when a fixed opening time applies (use the Geoscience Australia sunrise, sunset and twilight times calculator to make sure you hunt at the right times).
- Hunt from a boat or any other vessel – whether propelled by engine, sail, oars or any other means – while it is under way.
- Use any engine driven vessel (whether by air, land or water), agricultural gas guns, bird scarers or any other noisy device to rouse duck or quail so that it may be hunted.
- Scatter grain or any other material or use anything other than a bird caller or decoy to entice duck or quail so that it may be hunted.
- Keep alive any duck or quail, unless you have the written permission of the Minister.
- Sell the carcass of any duck or quail, whether you took the bird yourself or not.



## Wardens and SA Police Officers

Wardens can explain hunting laws and provide advice and information. They also enforce the legislation and ensure that hunting is conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

When hunting, you may be stopped by a Warden or SAPOL Officer. They may or may not be wearing a uniform, but they will always show you their identification. If you are approached by a Warden or SAPOL Officer, you will be directed to clear your firearm. You will also be asked to produce your Firearms Licence and/or Hunting Permit, and to provide your name and address. Wardens and SAPOL Officers may take photographs, films or video or audio recordings, or make a record in some other way. They may also inspect any animals you have in your possession.

Wardens and SAPOL Officers may stop and search any vehicle or boat to carry out inspections. They may seize any animals or any equipment that have been used in the commission of an alleged offence, including firearms, boats and vehicles. They are authorised to enter private land and go onto private waters to conduct compliance activities.



## Animal welfare

### Native birds

A condition of a hunting permit is complying with the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in South Australia. The code sets out the requirements of hunters to ensure birds are treated humanely. It says that you should only shoot if:

1. it is safe to do so
2. the animal is clearly visible
3. the animal can be positively identified
4. your firearm/shot size combination meets the requirements of the code
5. the point of aim and firearm combination meets the requirements of the code (which includes diagrams)
6. the target animal is within your personal shooting range capability, and
7. you are confident of killing the animal. If in doubt, do not shoot.

There are many other obligations under the code. Familiarise yourself with it by reading it in full. Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/humane-destruction-of-wildlife](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/humane-destruction-of-wildlife)

### Other animals

You must comply with animal welfare requirements specified in the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*. These include the following:

1. If an animal is injured, you must take all reasonable steps to mitigate its suffering (either by seeking treatment or killing it).
2. If you kill an animal it must be done in a manner which causes death or unconsciousness followed by death as rapidly as possible.
3. If you have custody and control of an animal (e.g. a dog) you must ensure it has adequate and appropriate food, water, shelter and veterinary care as required.

## Use of dogs in hunting

Setting dogs on animals is not permitted in South Australia. It is an offence for a person to encourage a dog to attack or maim another animal. Dogs that are likely to attack must not be used for hunting.

**Duck and quail hunting:** Dogs can only be used to locate and/or retrieve.

**Feral animal hunting (on private land only):** Dogs can only be used to locate, hold at bay and retrieve.

Ultimately, you are responsible for the actions of your dogs. For general information about training and caring for your dogs, see page 15.



## Use of artificial lights

Spotlights and other artificial lights may be used for hunting feral animals.

## Transporting firearms

You must carry your firearms licence (or a copy) with you whenever you are carrying or transporting firearms. This can be an electronic copy.

The rules around transporting firearms are governed by the *Firearms Act 2015* and the *Firearms Regulations 2017*.

When transporting firearms, you must:

- store the firearms and ammunition by the best means possible such as in the boot of the car, the glovebox, a cupboard, or a container locked to the vehicle
- keep firearms and ammunition separate
- keep the firearms and ammunition covered, in an unmarked case or bag
- carry only unloaded firearms while travelling to or from a hunting site
- make sure you do not leave the vehicle unattended unless there is a reasonable need to do so.

## Resources

- Understand the hunting laws. Check out the NPW Act and the NP&W (Hunting) Regulations 2011. For copies of acts and regulations visit [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au).
- Read the codes of practice and standard operating procedures on the Pest Smart website [www.pestsmart.org.au](http://www.pestsmart.org.au).



## Permits

If you intend to hunt or assist someone to hunt in South Australia, you must hold a valid hunting permit. This includes non-residents of South Australia and international visitors.

