



## *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.

### **During and After Hunting:**

- Do not hunt if you are ill.
- Minimize insect bites.
- Avoid abdominal shots when possible.
- Report any sick wildlife or wild bird die-off.
- Avoid wearing the same clothes on consecutive days.
- Conduct frequent body checks for ticks.

### **Handling and Cleaning the Carcass:**

- Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning wild fowl or game.
- Wear heavy rubber or latex gloves.
- 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.
- 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 heavy rubber or latex gloves.
- Thoroughly wash 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 zoonotic disease prevention for hunters can be found in the *Zoonotic Disease Precautions for Hunters* document.

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