



Victorian Deer Association Inc.

Conservation Hunters

Code of ethics

1. Members who do not abide by this code will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible expulsion from the Association under Rule 7(a) of the rules of the Victorian Deer Association Inc.
2. Members shall know and obey the laws in the state in which they hunt.
3. Any member of the Association who witnesses another member of the association committing an act that may constitute a breach of the D.P.I. Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting must report that breach to the Committee of the Association. The Committee of the Association must take appropriate action in relation to that alleged breach.
4. Members shall use the legal hunting arms suitable for the game and conditions hunted in.
5. Members should be competent in the use of their firearms and shall adopt safe hunting practices with respect for firearms, and target identification.
6. All firearms are to be unloaded (no ammunition in firearm) when leaving or approaching any camping area and should be checked by another person, simply as a double check.
7. Hunters should not take more than the specified number of deer per hunting day, if any depending on the species hunted, than that set by the relevant authority.
8. Members shall not become involved in the commercialisation of wild deer.
9. Members shall encourage non V.D.A. deer hunters to adopt this Code of Practice.
10. Members shall behave in a sportsman like manner which would not bring discredit to recreational hunting or the Victorian Deer Association.
11. Members shall avoid confrontation with, and not infringe on the activities of other hunters, landowners, Government employees and the general public. Hunters shall respect the rights of landowners and exercise proper precautions to prevent damage to their property and any disturbance of their livestock.
12. Respect your game; every effort should be made to recover and dispatch the wounded game as soon as possible, offal should be disposed of where it will not cause offence and the venison should be removed from the bush, where practicable.
13. Members should leave campsites clean by taking all refuse away with them.
14. Members are encouraged to respect the concept of 'Fair Chase' and therefore shall not:
 - i. Shoot wild deer from any mechanical powered vehicle or boat,
 - ii. Shoot deer with the aid of artificial light, spot or infra-red light,
 - iii. Take deer behind wire (will not be recognised as legitimate trophies by this Association).
15. Members should give full support to issues relating to conservation, recreational hunting, and the conservation of wild deer.
16. It is permissible for a Stalker to use a utility dog to help find or flush Sambar, and to help find game that has been shot and lost.
17. Only hound breeds recognised and registered with the Department of Sustainability and Environment shall be used to find, flush or trail Sambar, they must trail the deer's scent, work the line, voice and not attack any deer at bay.
18. VDA promotes the wearing of "High Visibility" red or 'blaze orange' Caps, and this is strongly recommended when hunting in groups. Stalkers hunting alone may choose not to wear them but are advised to do so.
19. Two way radios should be carried when hunting in groups (Stalking & Hound teams), they should be used as pre-arranged, such as pre-arranged times. The V.D.A. encourages members to use Channel 15 on the UHF CB radio network. They must be turned "ON" when a shot is heard. This serves several purposes,
 - i. Such as a hunting friend has taken game and/or may need assistance, to carry it out,
 - ii. he may be injured or in need of help,
 - iii. is lost,
 - iv. a shot may be used to advise others of his location (used only as a last resort),
 - v. Three shots could be used as an "SOS" signal when evenly spaced, and should only be used for that purpose. (Three shots could be taken at a game species, but most likely these would not be evenly spaced.).

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