### Permit types

Type	Description	Requirements
Basic Hunting Permit	For hunting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• feral species such as deer, rabbit, hare, goat, pig, camel, fox, feral cat, wild dog and donkey</li> <li>• unprotected native species named in Schedule 10 of the NPW Act.</li> </ul>	You must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obtain written permission from the owner of the land on which you intend to hunt</li> <li>• comply with the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations</li> <li>• comply with the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in SA.</li> </ul>
Open Season Duck Hunting Permit	For hunting duck during a declared open season.  Ducks must not be hunted outside of an open season or at night.  Only duck species that have been declared available for hunting in the current open season may be hunted.	You must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply for the permit after an open season has been declared – permits are not available before this</li> <li>• be a minimum of 14 years of age</li> <li>• pass a Waterfowl Identification Test; to book contact the DEW Fauna Permits Unit (see next page)</li> <li>• only hunt in an open Game Reserve or obtain written permission from the landowner if you intend to hunt on private land</li> <li>• comply with the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in SA.</li> </ul>
Open Season Quail Hunting Permit	For hunting stubble quail during a declared open season.  Stubble quail must not be hunted outside of an open season or at night.	You must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply for the permit after an open season has been declared – permits are not available before this</li> <li>• obtain written permission from the landowner if you intend to hunt on private land</li> <li>• comply with the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in SA.</li> </ul>

## Buying a hunting permit

Prices vary depending on the type of permit, how long the permit is valid, and your age and concession status. Basic Hunting Permits can be 1, 3 or 5 year permits. Duck or Quail Hunting Permits are valid for 1 year.

Go to the Hunting Permits webpage for prices and apply for a permit via the online application form. Or contact the Fauna Permits Unit, DEW, between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday:

W [www.environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/animals-in-the-wild-permits](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/animals-in-the-wild-permits)

T (08) 8124 4972

E [dewfaunapermitsunit@sa.gov.au](mailto:dewfaunapermitsunit@sa.gov.au)

A Customer Service Centre  
Ground Floor, 81-95 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide SA 5000



## General permit laws

If you are engaged in any act of hunting or attempting to hunt you must hold a valid hunting permit. This includes catching, restraining, killing, injuring, attempting to hunt or assisting to hunt. Assisting to hunt includes driving a vehicle being used in the act of hunting, holding a spotlight and retrieving animals.

If you are using or carrying a firearm, you must hold a valid firearms licence.

The permit should be carried with you at all times when you are hunting or attempting to hunt.

You must produce your permit upon the request of a Warden or Police Officer.

## Junior hunters

There are two types of junior permits:

- Junior Basic Hunting (14 years to under 18 years of age)
- Sub-Junior Basic Hunting (under 14 years of age).

A parent/guardian needs to sign the application and is responsible for the junior permit holder's actions while hunting.

An adult must accompany a junior hunting permit holder to encourage and develop responsible hunting ethics.

## Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT)

Before applying for a Duck Permit, you must pass the Waterfowl Identification Test. The test ensures that you have adequate identification skills to be permitted to hunt wild duck. You must be a minimum of 14 years of age to sit the test.

The test is coordinated by DEW throughout South Australia. Contact the Fauna Permits Unit for times and locations.

CHASA is one of the providers offering training so that you can prepare for the WIT. A fee is applicable. To register, fill out and submit the training application form at [www.chasa.org.au/modern-hunting/waterfowl-id-training-and-testing/](http://www.chasa.org.au/modern-hunting/waterfowl-id-training-and-testing/)

## Waterfowl education resources



Duck WISE is an educational film that helps duck hunters to accurately identify game and non-game duck species. It helps reduce the risk of the wrong birds being taken in the field.

Watch Duck WISE at [www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/duck-wise](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/duck-wise) or request a copy of the DVD from DEW.

## Check before you go

- » **Do I have a current hunting permit?** Ensure that your permit is current. Hunting permits can be obtained via the online application form available through the DEW website.
- » **Have you changed your address or name?** You must advise DEW within 14 days. An updated permit will be sent to you free of charge. Providing your address will also ensure you receive important information from DEW.
- » **Is your permit lost or stolen?** You will need to send a signed statutory declaration outlining your circumstances. A new permit will be emailed to you free of charge.

