



American Veterinary Medical Association Disease Prevention Quick Tips for Hunters

Prior to Hunting Season:

- Make sure hunting dogs are up-to-date on their vaccines, especially rabies.
- Begin (or continue) heartworm prevention medications in consultation with your veterinarian.

During and After Hunting:

- Do not hunt if you are ill.
- Minimize insect bites.
- Avoid abdominal shots.
- Report any sick wildlife or wild bird die-off.
- Avoid wearing the same clothes on consecutive days.
- Conduct frequent body checks for ticks.
- Do not feed entrails, raw meat or other offal to your dogs.
- Consider using non-lead ammunition.

Handling and Cleaning the Carcass:

- Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning wild fowl or game.
- Wear gloves (latex, nitrile or heavy rubber).
- Do not use the same utensils to clean different species.
- If abnormalities are seen in the intestines, abdominal cavity or chest cavity during cleaning, consider disposing of the entire carcass. Report abnormalities to your state's fish and game agency.
- Remove wide margins of tissue around all wounds.
- Remove the intestines as soon as possible.
- Minimize contact with brain or spinal tissues.
- Discard meat that has come into contact with intestinal contents.
- Protect carcass from flies.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer.

Processing the Meat:

- Wear gloves (latex, nitrile or heavy rubber).
- Thoroughly wash and disinfect tools, equipment and working surfaces after use.

Cooking and Storing the Meat:

- Do not eat meat from wild game or fowl that appeared ill or abnormal.
- Avoid eating raw or undercooked meat.
- Do not keep meat at room temperature.
- Thoroughly cook meat.
- Promptly refrigerate or freeze uncooked meat.
- Properly wrap and store wild game meat separate from other foods.

More information about these tips and zoonotic disease prevention for hunters can be found in the AVMA's [*Disease Precautions for Hunters*](#) document.

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