

# How to identify harvestable fallow deer in NSW Ecological Deer Management forests

February 2015

Ecological Deer Management (EDM) programs are operating in four NSW State forests to better manage the fallow deer populations in each and provide a more equitable access system for all NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licensed (R-Licensed) hunters. See the *Hunting in NSW Ecological Deer Management forests* factsheet for more information on the special conditions that apply in these forests.

This factsheet explains how to identify deer you are able to harvest from these forests and how to remove the jawbone from deer taken. Your participation in EDM contributes to ongoing research into the deer populations in these forests and overall deer management in NSW.

## Which deer can be harvested?

The four EDM forests, Maragle South, Maragle North, Mannus and Green Hills State forests, have a number of special harvest restrictions:

- Only one mature, fork-antlered buck may be harvested per EDM forest, per hunter, per season (1 March to 31 October each year).
- No bump or spike-antlered bucks are to be harvested.
- Licence holders must remove the jawbone from each harvested deer and deposit it, cleaned and packaged appropriately, in the designated box at the entrance to each EDM forest (preferred). Jawbones may also be sent to the Game Licensing Unit if necessary.

**The harvest of does during the deer hunting season is unrestricted.**

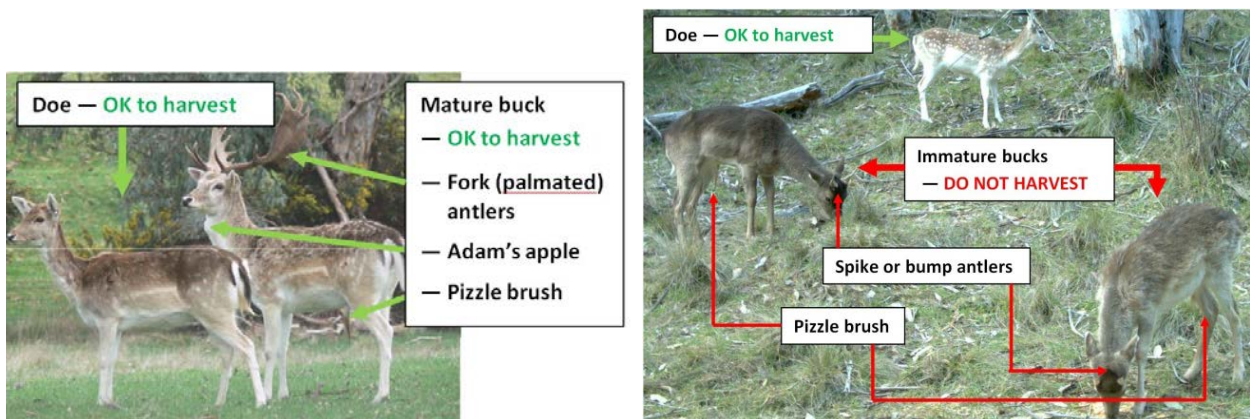
## How do I identify each age and sex class of fallow deer?

Licence holders can use a number of distinguishing features to avoid harvesting younger bump or spike-antlered bucks. All harvestable bucks have:

- a distinct pizzle brush.
- fork or palmated antlers
- a distinct, thickened neck during the breeding season; and
- an Adam's apple.

Does will have none of these distinguishing features.

When harvesting female deer, licence holders should be certain that the animal is not a bump or spike-antlered buck by looking for a pizzle brush and bumps or spikes on the head.



## Extracting jaw bones from harvested EDM deer

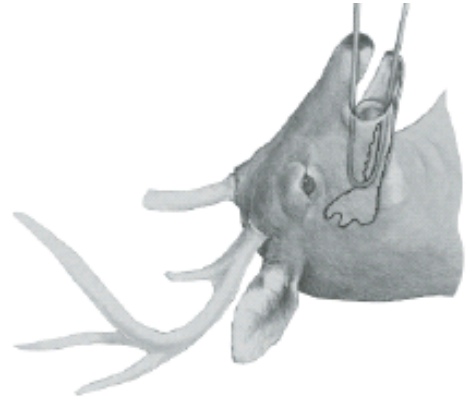
**Sterile surgical gloves and large plastic zip lock bags should be carried to remove and store harvested jaw bones.**

**Gloves and bags are available free-of-charge at the Caltex service station in Tumbarumba, located on the corner of Bridge and Winton Streets.**

Accurately determining the age of a fallow deer is important for proper deer herd management. Biologists use a technique for estimating the age by mandibular tooth replacement and wear which usually requires removal of the jawbone.

Use of the **Steel Jawbone Extractor** and **Jawbone Removal Shears** provides a fast, easy way to remove the jawbone without causing damage to the cape.

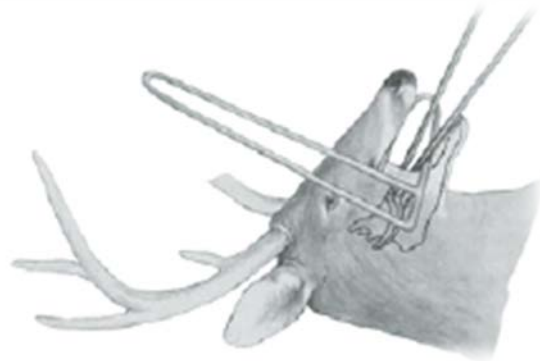
Removing the jawbone will not affect the mount as taxidermists skin the cape from the head and stretch it over a mould – the actual jawbone and teeth are not used.



### Step 1

Use the jawbone extractor to pry open the deer's mouth.

Insert the smaller, rounded end of the extractor between the jawbone and cheek and push to break loose the membrane and muscle from the jawbone.



### Step 2

Hold the deer's mouth wide open using the extractor. Insert the jawbone removal shears with the blade on the tongue side.

Tilt the handles of the shears toward the lower jawbone and then cut the jawbone, being careful not to cut the last molar cusp.

### Step 3

Insert the smaller end of the jawbone extractor over the jawbone where the cut was made.

With the deer head held down firmly, give a quick tug on the extractor. It should slide under the jawbone and break loose all remaining muscles, freeing the jawbone.

That side of the jawbone will separate from the opposite side near or in the middle of the front teeth or may be cut using the shears. As only the premolars and molars are used, the front teeth usually have no value for this type of aging.

### Step 4

**Clean the jawbone THOROUGHLY** by removing all tissue, then **boil it and allow it to air dry.**

Using the plastic bags you have collected from Tumbarumba, package the jawbone and deposit it **with your EDM harvest return** in a forest collection box or post it directly to the Compliance Officer, Game Licensing Unit, Lot 7 Winton Street, Tumbarumba NSW 2653.

## More information

Go to [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting) or contact the DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750.

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