## Resources

- Apply for a hunting permit at: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/animals-in-the-wild-permits](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/animals-in-the-wild-permits)
- Book a Waterfowl Identification Test, contact the DEW Fauna Permits Unit (see previous page).
- Learn to identify waterfowl by watching Duck WISE at [www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/duck-wise](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/duck-wise).

## Preparing Wild Food

Being able to eat what you have hunted is very satisfying and sharing food harvested from the wild with family and friends is a pleasure many hunters enjoy.

Learning how to process your hunted animal in the field safely and hygienically is a skill well worth learning.

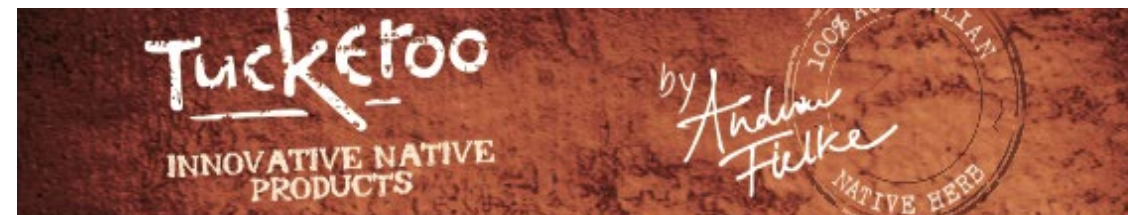
Understand the process and the techniques that you should use. Get to know the equipment you'll need.

Joining a club will give you access to people with knowledge and experience. The internet is also a good resource, including for peer-reviewed, published information.

## Recipes

Andrew Fielke has provided a range of recipes for you to try. You'll find the following recipes on the next few pages.

Red Curry of Venison with Aniseed Myrtle	Pg 48
Roast Saddle of Goat with Beets, Chevre & Salsa Verde	Pg 50
Steepled Quail in Master Stock & Sea Parsley Spring Onion Salsa	Pg 52
Wild Duck "a L'Orange" with Lemon Myrtle	Pg 54



Recipes from [www.tuckerloo.com.au](http://www.tuckerloo.com.au)

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Recipe for home use only – not for commercial gain.



## Red Curry of Venison with Aniseed Myrtle

Serves 4



*We first served this curry at the Red Ochre Grill in '92 with farmed venison from the Adelaide Hills. Wild venison is even better! This is a small recipe, but it's so good (and freezes well), I would never make less than 3 or 4 x the recipe at once. Like most curries, the flavours seem to be better a day or two later.*

### Ingredients

- 800 g venison leg diced 2 cm.
- 2 dsp. (dessert spoon) oil
- 1 x 400 g tin coconut cream (chilled)
- 35 g Thai red curry paste
- 1 cup beef stock
- 10 - 12 anise myrtle leaves (or 1 dsp dried ground) or, 1-2 star anise
- 5-6 Kaffir lime leaves
- 1 tbl sp Thai fish sauce
- 1 tbl sp dark palm sugar
- 2-3 sliced red chillis (optional)
- 1/2 bunch fresh Thai basil - leaves torn
- lime wedges
- steamed rice or rice noodle
- crisp fried shallots
- 4 dsp chopped roasted peanuts
- 1/2 bunch fresh coriander leaves
- 2 generous cup diced sweet potato 3 cm cubes

### Method

1. Preheat a large pan over high heat. Add oil and brown the meat in small batches, remove and set aside. Reduce heat to low.
2. Open the can and remove the cream from the milk. In the pan boil the coconut cream stirring often until reduced and starting to become split/oily. Add the curry paste & simmer 2-3 mins until fragrant. Add the stock, venison, coconut milk & leaves. Simmer gently and adjust seasoning with the palm sugar & fish sauce. Cook very slowly with a lid on for 30-40 minutes until the meat is tender (this time may vary considerably depending on meat quality & age). Add more stock or water if the sauce reduces too much.
3. When meat is just tender, add the sweet potato simmer until that is cooked through. Check seasoning again, add more fish sauce or palm sugar to taste. More coconut cream may be added to soften the flavour if desired.
4. To finish stir in the Thai basil & chilli. Ladle into bowls next to steamed rice, or steamed rice noodle. Roti bread is also nice.
5. Sprinkle with chopped roast peanuts, shallots and coriander leaves.

