

Hunting wild deer on private land

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Background

Game hunting licensing

All deer living in the wild in NSW are defined as game animals under the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*. Individuals seeking to hunt deer on private land in NSW require either a General Game Hunting Licence (G-Licence), or a Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence) which covers both private and public land.

Game hunting license types

Within both G-Licence and R-Licence classes, specific licence types are required depending upon the reason the hunting is being undertaken:

Standard

- Required for general recreational hunting of deer.

Professional

- Required by a person when being paid by landowners or occupiers to hunt or cull deer.
- Also confers the authority of a standard licence.

Commercial

- Required by a person when selling all or part of the deer being hunted. (E.g. through a field chiller for consumption).
- Also confers the authority of a standard licence.

Guides

- Required by a person who, for fee or reward, guides other persons to hunt deer.
- Also confers the authority of a standard licence.

Visitors

- Required by visiting international deer hunters.
- Must be accompanied by another licence holder, other than a visitor, at all times.

Wild deer species found in NSW



Fallow Deer

72-98cm at shoulder
36-110kg
Season 1 March to 31 October



Red Deer

95 to 130cm at shoulder
90 to 250kg
Season 1 March 31 to October



Sambar Deer

102 to 160cm at shoulder
170 to 300kg
Open season all year



Rusa Deer

83-120cm at shoulder
50-140kg
Open season all year



Chital Deer

80 to 90cm at shoulder
45 to 85kg
Open season all year



Hog Deer

61 to 70cm at shoulder
30 to 55kg
Season 1 April to 30 April

Exemptions from licensing and regulations

The following persons are exempt from licensing and game hunting regulations when hunting deer in specified circumstances:

- Landowners, occupiers and persons that live in their household, when hunting on the land they own or occupy.
- Employees of landowners or occupiers when hunting on land owned or occupied by their employer.
- Aboriginal persons hunting pursuant to native title or undertaking traditional cultural hunting.
- Persons hunting deer in accordance with imposed pest or deer control orders.
- Public or local officers in the course of their work duties.
- Veterinarians killing or treating wild deer due to illness or injury.

Deer hunting regulations

Persons hunting game in NSW must abide by game hunting regulations. The following Regulations apply to hunting deer on private land:

- Unless exempt all persons hunting deer must be issued and carry a game hunting licence.
- Persons under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult game hunting licence holder.
- All deer hunters must have the permission of the landowner or occupier of the land being hunted on.
- Hunting seasons apply to certain deer species (see table over page).
- Deer may not be hunted at night, being 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.*
- Spotlights and certain other electrical devices must not be used to hunt deer.*
- Deer cannot be hunted using baits, lures or decoys (other than planted crops). *
- Deer may not be hunted from vehicles, watercraft or aircraft. *
- Deer must be targeted with an appropriate firearm or bow so that a humane kill is likely.
- Wounded deer must be located and despatched quickly.

- It is an offence to release deer from captivity into the wild or to release deer for the purpose of hunting the deer or its descendants.

* Professional and Commercial licence holders are exempt from these regulations.

Engaging licensed hunters to assist control wild deer

There are a variety of options available for private landowners who require assistance to control wild deer on their properties. These include:

- Engaging recreational hunters holding game hunting licences to hunt on the property.
- Engaging game hunting licence holders through an Approved Hunting Organisation (AHO).
- Contracting a licensed professional game hunter to cull deer on the property.
- Engaging a licensed commercial game hunter to harvest deer on the property.
- Engaging a licensed deer hunting guide to operate on the property.

For more information on wild deer control, contact the DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750.

Reporting illegal hunting

Report any suspected illegal deer hunting to the 'Shut the Gate on Illegal Hunting' report line on 1800 748 848 or to the DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750.

Further information

For more information on hunting wild deer in NSW visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting or contact the DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750 or game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

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