

**NB: Unofficial Translation**

**Legally binding texts are those in Finnish and Swedish**

**Hunting Decree**

(666/1993; amendments up to 170/2011 included)

*Section 1 – Hunting licence for game other than cervids*  
(170/2011)

- (1) A hunting licence referred to in section 10(1) of the Hunting Act (615/1993) must be obtained for:
- 1) the hunting of European beaver;
  - 2) the hunting of Baltic ringed seal;
  - 3) the hunting of grey seal; and
  - 4) the hunting of partridge in areas outside the regions of Ostrobothnia, South Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia and North Ostrobothnia.

*Section 2 – Granting of a hunting licence*  
(170/2011)

- (1) If required for the appropriate management of the population of the game animal species and the balanced and appropriate arrangement of hunting, the number of animals to be hunted may be reduced from the number applied for. In granting a hunting licence it must be ensured that the damage caused in the area by the game animal species in question remains at a reasonable level. A hunting licence is granted for no more than the number of game animals stated in the application.

*Section 3 – Information to be attached to a hunting licence application*  
(170/2011)

- (1) Information on the area and period in which the game animal species concerned in the hunting licence application is to be hunted must be attached to the application for a hunting licence referred to in section 1 above. In addition, if required by the Finnish Wildlife Agency, the applicant must provide an account of the size of the game animal population concerned in the application in the area to the Finnish Wildlife Agency. If required by the Finnish Wildlife Agency, the applicant must present evidence of his or her hunting right in the area concerned in the application.

*Section 4 – Provisions to be included in a hunting licence*  
(170/2011)

- (1) A hunting licence referred to in section 1 above must specify the area covered by the licence as well as the number of animals to be hunted. For special reasons, restrictions concerning hunting methods or the hunting area may be laid down and provisions concerning the age and sex of the animals to be hunted included in the licence.
- (2) A hunting licence granted is valid for a maximum period of one year from the date of granting.

*Section 5 has been repealed by 170/2011.*

*Section 6 – Application for a cervid hunting licence*  
(170/2011)

- (1) A map of the area referred to in the licence application as well as an account of its surface area must be attached to a hunting licence application concerning the hunting of cervids.
- (2) If required by the Finnish Wildlife Agency, an applicant must attach to the application a list of the cadastral register or land register units or parts of these in the areas in which cervid hunting takes place, or documents necessary for the substantiation of the hunting right.
- (3) If a hunting licence application concerns the hunting of cervids in the area referred to in section 8 of the Hunting Act and the area of State-owned land included in the hunting area is over 1 000 hectares, a preliminary notification of those who participate in the hunt as shooters, their permanent places of residence and any other opportunities they have to hunt the cervid concerned must be attached to the application.

#### *Section 7 – Provisions to be included in a cervid hunting licence*

(170/2011)

- (1) A hunting licence for one cervid entitles to kill one adult animal or two calves. Further provisions on the age or sex of the cervids which can be killed may be included in the hunting licence if this is considered necessary for appropriate management of the cervid population.
- (2) ‘Calf’ means a cervid less than one year old.

#### *Section 7a – Specific notification obligation relating to a cervid hunting licence*

(702/2010)

- (1) An identifying mark must be placed on a moose killed in Enontekiö, Inari, Muonio and Utsjoki immediately after the moose has been killed. The mark is attached to the ear of the moose. The holder of the hunting licence or a person authorised by him or her is obligated to deliver the head of the moose with the identifying mark to the game management association within seven days.
- (2) The game management association detaches the identifying mark and one tooth from the head of the moose to be delivered further to a research institute which carries out game research. The game management association attaches to the delivery information given by the holder of the hunting licence on the location where the moose was killed and date when it was killed as well as the weight and sex of the moose and, if the moose is male, the number of tines on its antlers.

#### *Section 8 – Application for and processing of a cervid hunting licence*

(170/2011)

- (1) An application for a cervid hunting licence must be lodged by 30 April at the latest to the game management association to whose jurisdiction the main part of the hunting area referred to in the application belongs.
- (2) The game management association must forward the application documents and its own statement on them to the Finnish Wildlife Agency on 15 May at the latest.
- (3) The Finnish Wildlife Agency must decide upon the applications by 10 August at the latest and send the decisions to the applicants without delay.
- (4) A cervid hunting licence is valid for one hunting year at a time.

