

Hunting ... Frequently Asked Questions

How old must I be before I go out hunting?

You must be 12 years of age to legally purchase a game licence in Saskatchewan. You also must have successfully passed a Firearm Safety/Hunter Education class. While hunting, all youth between the ages of 12 and 15 must be under the direct supervision of an adult at least 18 years of age. Once you turn 16, you can legally hunt by yourself. Hunters between the ages of 12 and 15 who wish to hunt with a family friend, relative or any other person who is 18 years old, must have their parent or guardian fill out and sign the back consent portion of the Habitat Certificate.

Can I shoot from the road?

You can legally shoot from a road as long as you are not shooting across it or along it. You can legally get out of your vehicle, load your firearm and shoot from the road into the ditch or into a field of which you have right of access.

Can I carry the big game tags that belong to my wife or my son who is a first-time hunter?

Under no circumstances can you carry the tags or licence of another person. Once they purchase a licence they are responsible for carrying it.

If I am hunting ducks in the afternoon can I carry some lead shotgun shells in case I see some upland birds?

While hunting waterfowl you cannot carry any lead shotgun shells on your person.

Can I use two-way radios while hunting big game to communicate with my hunting buddies?

You can legally use two-way radios while hunting big game in Saskatchewan. These can be used to communicate with hunting partners or for safety reasons. Radios cannot be used to communicate from aircraft to hunters on the ground.

Can I carry a firearm on a snowmobile or ATV?

In Saskatchewan it is unlawful to carry a firearm on a snowmobile or ATV during an open big game season. An ATV or snowmobile may be used to retrieve game during a big game season as long as no firearms are carried, and the most direct route does it. Under no circumstances can you carry a loaded firearm or shoot off an ATV or snowmobile. During an open big game season there are zones described in the Hunters' & Trappers' Guide where a firearm may legally be carried on an ATV or snowmobile as long as it is unloaded and encased. Please refer to the All-Terrain Vehicles section in the Guide.

Can I charge a fee to people who hunt on my land?

No. You may not legally charge people to hunt on your land or anyone else's land.

Can I carry more than one firearm while hunting? Can I hunt upland with a .22 while hunting big game?

While hunting big game in Saskatchewan you can legally carry or use more than one rifle. While hunting waterfowl in Saskatchewan you can only use one shotgun. Any other shotguns must be encased and unloaded. While big game hunting in Saskatchewan you can legally carry a .22 cal rifle to hunt upland birds as long as the individual has a licence for both species.

While hunting waterfowl in Saskatchewan, can I make a limit of snow geese into sausage?

Waterfowl can be made into jerky, sausage or any other product as soon as the birds reach the hunters place of consumption. What this means is that you have to be at home before you make the sausage or jerky. You cannot legally transport any sausage or jerky made from waterfowl. All migratory birds must have a feathered wing attached to the bird while in transport back to the hunter's residence.

How as a landowner do I properly post my land?

As a landowner or occupant of land it is your right to post your land any way you wish. In order for it to meet the criteria set out in The Wildlife Act, the sign must be legible and at least 600 sq. cm. in size. The signs can read "No Hunting", "No Trespassing", "No Shooting", "Hunt on Foot Only" or any other words to that effect. These signs must be placed prominently along the boundaries of the land so as to provide reasonable notice of instructions concerning the method of hunting or use of vehicles. All corners and points of access must be posted. One must ensure that the back part of a quarter section of land must be posted as well.

Can I use a crossbow to hunt?

You can only use a crossbow during the muzzleloader and rifle seasons.

Can I use blue phase snow geese decoys while hunting snow geese with recorded snow goose vocalization?

One can only use decoys that are completely white while using a recorded snow goose vocalization. White decoys with black wing tips are allowed but use of any darker decoys or any other species of waterfowl decoys is unlawful. Ducks, Canada geese and white front geese can be legally harvested while using a recorded snow goose vocalization as long as the season is open for those species.

Where can I obtain maps of Saskatchewan?

Some topographic maps can be purchased at some Saskatchewan Environment offices. Rural municipality maps are available at the individual RM office. All other maps can be purchased at Saskatchewan's Information Services Corporation at 1-866-275-4721.

Do I have to worry about conservation officers asking for information relating to the new firearm regulations (Bill C-68)?

Conservation officers will not be asking for proof of firearm registration or possession acquisition certificates while performing hunting compliance checks.

What should I do if I shoot a deer that is full of parasites or a previous wound?

Contact your local conservation officer who will make arrangements to meet with you to examine the animal. Once the animal is deemed unfit for human consumption the conservation officer will issue you a duplicate licence and tag free of charge.

What should I do if I have lost my hunter education certificate?

Contact the Saskatchewan Association of Firearm Educators in Regina.

What should I do if I accidentally shoot an animal of the incorrect sex or species?

The best thing that you can do is field dress it and leave it where it was shot. Contact your nearest conservation officer or RCMP officer who will investigate the occurrence. There is a chance that charges can be laid, but leaving it in the field will ensure that charges are laid. Officers have various tools and procedures to use in situations like this.

What should I do if I have wounded an animal and it has run on to posted land?

If the land is posted you must first obtain permission from the landowner to retrieve your animal. If the landowner refuses to give you permission, contact your local conservation officer who will retrieve your animal for you. If retrieving a wounded animal after legal hunting hours or on Sunday, contact your local conservation officer before you begin the search.

What do I do if shoot a deer late Saturday afternoon or close to legal time on a weekday? How can I track the deer if it is past legal time or if I have to continue my search into Sunday?

