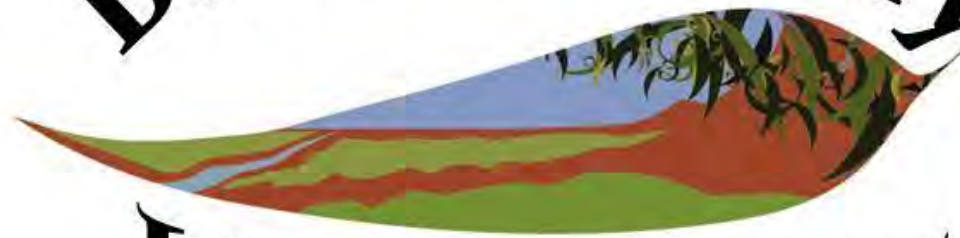


Back Country



Hunting



Accreditation Course Aim

- The primary purpose of this Course is to provide or re-inforce to hunters in the Northern Territory the basic knowledge and information to assist them to hunt safely, legally and responsibly on the areas of Public Land that are open for Back Country Hunting.
- A 100% pass in the Hunter Accreditation Course is one of the requirements for application to participate in the Back Country Hunting initiative (BCH).

Accreditation Course content

- Go through the book chapter by chapter - highlighting important points
- Fill out the forms and any questions about the content or the Test
- OPEN BOOK Multiple-Choice Test

Code of practice and NT Legal implications

- Code of Practice.
 - Accredited hunters must obey this Code as a condition of the Back Country Hunting Permit.

1. Code of practice and NT Legal implications

• The Code

- 1. AWARENESS of relevant legislation
- 2. SAFE handling of firearms.
- 3. AUTHORITY to enter land with a firearm for the purpose of hunting.
- 4. TARGET IDENTIFICATION and safety.
- 5. OBLIGATION to avoid suffering.
- 6. Lactating female with dependant young.
- 7. Wounded animals.
- 8. Use of dogs.

1. Code of practice and NT Legal implications

- Important legislation

- the Animal Welfare Act
- the Firearms Act
- the Firearms Regulations
- the Parks and Wildlife Commission Act
- the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act
- the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation By-Laws
- the Trespass Act
- the Weeds Management Act

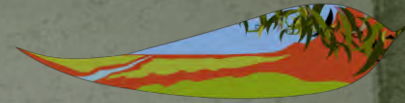
<https://dcm.nt.gov.au/nt-legislation-and-publications/current-nt-legislation-database>

1. Code of practice and NT Legal implications

BCH PERMIT CONDITIONS

- It is vital and a requirement that all hunters read and understand the conditions of their Back Country Hunting Permit before entering their permitted hunting area. Permit holders must be aware of the boundaries of the permitted hunting area and stay within its boundaries.
- NOTE: *The BCH permit is for hunting only. Permit holders are not allowed to sight in or have target practice in their permitted areas.*

1. Code of practice and NT Legal implications



It is the responsibility of an accredited BCH permit holder to be aware of and comply with all relevant legislation relating to:

- wildlife, hunting, animal welfare and the use of firearms

Sighting in a rifle on a Back Country Hunting Block or area *is not permitted*

2. Animal Welfare issues

- Two acceptable points of aim when hunting animals with firearms:
 1. the chest kill zone and
 2. the head kill zone.



Note: Frontal head shots are not recommended for mature buffalo bulls

2. Animal Welfare Issues

- The successful shot
 - **one single shot that drops your animal instantaneously, at or within a few seconds of projectile impact. Death is swift and the struggle is minimal.**



2. Animal Welfare Issues



2.5 Continued

- *If the quarry collapsed on being shot but remains conscious*
- *Should the quarry animal be mortally wounded but is able to run a short distance*
- *If the quarry animal is wounded and able to run a long distance*
- *If the animal escapes out of range*
- *Clean miss – are you sure*

2. Animal Welfare Issues

Three cardinal animal welfare principles that must be strictly adhered to:

- No animal may be inflicted with unnecessary pain;
- If a female with suckling and dependent young is taken, every reasonable effort is required to locate and dispatch the young;
- All reasonable steps must be taken to locate and quickly kill a wounded animal

2. Animal Welfare Issues

If an animal is wounded and escapes out of rifle range you should:

- *mark two spots, 3 metres apart and in line with where you last saw the animal;*
- *mark the animal's last seen position then wait 15 minutes before tracking the animal, following blood spots or other signs of its passing.*



3. Safe Hunting Practices



Identify hazards

- *Make it a habit to think about possible hazards before departing on a hunting trip or a hunt*
- *Think through the consequences of your action*
- *Have a pre-planned communication strategy between hunters in the field*

3. Safe Hunting Practices

ALWAYS POINT YOUR FIREARM IN A SAFE DIRECTION – LOADED OR UNLOADED

TARGET IDENTIFICATION and safety.

- A game animal must not be fired at unless it can be clearly seen and identified. A Hunter should assume any shape, colour, movement or sound is a human until proven otherwise.

3. Safe Hunting Practices

If an animal is on the skyline::

- back off and move around to take the shot from a position where you know the projectile will come to earth safely



3. Safe Hunting Practices



To take a safe shot you first must

- be absolutely sure of the species of animal you are proposing to shoot and ensure that the projectile will come to rest in a safe place without causing damage to people or property

4. Ethics and Conservation

The four “R’s” of hunting in the NT

1. *RESPECT for the Law*
2. *RESPECT for the Landowner and Joint Management Partners*
3. *RESPECT for the Environment*
4. *RESPECT for the Animals*

4. Ethics and Conservation

Examples of Aboriginal heritage that are protected in the NT:

- Scarred trees –
- Rock painting – Markings or etching;
- Foot holes cut into
- Grinding grooves ;
- Stone arrangements
- Middens
- Hand tools

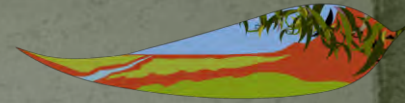
The above items are not to be damaged, removed or altered in any way.