#### *Section 9 – Notification obligation relating to a hunting licence and cervid hunting licence*

(170/2011)

- (1) A licence holder must notify the game management association of the quarry obtained by virtue of a hunting licence referred to in section 10 of the Hunting Act or cervid hunting licence referred to in section 26 of the Hunting Act. Notification must be made within seven days of the hunting of the animals mentioned in the hunting licence or, if not all of the animals have been hunted, within seven days of the beginning of the closed season.

- (2) Notification must mention the number of animals killed, their sex, time when they were killed and information on the location where they were killed. In the case of cervid species referred to in section 26 of the Hunting Act the notification must also include the number of adult cervids and calves killed, and proof of the payment of the game management fee must be attached to the notification.
- (3) The game management association must forward the information delivered to it to the Finnish Wildlife Agency within 14 days of the beginning of the closed season concerning the game animal species in question.
- (4) The Finnish Wildlife Agency must submit a summary report of the number of hunting licences granted and the number of animals killed by virtue of these to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on an annual basis.

#### Section 10 – *Use of iron traps and snares*

- (1) Iron traps may be used in the hunting of beaver, muskrat, farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, ermine, mink, polecat, pine marten, badger, and otter as well as in the capture of mammals which belong to unprotected animals. Traps intended for the hunting of game animals must be such that the animal first has to pass through the trap and that the trap in relation to the size of the animal must with sufficient strike force cause the immediate death of an animal caught in them. The diameter of the trap may not exceed 30 centimetres.
- (2) Snares may be used in the capture of willow grouse and ptarmigan in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, and Utsjoki.

#### Section 11 – *Use of restraining traps and foot snares*

(170/2011)

- (1) A trap for the capture of animals live or other similar hunting device may be used in the capture of lynx, European beaver, Canadian beaver, muskrat, farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, ermine, mink, polecat, pine marten, badger, otter, rabbit, squirrel, Baltic ringed seal and grey seal as well as unprotected mammals. A restraining trap or other hunting device must allow the animal to stand or lie in a natural position without harming itself.
- (2) A foot snare may be used in red fox hunting when the ground is covered with snow. The loop of the foot snare must be at least 30 millimetres in diameter when released.
- (3) The use of a hunting device referred to in subsections 1 and 2 above must be arranged so that it may be checked on at least a daily basis whether an animal has been caught in the device.

#### Section 12 – *Use of a dog in cervid hunting*

- (1) A hound whose height at the withers is over 28 centimetres may not be used in the hunting of cervids unless it is kept on a leash.
- (2) A hound allowed under subsection 1 may be used in the hunting of roe deer only from the last Saturday of September until 31 January. (440/2005)

#### Section 13 – *Restrictions associated with bear hunting*

- (1) A bear may not be driven from its den nor shot near its den or carrion, or on a field from which the crop has not been harvested. Lures involving feed may also not be used as aid in bear hunting.

#### Section 14 – *Use of a light source*

- (1) An artificial source of light may be used in tracking and putting down a wounded animal or an animal caught in a foot snare and in killing an animal in a trap.

#### Section 14a – *Use of a sound-producing mechanical device*

(170/2011)

- (1) In addition to the provision of section 33(2) of the Hunting Act, a sound-producing mechanical device may not be used as aid in the hunting of any other game birds, mountain hare, European beaver, wolf, bear, polecat, otter, pine marten, lynx, Baltic ringed seal, harbour seal and grey seal.

*Section 15 – Use of poison in the hunting of unprotected animals*

- (1) Poison or poisoned bait for the killing of rats, mice, and voles may only be used in a building, yard, garden, fur farm, landfill, and fish farming establishment. Poison and poisoned baits must be set up so that they cause no danger to humans or other animals.

