

How to Legally Hunt Game in Tasmania

FACT SHEET | April 2024



A three-step process exists to legally hunt in Tasmania.

Step 1 – Apply for a firearms licence

Step 2 – Hunting for recreation

Step 3 – Apply for a recreational hunting licence

Step 1 - How to apply for a firearms licence

A person wishing to **own or use** a firearm must:

- be confirmed as a fit and proper person. This involves reviewing:
 - your criminal history
 - information about your mental and physical health
 - any court or police orders you may have
 - your firearm licencing history and police information reports
- be over 18. Minor's permits are available for ages 12 to 17.
- be able to prove you have a **genuine reason** to own or use a firearm.
 - Sport or target shooting
 - Recreational hunting or vermin control (see step 2)
 - Primary production
 - Animal population control
 - Animal welfare

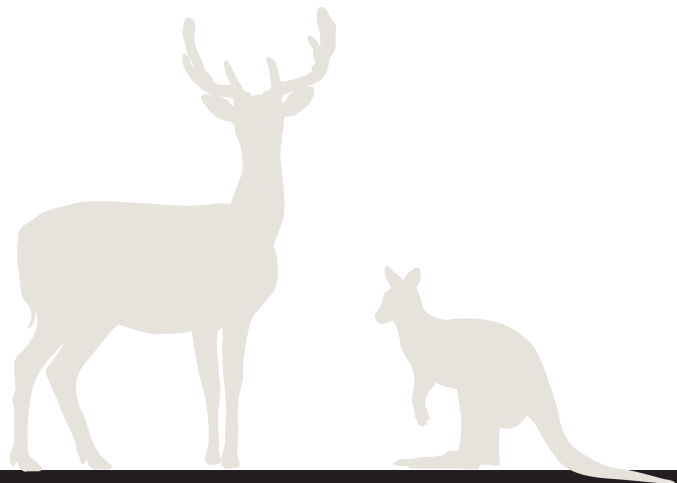
- Business or employment as a firearms dealer, security agent or security guard. This reason also covers:
 - Commercial fishermen for such purposes as discharging seal deterrent ammunition
 - Paintball operators
- Firearms collection
- Show or exhibition (Museum)

General information

<https://fas.police.tas.gov.au/obtaining-a-licence/application-process/>

Download application and submit at Service Tasmania

<https://www.service.tas.gov.au/services/recreation-and-animals/firearms-gun-licence/apply-for-a-firearms-licence>



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FACT SHEET | April 2024

Step 2 - Hunting for recreation

In order to hunt for recreational purposes you must have your firearms licence endorsed for that purpose and listed on your firearms licence. This is important, for example a target shooter needs that extra endorsement on their licence in order to legally hunt.

Applying to hunt on public land in Tasmania

- A permission to shoot document must be obtained to hunt on reserved and crown land prior to obtaining a recreational/game hunting licence.
- <https://nre.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/forms-permits-and-fees/application-for-an-authority>
- <https://sttas.com.au/access-permits/hunting>

Public land hunting information and fact sheet

- <https://nre.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/management-of-wildlife/game-management/recreational-hunting-licences/public-land-hunting-in-tasmania>
- <https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Public%20Hunting%20in%20Tasmania%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Hunting on private land in Tasmania

If you are shooting on private land you will need to provide written consent from the landowner, not manager, to have permission to shoot on their land, their written consent will have to be attached to your firearms application.

Step 3 - How to apply for a recreational hunting licence

Who needs a hunting licence?