*Tip - Pre chill coconut cream to help separate cream from milk.*



## Roast Saddle of Goat with Beets, Chevre & Salsa Verde

Serves 4



*This is a nice way to serve many roast meats, particularly in summer as a lighter style “warm salad” lunch. Serving the meat still pink (medium to well done) is best only with young tender goat. If you are not confident, you can always go the long slow roast untill it’s falling off the bone.*

### Ingredients

#### For the Salsa Verde

- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 med. size anchovy fillets
- 1 tbl sp chopped capers
- 1 cup chopped sea parsley (or ordinary parsley)
- 1/2 cup chopped basil
- 1 lemon - grated zest and juice

#### The finishing touches

- 1 dsp of Chevre (goats cheese) or fresh goats curd per person
- A handful of chopped roast walnuts or pine nuts
- Baby beet or spinach leaves

#### For the Roast Saddle

- 1 saddle of young goat
- 1/2 cup good extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp ground pepperberry (or black pepper)
- 1 tbl sp chopped fresh rosemary
- 3-4 cloves of garlic - chopped
- Generous River Murray salt flakes
- 2 cups pumpkin, 1 cm dice

#### For the beetroot

- 1 bunch beetroot - baby
- 250 ml white vinegar
- 125 ml water
- 75 g sugar - castor
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepperberry

### Method

1. Using your hands, massage all the flavourings with the oil all over the meat, cover and marinate for at least 4-5 hours, preferably overnight.
2. Pre-heat the oven to quite hot, about 230 deg. C. Place the rack in a roasting pan with the pumpkin. Sprinkle all generously with salt, and roast on high for approx. 10 mins. to brown nicely. Remove from the oven and reduce the heat down to 100 deg., keeping the meat covered warm while you wait for the oven to cool, at this stage the meat should be quite rare on the bone. Keep the pumpkin aside for the salad. Place the goat back in the oven, and continue to slow roast at the low temp. for another 30-40 minutes. Check by cutting a little of the meat away from the bone to see if it’s cooked enough to your liking.
3. Cut tops off beets. (Save young leaves for garnishing if desired). Simmer all ingredients until beets are barely cooked (use a stainless steel saucepan, ideally the beets should be just covered). Allow to cool in liquid. Drain. Reserve strained liquid. Peel beets by smearing off skin trying to retain the root intact (or, they can be cut into 1 cm dice). Place back in the cooking liquid.
4. Blend the oil, anchovies & capers (or pound in a mortar/pestle) to finely chop. Add the juice & zest. Only mix in the herbs just before serving to retain maximum colour & freshness.
5. While the roast is “resting” in the slow oven, arrange plates with a generous tbl. spoon of the salsa verde, some salad leaves and a scattering of the beets, walnuts and pumpkin. Crumble or spoon the goat’s cheese over as well. Another nice presentation tip is to reduce some of the beetroot juice to a syrup, and “paint” a smear across the plate before plate up.

*Tip - Carve the goat rack in front of your guests, and serve a few warm slices over the prepared salad plates.*





## Steeped Quail in Master Stock & Sea Parsley Spring Onion Salsa

Serves 4



*A nice take on a Chinese Classic using our beautiful native quail. The Rice wine is available in most Asian grocers, but you can substitute with a dry sherry. Always strain & freeze your master stock after using for the future.*

### Ingredients

#### For the Master Stock

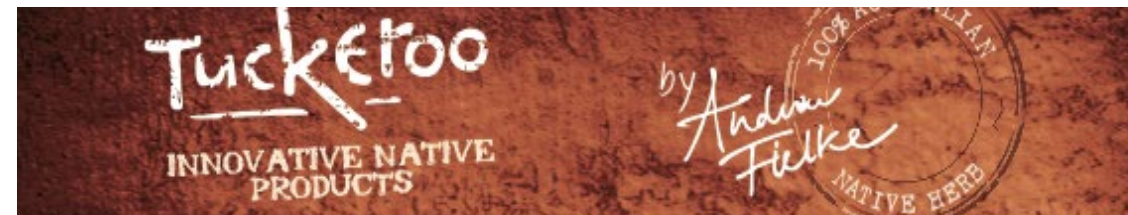
- 1 lt water
- 1/2 cup shaohsing rice wine
- 50 ml soy sauce
- 30 ml sweet soy
- 50 g brown sugar
- 2-3 strips of orange peel
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 12-15 anise myrtle leaves (or 3 star anise)
- 3 cm piece of ginger, sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed
- 2 spit chillies, optional
- 2 spring onions, cut roughly
- 5 lemon myrtle leaves

