

# Hunting Lead-Free & Saving Wildlife

People who hunt:

- ♦ love being outside,
- ♦ are interested in wildlife,
- ♦ support wildlife research and habitat conservation through license fees, and
- ♦ are problem-solvers.

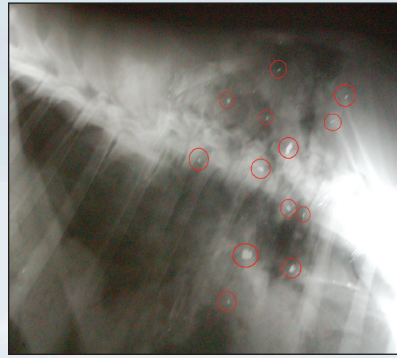
Wildlife needs hunters' help.

Over 130 different species of wildlife have been impacted by eating lead.



Upland birds and waterfowl, like pheasants and ducks, mistake lead shot for seeds or grit and eat it.

Scavengers, like eagles and hawks, can be exposed to lead when eating from a game animal carcass or gut pile.



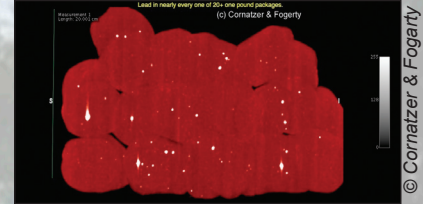
X-ray of slug-shot deer carcass: lead fragments circled in red

Ingesting lead is harmful to wild animals.

- ♦ An eagle can die from eating a very small fragment of a lead slug or rifle bullet.
- ♦ A duck can die from eating 1-2 pieces of lead shot.
- ♦ Lead can affect an animal's health, impairing its ability to find food, hide from predators, and fight off diseases.

Ingesting lead is harmful to people.

- ♦ Lead fragments have been found in deer meat.
- ♦ Your body takes in lead and stores it like calcium. When growing bodies are exposed to lead they absorb more of it, making children and pregnant women most at risk.
- ♦ Even very low levels of lead can cause learning and attention deficit disorders.
- ♦ Lead affects the nervous system the most.



CT scan of packages of rifle-shot venison: lead shows white

There are several types of bullets, slugs, and shot being made from non-lead/non-toxic materials.

Waterfowl hunters have already switched to using non-toxic shot. This has saved millions of ducks from lead poisoning and is cost-effective conservation.

## Concerned about lead poisoning? Here's what you can do!

Spread the word, talk to your friends about lead.

Do some research.

Test it out!

- ♦ Non-toxic shot comes in steel and combinations of other metals (see: [www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/nontoxic.htm](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/nontoxic.htm)).
- ♦ Knowing how your shotgun patterns with different shot and at different distances is the key to success!
- ♦ Rifle bullets and shotgun slugs are made from solid copper.
- ♦ Make sure to sight in your firearm using copper slugs or bullets.



"Deer hunters that use copper bullets and slugs report excellent results."

If you can't find non-lead ammunition at your local store, ask them to stock some. Increased demand brings down prices. Watch for sales during the off-season.



Using copper bullets and slugs and non-toxic shot saves wildlife and helps humans.



You can help the environment and make great hunting memories for you and your family.

For more scientific references, places to buy non-toxic ammunition, and other information on lead, see:

[www.soarraptors.org](http://www.soarraptors.org)



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saving our avian resources