*Section 16 – General requirements for firearms*

- (1) The bullet scoring energy of a rifled firearm to be used for the shooting of game measured from the muzzle must be at least 100 joules (E 0 > 100 J). (823/2009)
- (2) In addition to the provision of subsection 1:
  - 1) if a weapon is used for the shooting of red fox, farmed arctic fox, badger, otter, raccoon dog, raccoon, nutria, mountain hare, brown hare, capercaillie, black grouse, or goose, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 2.5 grams and the scoring energy when measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 200 joules (E 100 > 200 J); (823/2009)
  - 2) if a weapon is used for the shooting of roe deer, seal, wolf, lynx, wolverine, beaver or mouflon, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 3.2 grams and the scoring energy measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 800 joules (E 100 > 800 J);
  - 3) if a weapon is used for the shooting of white-tailed deer, red deer, forest reindeer, fallow deer, sika deer, or wild boar, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 6.0 grams and the scoring energy measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 2,000 joules (E 100 > 2,000 J) or, when a bullet weighs at least 8 grams, the scoring energy measured in a similar manner must be at least 1,700 joules (E 100 > 1,700 J); (81/1994) and
  - 4) if a weapon is used for the shooting of moose or bear, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 9 grams and the scoring energy measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 2,700 joules (E 100 > 2,700) or, when a bullet weighs at least 10 grams, the scoring energy measured in a similar manner must be at least 2,000 joules (E 100 > 2,000 J).
- (3) A full jacket bullet may not be used for shooting animals mentioned in subsection 2(3) and subsection 2(4) above.
- (4) A hand-gun may not be used for hunting.
- (5) A self-loading weapon with a magazine housing more than two cartridges may not be used for shooting game birds, mountain hare, European beaver, wolf, bear, polecat, otter, pine marten, lynx, Baltic ringed seal, harbour seal, grey seal or unprotected birds. (869/1998)

*Section 17 – The gauge of a shotgun*

(823/2009)

- (1) The gauge of a shotgun to be used for shooting a game animal must be 10-20. However, a smaller gauge shotgun may be used for shooting rabbit, muskrat, squirrel, ermine, willow grouse, ptarmigan, hazel grouse, partridge, woodcock, and wood pigeon, but not a shotgun with a gauge smaller than 36.

*Section 18 – Restrictions concerning a shotgun*

- (1) A shotgun loaded with pellets may not be used for shooting moose, white-tailed deer, red deer, forest reindeer, fallow deer, sika deer, bear, wild boar, seal, or mouflon. (1206/2000)
- (2) A bullet prepared for a shotgun may not be used for shooting moose or bear.

Section 19 – *Derogation from prohibitions concerning weapons*

- (1) The above provisions notwithstanding, an appropriate firearm may be used for shooting an animal in a cave, restraining trap, or in other similar circumstances or a wounded or injured animal.

Section 20 – *General requirements for bows*

- (1) A bow may only be used for shooting rabbit, mountain hare, brown hare, squirrel, European beaver, Canadian beaver, muskrat, nutria, farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, raccoon, badger, ermine, polecat, pine marten, mink, roe deer, and birds belonging to game animals, as well as unprotected animals. (224/2001)
- (2) Only a bow for which the pulling strength is at least 180 newtons (180 N) may be used for shooting a game animal.
- (3) The arrow tip to be used for shooting an animal must be such that an accurate hit is fatal on impact. If a bow is used for shooting European beaver, Canadian beaver, or roe deer, the arrow must have a cutting tip with a minimum diameter of 22 millimetres. If a bow is used for shooting European beaver or Canadian beaver the arrow must also be attached to the bow with a fishing line. (224/2001)
- (4) The use of a crossbow for hunting purposes is prohibited. (1374/1996)

Section 21 – *Provisions concerning the shooting of unprotected animals*

- (1) A firearm fulfilling the requirements laid down in section 16(1) or section 17 may be used for shooting a cat or unprotected birds.

Section 22 – *Gear to be used in the hunting of cervids (440/2005)*

- (1) When hunting fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, moose, white-tailed deer and forest reindeer, persons participating in a hunt must wear clearly visible red or orange headgear or headgear covering as well as a vest, coat, or other similar piece of clothing of a similar colour.

Section 23 – *The tasks of a hunting master*

- (1) The hunting master of a hunt for fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, moose, white-tailed deer and forest reindeer must:
  - 1) plan the hunting events in practice;
  - 2) give the participants to the hunt the necessary orders concerning hunting and the safety measures to be complied with; and
  - 3) ensure that the terms of the hunting licence and provisions concerning hunting are complied with.
 (440/2005)
- (2) Before starting a hunt, the holder of the hunting licence must notify the relevant game management association in writing of the hunting master and deputy hunting master.