Anybody who wants to hunt:

- Deer
- Wild Duck
- Muttonbird
- Wallaby
- Brown Quail
- Pheasant

Apply online <https://hunting.nre.tas.gov.au/>

General Recreational hunting licence information

Open seasons and hunting licence fees 2024

Species and Season	Ordinary	Concession
Fallow deer: Adult Male: 24 February to 31 March 2024 Antlerless: 15 March to 15 November 2024	\$80.10	\$64.08
Wallaby: Bennett's and rufous wallaby 26 February 2024 to 23 February 2025	\$35.60	\$28.48
Wild duck: mountain duck, wood duck, black duck, chestnut teal, grey teal 9 March – 10 June 2024	\$35.60	\$28.48
Muttonbird (non-commercial): 30 March– 14 April 2024	\$35.60	\$28.48
Brown quail: 18 May – 30 June 2024	\$35.60	\$28.48
Male pheasant (King Island only): 8 – 9 June 2024	\$17.80	\$14.24

Conditions

- The licence holder must only take and possess the game species specified on the Hunting Licence Card.
- You must only hunt within the specified season and comply with bag limits as set in the [Nature Conservation \(Open Seasons\) Order 2004](#).
- Wildlife can only be hunted in areas where you have authority from the landholder.
- You must not shoot from or on a public road.
- You must not discharge a firearm within 250 meters of a dwelling without consent from the occupier.
- Take must be by means of shooting with a firearm only (except muttonbirds).
- Muttonbird take must be by hand removal only.
- You must comply with wildlife specific [Code of Practice and Animal Welfare Standards](#).
- Any wounded wildlife and dependent young, that are unlikely to survive in the wild, must be humanely killed immediately. This must be done in accordance with approved methods

How to Legally Hunt Game in Tasmania

FACT SHEET | April 2024

in the [Code of Practice and Animal Welfare Standards](#). Deer specific welfare requirements are available [here](#).

- Live juvenile wildlife must not be sold or gifted to anyone as a pet or to be rehabilitated, raised, or cared for without written approval from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.
- You must provide [take returns](#) for all species harvested (except wallaby) the take return form is available [here](#).

Obligations

- This Hunting Licence is subject to the [Nature Conservation \(Wildlife\) Regulations 2021](#)
- Non-shooting Hunting Licence holders for deer or wallaby products must only possess deceased deer or wallaby, taken by an authorised person.
- You must notify Wildlife Services if you require a replacement deer tag. A [statutory declaration](#) must be completed and submitted prior to a replacement deer tag being issued.
- If a Hunting Licence Card is lost or damaged, the holder should contact Wildlife Services and apply for a replacement card. There is no charge for a replacement card.
- You must only hunt wildlife with the permitted type and calibre of firearm for that species as described in the [Nature Conservation \(Wildlife\) Regulations 2021](#).
- You must not hunt wildlife during the period beginning one hour after sunset on any day and ending one hour before sunrise on the next day without written authority from the NRE Tas.
- You must not use, or possess, a detection device e.g. thermal or light for the purpose of taking wildlife during the period beginning one hour after sunset on any day and ending one hour before sunrise on the next day.
- You must not shoot from a conveyance; or within 10 metres of a conveyance.
- You must not sell or offer for sale any wildlife taken under this licence.

- The use of baits for wild duck, live decoys, traps, snares, spears, bow and arrows, crossbows, explosives, nets, poison, bird lime and chemical compounds is prohibited.
- The use of dogs to catch, kill, or injure wildlife is prohibited.

Deer

- Immediately after taking an adult male deer, you must affix and lock your prescribed 'M' tag to the antler of that deer, around the beam between the brow tine and trez tine.
- You must not remove a prescribed tag that has been fixed to a deer.
- You must not damage, interfere with or deface a prescribed tag.
- You must not remove the head, or sever the body, of a deer at a location other than your usual residence unless the deer was tagged and all products of wildlife relating to the deer have been labelled with your name, residential address, licence number and tag number.

Codes of practice information on ethical hunting

- <https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Code-Fallow-Deer-24Apr2012.pdf>
- <https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/ShootingAndHuntingEffectively.pdf>

Safe storage and transport of firearms

- <https://fas.police.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/TasPol-Firearms-Svcs-Info-Sheet-29-vJan2022.pdf>
- <https://fas.police.tas.gov.au/existing-licence-holders/storage-safekeeping-transport/>

Contact:

Game Services Tasmania

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Wildlife Services

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