#### For the Salsa

- 25 g sliced spring onions
- 25 g chopped sea parsley (or normal parsley)
- 10 g grated fresh ginger
- 25 g shaohsing wine
- 50 g peanut oil.
- Salt to taste
- 8 native quail
- Oil for deep frying

### Method

1. Bring all ingredients to the boil, simmer just 5 minutes and turn off the heat. Cover and let stand for 15-20 minutes.
2. Mix all ingredients together, mashing lightly. Allow to steep for 20-30 mins.
3. As a "rule of thumb", I use double the weight of the birds to master stock (so 500g of birds to 1 lt of stock).
4. Bring the stock to the boil and plunge in the birds and weigh them down with a plate. Bring the stock just back to the boil, then immediately turn off the heat. Cover and leave for an hour. Remove the birds and cool on a rack (or string up), ideally in front of a fan, for an hour or so, until the skin is quite dry.
5. While the birds are drying, take a cup of the strained master stock, and simmer in a small saucepan to a syrupy consistency. You need only a dsp. per person.
6. Heat the oil to 180 deg C and deep fry the birds for 4-5 mins to crisp the skin and warm through. Serve with the salsa and a drizzle of the master stock glaze.





## Wild Duck “a L’Orange” with Lemon Myrtle

Serves 4



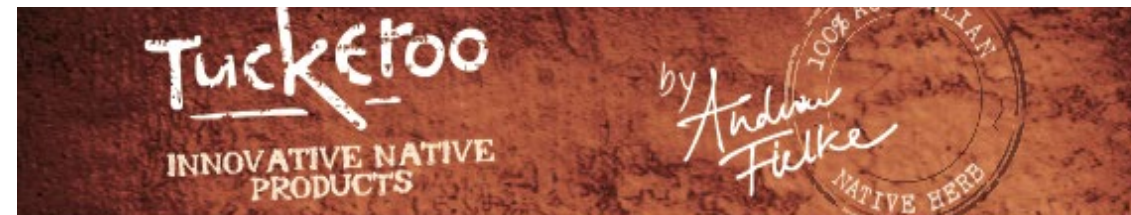
### Ingredients

- 2 black ducks (or 4 smaller teals)
- 2 dsp extra virgin olive oil
- 4 tbl sp dark palm (or brown) sugar – shaved/chopped
- 2 large red chillis – split
- 2 cm piece of ginger – cut into julienne strips
- 1 cinnamon stick
- Grated zest and juice of 2 - 3 large oranges (2 cups)
- 8-10 fresh lemon myrtle leaves (or 1 tsp Tuckeroo dried ground)
- 2 generous cups of duck stock (or water with 1 dsp stock powder)

### Method

1. Heat the olive oil in a braising pan or camp oven over medium high heat and add the duck, browning on all sides. Turn regularly and don't allow to burn.
2. Remove and put aside. You may tip out any excess oil.
3. Add the sugar to the pan and stir constantly to melt and caramelise over high heat. This should take about 5 mins.
4. Add all these ingredients (but reserve half the zest for later) to the caramel (careful – it may spit!!) and stir to dissolve. Add back the ducks and cover with the lid. Adjust heat to a very slow simmer. Cook for 2-3 hours, turning the ducks once or twice. ALWAYS check camp ovens on the fire as they can boil dry and burn. Timing will depend on the age & quality of the birds. The sauce consistency may need adjusting, add water if too thick, or reduce down by rapid boiling if too thin.

**Tip** - Excellent served with duck fat roast kipfler potatoes and fresh steamed beans, or stir fried bok choy.



## Clubs and Associations

Join a club to meet like-minded people, become familiar with places to hunt, find out how to obtain landowner permission, participate in conservation, and keep up to date with your skills and knowledge. Good hunters never stop learning and sharing their knowledge about field craft, safety and hunting skills. Some clubs also provide public liability insurance.