Section 24 – *General closed seasons*

(170/2011)

- (1) The closed seasons for game animals are as follows:
  - 1) rabbit 1 April – 31 August, mountain hare and brown hare 1 March – 31 August;
  - 2) squirrel 1 February – 30 November;
  - 3) European beaver and Canadian beaver 1 May – 19 August;
  - 4) muskrat 20 May – 30 September;
  - 5) ermine and pine marten 1 April – 31 October;
  - 6) Baltic ringed seal 16 October – 15 April and 1 June – 31 August, and grey seal 1 January – 15 April;

- 7) wild boar 1 March – 31 May;
- 8) moose from 1 December to 31 August and 21 September to 10 October in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, Muonio and Utsjoki and from 1 January to the day preceding the last Saturday of September in the other parts of the country;
- 9) fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, forest reindeer, and white-tailed deer from 1 February to the day preceding the last Saturday of September;
- 10) roe deer male 16 June – 31 August and 1 February – 15 May as well as roe deer female and a calf of the same year 1 February – 31 August;
- 11) mouflon 1 December – 31 August;
- 12) Canadian goose, greylag goose, bean goose, mallard, teal, wigeon, pintail, garganey, shoveler, pochard, tufted duck, goldeneye, coot, woodcock as well as a female common eider and its young of the same year from 1 January to 12.00 noon of 20 August;
- 13) male common eider 1 January – 31 May;
- 14) long-tailed duck, red-breasted merganser and goosander 1 January – 31 August;
- 15) willow grouse in the regions of North Savo, North Karelia, South Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia, Ostrobothnia, Central Finland, North Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and Lapland excluding the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki 1 November – 9 September, in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki 1 April 1 – 9 September, and for the whole year in the other parts of the country;
- 16) ptarmigan in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, and Utsjoki 1 April – 9 September and for the whole year in the other parts of the country ;
- 17) black grouse and hazel grouse 1 November – 9 September;
- 18) capercaillie 1 November – 9 September;
- 19) partridge 1 November – 9 September;
- 20) pheasant 1 March – 31 August; and
- 21) wood pigeon 1 November – 9 August.

#### Section 25 – *Special closed seasons*

(170/2011)

- (1) The closed season for the females of farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, raccoon, badger, polecat, mink and nutria accompanied by offspring of the same year is 1 May – 31 July.
- (2) The game season is always closed for the females of wild boar, fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, roe deer, moose, white-tailed deer, forest reindeer and mouflon accompanied by offspring less than a year old.

#### Section 25a – *Closed seasons in respect of unprotected birds*

(170/2011)

- (1) The closed seasons for unprotected birds are the following:
  - 1) hooded crow, herring gull, great black-backed gull, domestic pigeon and field fare in the regions of North Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and Lapland 1 May – 31 July, in the regions of North Savo and North Karelia 1 April – 31 July and in the other parts of the country 10 March – 31 July;
  - 2) magpie in the regions of North Savo, North Karelia, North Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and Lapland 10 April – 31 July and in the other parts of the country 1 April – 31 July;
  - 3) raven in the reindeer herding area 10 April – 31 July; and
  - 4) herring gull colonies throughout the year.

#### Section 26 – *Protection of the nests of a muskrat and beaver*

(170/2011)

- (1) An inhabited nest of a muskrat or beaver may not be broken. A dam or other structure connected to an inhabited nest may nevertheless be broken to prevent damage between 15 June and 30 September.

*Sections 27 – 30 have been repealed by 170/2011.*

*Section 31 – Trade in game animals  
(869/1998)*

- (1) The sale of Canadian goose, bean goose, garganey, long-tailed duck, goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, goosander, hazel grouse, black grouse and capercaillie hunted in Finland as well as their recognizable parts or products made of them is prohibited.
- (2) Provisions concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 338/1997 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein are laid down in section 44 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996). (664/2001)

*Section 32 – Compensation for impounding a dog*

- (1) Compensation for taking care of a dog referred to in section 55(3) of the Hunting Act is determined so that it fully covers the expenses which arise from the care. The expenses which are taken into account comprise the work required in looking after the dog, the supplies and equipment acquired for that purpose, and an appropriate portion of the expenses associated with the facilities used in providing the care.

