Recreational Hunting

Whether you participate in pest control programs or hunt as a recreational activity, good biosecurity practices are important.

Under the right circumstances, hunting can provide for complementary pest control and the local knowledge of hunters can contribute to the design of pest control programs.

Regardless of the reason why you hunt however, you also have an important role to play in minimising the risk of the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases, including weeds.

Everyone has a responsibility to reduce this biosecurity impact so that we can continue to enjoy our recreational activities well into the future.

What can you do to help?

There are some simple steps you can take to play your part in protecting our economy, environment and community from biosecurity risks for generations to come.

- Before you go hunting, think about hygiene. Check your footwear, vehicles and gear so you don’t transfer unwanted pests, diseases or weeds – weed seeds in particular can lodge in footwear, clothing and tyres and be easily transported to new areas. Clean your clothing, vehicle and equipment once you’re finished to prevent the spread between environments.

- Before entering private land, check the land owner’s biosecurity plan to see if you need to take any specific precautions before entry. For example, they may require you to wash your vehicle before entering.

- Do not transport carcasses or dump them in other areas – bury the carcass intact where you harvest the animal or take the carcass and harvested meat home and dispose of any wastage in the bin.

- Do not transport or release live animals into the environment.

- Wear gloves when handling or butchering an animal and practice good hygiene afterwards.

- If you see anything suspect, take photos and report your sightings via the biosecurity risk reporting form at dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityriskreporting or call 1800 680 244

What are some of the risks?

Wildlife and feral animals in Australia can carry a range of diseases that may present a potential risk for food safety and human health when these animals are harvested. These diseases include *Coxiella burnetti* (causing Q fever), *Brucella suis* (causing brucellosis), *Leptospira* (causing leptospirosis), *Echinococcus granulosus* (the hydatid tapeworm) and various gut organisms such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

Game animals can also carry other pests that we need to manage such as cattle tick on deer and virulent footrot in goats.

**Brucellosis (*Brucella suis*) in dogs**

*Brucella suis* has been detected in dogs that have been pig-hunting in northern NSW, and...
dogs that have been fed raw feral pig meat. Dogs infected with *Brucella suis* display a range of symptoms including fever, enlarged prostate, back pain, lameness, vomiting, lethargy, enlarged lymph nodes and blood in urine. *Brucella suis* can be transmitted to people and is a potentially fatal disease.

For more information on regulated hunting in NSW please contact the DPI Game Licensing Unit on (02) 63637650 or game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au.