The following associations are in-line with the values of responsible hunting.



### [www.chasa.org.au](http://www.chasa.org.au)

The Conservation and Hunting Alliance of SA (CHASA) represents hunters and hunting across SA. It coordinates the efforts of many conservation activities in this state to promote our common interests and provide benefits to the state.



### [www.safga.org.au](http://www.safga.org.au)

The South Australian Field and Game Association promotes and demonstrates the principles of wildlife utilisation as a powerful conservation tool. SA FGA also provides opportunity for members to participate in local, state and international clay target shooting competitions.



### [www.austdeer.com.au](http://www.austdeer.com.au)

The Australian Deer Association in SA works with government and private landowners to manage approved deer herds and minimise their environmental impact where possible.

### [www.safga.org.au](http://www.safga.org.au)

Loxton Field and Game, a branch of the SA FGA was formed in 1966 due to local interest in duck hunting which led to wetland conservation projects on Katarapko Island and Noora Evaporation Basin. It has a club house and simulated field shooting range, and a licence to occupy Noora Evaporation Basin. Members enjoy hunting duck and a permanent camping facility at Noora.



### [www.conservation-wildlife.asn.au](http://www.conservation-wildlife.asn.au)

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia - Conservation and Wildlife Management (SA) undertake coordinated feral and pest animal control programs, working with government departments, non-government organisations and private landholders. Through these programs it contributes to the conservation and recovery of the state's biodiversity, as well as research and monitoring programs.



### [www.hellenicshootingsports.com.au](http://www.hellenicshootingsports.com.au)

The Hellenic Shooting Sports Association of SA represents the interests of hunters and target shooters. It promotes and encourages responsible and safe shooting sports and helps beginner shooters to learn more.



### [www.chasa.org.au](http://www.chasa.org.au)

Quail Tomorrow is a committee of CHASA that provides support and advice on quail hunting in South Australia, including field research and seasonal reports to assist in the management of stubble quail.

### [www.fieldandgame.com.au](http://www.fieldandgame.com.au)

### [@barmeramoorook](https://www.facebook.com/barmeramoorook)

Barmera Moorook Field and Game has been operating for over 50 years focused on conservation, hunting and the stewardship of the local Loveday Wetlands. The 1400 hectares of wetlands consist of large fresh water lagoons, an evaporation disposal basin, creeks and floodplain. As a non-profit organisation funds are raised to manage research and monitoring, sustainable hunting and other recreational uses.



## Notes

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## Notes

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## Choosing the Right Calibre

As an ethical hunter, you want to be sure that the calibre you are using is powerful enough to produce a clean, quick, humane kill. The following information suggests firearm and cartridge types for a variety of animals. Of course, these are just general suggestions and with experience, you may develop your own preference suited to your needs.

## Minimum suggested rifle calibre for hunting animals

Animal	Minimum suggested cartridge	Maximum range
Rabbits, hares, foxes and feral cats	.22RF	75 m
Dingoes and wild dogs	.222 Remington	200 m
Feral goats	.22-250 Remington	100 m
Feral pigs	.243 Winchester	150 m
Small deer (Fallow, Chital, Hog)	.243 Winchester	150 m
Big deer (Sambar, Rusa, Red)	.270 Winchester	200 m

*Adapted from: Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia*

## Improve your shotgunning success

- Practise regularly and broaden your knowledge about shotgunning.
- Pattern test ammunition to better understand how load and choke combinations work.
- Your loads should match the information in this guide.
- Know what your maximum shooting skill range is and don't fire at birds outside this.
- Use tools such as decoys, callers, cover and camouflage to bring the game birds within your shooting skill range.
- The Shotgunning Education Handbook, *Be a better game bird hunter*, contains more detailed information and is available from the GMA website.

## The modern hunter...

- values the environment
- harvests and enjoys healthy wild food
- respects wildlife
- contributes to the sustainable future of wildlife
- abides by rules and regulations
- mentors novice hunters
- respects hunters and non-hunters.

## Did you know?

Modern hunters follow stringent firearm and hunting regulations. The hunting community is more skilled and responsible compared with decades ago.

Modern hunting is practised in many places including the USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Europe, New Zealand, Africa and all states of Australia.