*Sections 33 – 34 have been repealed by 170/2011.*

*Section 35 has been repealed by 1238/1999.*

*Sections 36 – 37 have been repealed by 170/2011.*

*Section 38 – Hunting permit to a foreigners*

- (1) A permit referred to in section 46(3) of the Hunting Act may be granted to a foreigner who hunts in an area referred to in the said subsection accompanied by a Finnish hunter. A further precondition is that the person fulfils the conditions laid down in section 2 of the Act on the Game Management Fee and Hunting Licence Fee (616/1993).

*Section 39 – Notification to a hunting right holder  
(170/2011)*

- (1) The notification referred to in section 83c(2) of the Hunting Act must be made orally, by telephone, or by some other means no later than the first working day following the day when the game animal was found. If the holder of the hunting right is not reached within 48 hours, the hunter may keep the animal.
- (2) If the holder of the hunting right takes an animal in a case referred to in section 83(2) of the Hunting Act, the holder of the hunting right is regarded as having used, in lieu of the hunter, the hunting licence in respect of the animal.

*Section 40 – Notification of wounding an animal  
(440/2005)*

- (1) The nearest police must be notified without delay of any wounded wild boar, wolf, bear, wolverine or lynx left in a forest.

*Section 41 – Permit for certain game management measures*

(170/2011)

- (1) A permit referred to in section 40 of the Hunting Act must be applied for in writing from the Finnish Wildlife Agency. The application must state the reasons for applying for the permit and the hunting methods to be used. Granting the permit is subject to the condition that the measures referred to in the permit do not cause significant harm to wild game animal populations.
- (2) The permit application must state:
  - 1) the hunting methods allowed by virtue of the permit;
  - 2) the number of animals the applicant is allowed to capture or take ; and
  - 3) how the impacts of the game management measures are to be notified to the Finnish Wildlife Agency by the holder of the permit.
- (3) A permit granted is valid for a year at a time unless a shorter validity period is specified in the permit decision.

*Section 42 – Handling of an illegal hunting device*

- (1) If the owner of a hunting device referred to in section 81(2) of the Hunting Act is known and if the hunting device can be converted with minor repairs into a hunting device which fulfils the requirements or if its parts have use value, the hunting device is returned to the owner. In other cases, the hunting device is disposed of.
- (2) If a hunting device which has been returned in accordance with subsection 1 is again confiscated by virtue of section 81 of the Hunting Act, the hunting device is disposed of.

*Section 43 has been repealed by 170/2011*

*Section 44 – Notification of roe deer quarry*

(170/2011)

- (1) A hunter must notify the Finnish Wildlife Agency of the quarry of roe deer hunt. The notification must be made within seven days of the day when the roe deer was killed.
- (2) The notification must mention the following information on roe deer killed in a hunt according to individual deer:
  - 1) age (adult or calf);
  - 2) sex;
  - 3) time when the animal was killed; and
  - 4) information on the location where the animal was killed.
- (3) The location where the animal was killed must be notified as register units in the Real Estate Register. Information must also be given whether the register unit concerned belongs to the roe deer hunting area of a hunting club or hunting party or whether the register unit concerned is distinct from these. The surface area of the hunting area of the hunting club or hunting party must also be given. If the quarry was obtained in a register unit which is not included in the hunting area of a hunting club or hunting party, the surface area of the register unit must also be given.
- (4) The Finnish Wildlife Agency must forward a summary of the information referred to above submitted to it to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry within 30 days of the beginning of the closed season.

*Section 45 – The right of a reindeer herdsman to transport a hunting weapon*

(1289/1995)

- (1) The provisions of section 35(3) of the Hunting Act notwithstanding, the Chief Police Officer of the Police District may grant, on the proposal of the chairman of the herding cooperative, a reindeer herdsman who carries out reindeer herding tasks a permission to transport off the



road in a motor vehicle a hunting rifle which fulfils the requirements laid down in section 16(3) of this Decree in respect of bullet scoring energy.

Section 46 – *Entry into force*

(1) This Decree enters into force on 1 August 1993.