4. Ethics and Conservation

Ethical hunters:

- Take the necessary precautions and safety measures relating to camp fires
- Dispose of all litter/rubbish and empty shell cases properly – take it out with you.
- Vehicles must stay on formed access roads or tracks and not driven where the vehicle will cause environmental damage
- Understand they are a guest of the landowner or land manager and must treat the property with respect.

5. Hunting with Rifles



Principles are recommended for selecting a firearm/ ammunition combination?

- *Choose a combination that allows for accurate shot placement for the distance at which the animal is to be shot and sufficient killing power to quickly and humanely kill the animal.*

5. Hunting with Rifles



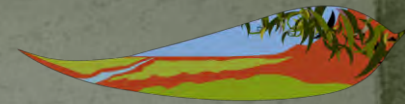
- Get as stable a rest as possible before taking the shot – the least stable position is the free-standing off-hand position
- Get the most out of your firearm, accurise it:
 - *bed the action, check the trigger pressure, zero the sights at a range, and free float the barrel, tune it to the ammunition*

5. Hunting with Rifles



- Construction of projectiles is important, it affects the killing power of the projectile. Full Metal Jacket military style ammunition is not suited to hunting.





Match the projectile to the game species

Some manufacturers provide information about projectile performance on the ammunition packet

Others go to the effort of showing examples of how the selected projectiles perform when hunting ✓



Varmint

Medium

Heavy

Dangerous



Varmint and light game

Medium game

Medium to Heavy game

Dangerous

5. Hunting with Shotguns



- Bore size determined by gauge
- Shotgun chokes
 - Designed to control the spread of shot at the target at a given range

5. Hunting with Shotguns

- SG Buckshot or Solid Slugs such as the Brenneke is the recommended shot size for pigs in the NT



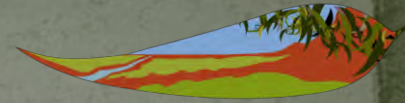
5. Hunting with Shotguns



Before setting out for a shoot, the hunter must make sure that:

- the cartridges are the right gauge for the shotgun being used and the right charge and length for that shotgun's chamber
- When walking with a shotgun, the barrel should always be pointed to the ground or kept pointing into the air in a vertical position – **never pointed towards a person**

6. Disease Surveillance

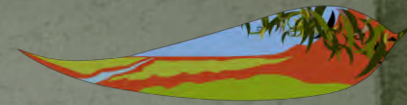


Hunters can play an important role in disease surveillance

Many dead or dying wildlife can be an indication of: a significant infectious disease, exposure to a poison, events such as extreme weather conditions

Examples of the types of unusual behaviour to look out for include:
Head tilt, circling, abnormal locomotion-
staggering, wandering

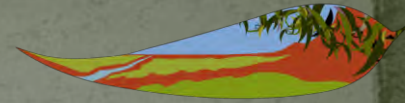
6. Disease Surveillance



Live and dead animals are potentially harmful to hunters or their families: hunters should:

- Never handle bats
- Never dress the carcass of a sick animal for human consumption
- Wear gloves when handling dead animals - vinyl, latex or dish-washing gloves and carefully dispose of used gloves
- Wash your hands and equipment very well after handling dead animals (carry a small bottle of alcohol-based hand wash)

6. Disease Surveillance



Animals with sore feet and mouths caused by blisters (vesicle), could be infected with foot and mouth disease.

An outbreak of foot and mouth disease is a National Emergency and must be reported immediately.

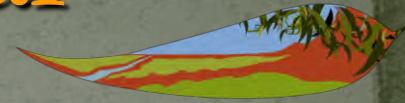
7. Bushcraft and survival



When parking a vehicle or pitching camp a hunter should select an area that would be unaffected by a fast-moving grass fire passing through the area



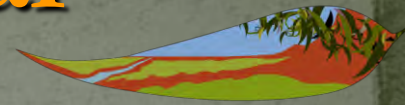
7. Bushcraft and survival



Be CrocWise:
Saltwater(Estuarine)
crocodiles in the Top
End of the NT - they
can happily live in
freshwater for years and
could be found in any
waters in the Top End
and be active at any time
of the year .

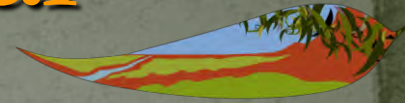


7. Bushcraft and survival



Before departing from home on a BCH permitted hunt you should:
leave details of the location of the hunt, planned hunting areas and return date with someone and an instruction to contact authorities if you do not return or make contact by a certain time/date.

7. Bushcraft and Survival



The universal distress signal with a rifle is three rifle shots spaced evenly fifteen seconds apart – consider carrying enough ammo to cover this.

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Any further questions?

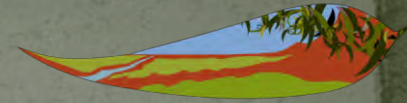
**Back Country
Hunting**



**NT Firearms
COUNCIL**



The Open Book Test



- *Fill out all your personal details and AHO membership details on the forms – the Assessor will need to sight your NT Firearms Licence and AHO membership card when you bring your Answer Sheet up to be marked*
- *You can take as long as you like – there are 40 questions – mark the correct box on the answer sheet with an X*
- *You can use the Handbook and refer to it*
- *You cannot ask anyone else to help with an answer*