If you wound an animal and cannot locate and dispatch that animal during the legal hunting hours, you cannot continue to hunt the animal after the legal hunting hours (normally a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise). It is an offence to continue to hunt beyond the close of the season.

If you had made a clean killing shot and were merely recovering an animal that you had killed during the legal hunting hours, you would be permitted to do so as long as your firearms were encased and unloaded as required by law. If the animal was wounded and not killed, then chances are that it would eventually die. You could not continue to hunt for and kill this animal unless you had contacted an officer who authorized you to do so. In a situation like this it is best to contact your local officer who can authorize you to continue looking for the animal.

What are the rights of an aboriginal hunter?

Native hunting rights is not a cut and dry issue. There are many investigations before the courts and libraries full of case law on this issue. Both treaty and aboriginal rights are guaranteed under The Constitution Act of Canada, 1982, and have been reaffirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada. A First Nation person may exercise their treaty rights if they are harvesting for personal or ceremonial uses. They are not restricted by seasons, limits or licensing restrictions but are restricted by safety regulations and land access.

Is it illegal to spot light for deer or moose at night if you don't have a weapon in your possession?

In most cases, it is legal to spot deer or moose at night as long as you don't have any firearms in your possession. You should be cautious however as "hunting" by its definition in The Wildlife Act includes "searching for ..." and "harassing" both of which you could be doing by virtue of your activity.

Is it legal to track a wounded deer with a dog?

Tracking of a deer with dogs is unlawful, whether the deer is wounded or not. If you have a dog with you while you are hunting, you can be considered hunting with a dog even if it is on a leash.

The hunting regulations state that there is no hunting allowed on Sundays. Can I target shoot on Sunday?

Yes, but make sure that it is obvious that you are target shooting.

Can I use a boat to hunt wildlife in Saskatchewan?

A boat may be used to hunt waterfowl as long as the motor is out of the water and all forward movement of the boat from the motor has stopped. It is legal to row or use the current of the water to move the boat. This will allow hunters to set up a blind in the boat and jump shoot ducks. Hunters should ensure there are no residences within 500m of where they are shooting from as well. It is also legal to hunt big game from a boat as long as you are not chasing or harassing wildlife with that boat. Discharging a firearm from a boat or having a loaded firearm in a boat is legal by its definition in The Wildlife Act, as a motorboat is not considered a vehicle.

Can you explain what the dress requirements are when hunting?

If you are hunting in a designated archery shotgun or muzzleloader season, you may wear camouflage clothing. If you are hunting during a designated rifle season you must be in a complete suit of blaze orange, yellow, white or red from the waist up. You must also wear a hat of any of the previous stated colors except white. Simply put, if you are hunting with a rifle, or hunting during a designated rifle season regardless of the weapon you use, you must wear colors. All persons accompanying you must also be dressed in colors.

A group of 4 hunters is out hunting in central Saskatchewan. Two hunters have a moose licence and the other two have white-tailed deer licences. Can the hunters who have the white-tailed deer licences shoot a moose if they see it and put one of their partners' seals on it?

No, if you have a white-tailed deer licence, you have unlawfully shot an animal that you do not legally have a licence to do so. This is called party hunting and isn't allowed. Let's set up some scenarios ...

#1 The four hunters above go out in separate directions to hunt the species they are licenced to harvest. One of the hunters hunting white-tailed deer sees a moose. He assumes that the hunters with the moose licences have not shot a moose yet so he figures that he will help them out. What if they already harvested a moose and then you unknowingly shot another?

#2 Two persons, one with a .30 caliber rifle and the second with a .22 caliber. The person with the large rifle is licensed for deer; the second person isn't and is "hunting rabbits". In the course of their discussions, they decide that the first hunter (the one with a deer licence) will set up on a watch and his partner (the rabbit hunter) will walk through the bush from the other side under the pretence of hunting rabbits, but in reality is pushing out a deer to his partner. Hunter number two is in violation for hunting deer by virtue that he is "chasing, pursuing, worrying, following after etc.."

#3 Two persons, one a licenced deer hunter with a 7mm caliber rifle and a second hunter with no licence and a .300 Win Mag caliber rifle. The person with no licence is hunting coyotes. The person hunting coyotes is in violation, as it is unlawful to accompany, hunt with, aid or assist a big game hunter while hunting coyotes.

#4 Two people go out hunting together. They decide to walk through the bush together. The first is licensed for, and searching for deer and is carrying a high-powered rifle. The second hunter is carrying a shotgun with light shot and no slugs, and he intends to shoot any grouse which the pair may flush while they are walking. The second person only has a small game licence. Both are hunting legally.

It is close to, but before legal time and I have legally shot and wounded a white-tailed deer. The deer runs off wounded into the bush. Can I take my rifle into the bush to find the animal and put it down? Am I obligated to find the animal?

An officer will not allow or condone a person carrying a firearm at night. You are not legally obligated to find the animal; however, you must make every reasonable effort to do so. The Migratory Birds Convention Act states that it is an offence to not immediately retrieve your game birds. The first thing you should do is contact your local conservation officer through the TIP line and advise your location and predicament. He may be able to assist you in tracking your animal. If you feel that you have mortally wounded the animal and it is after legal time you can still track the animal without a firearm following a blood trail or its tracks. Once you find the animal and you have confirmed that it is indeed dead, you may legally dress it out. If you find the animal and it is still alive you will have to leave it and follow up the next morning. If the next day is a Sunday you will have to contact your local conservation officer for permission to get your deer on a Sunday. It is always better to discuss the options with your local officer before taking action. It is also a good idea to contact the landowner and let them know that you are tracking the animal.