



## Guide to Hunting in Germany

### 11 – HUNTING TECHNIQUES (*JAGDARTEN*)

Most hunts involve a single hunter, sometimes with a guide, and a versatile hunting dog. High game (*Hochwild*) and Roe Deer (*Rehwild*) are hunted by one or a combination of the following methods:

- Sitting (*Ansitz*)
- Stalking (*Pirsch*)
- Drive hunting (*Treibjagd*) using beaters and dogs.

German hunters prefer to “post” and wait for game on elevated platforms. A simple construction of a ladder with a seat leaning against a tree is called ladder (*Leiter*).

When the construction is more solid and standing free, with reinforcement supports, it is called a high seat (*Hochsitz*). When the construction has a roof and a door, it is called a pulpit (*Kanzel*). In areas with Wild Boar these pulpits (*Kanzeln*) are sometimes equipped to sleep up to two hunters.

These elevated platforms are set up at strategic points overlooking woodland clearings, prime feeding places, or well used game trail crossings.

Hunters on an elevated platform can move more freely because they are out of range of the animal’s keen detector senses. Elevated platforms are safe and allow cleaner kills. The bullet fired from a platform towards the ground will have a safe bullet catch (*Kugelfang*).

Elevated platforms also allow time for accurate game identification, selective shooting, and game census taking.





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# Guide to Hunting in Germany



Ladder (*Leiter*)



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# Guide to Hunting in Germany



Ladder seat (*Scherenleiter*)



*Kanzel* on old bunker within the Grafenwoehr Training Area



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High seat (*Hochsitz*)

### **Stalking (*Pirsch*)**

In this hunting technique the hunter walks stealthily in search of game, reading signs (footprints, etc) along the way and trying to outguess the quarry.

In stalking game, the hunter should move very quietly against the wind (upwind) or quartering with the wind, but never downwind. Game animals are quick to detect and locate humans by their scent. Wind direction should be checked frequently (for example, the use of a wet finger, cigarette smoke, dust, or a feather). If the wind is variable, the hunter should speed p his or her movement using the direction of the prevailing wind as guide.

The hunter should take advantage of hedgerows, tree gullies, and small knolls. It is advisable to scan the area with binoculars, stopping frequently to study the surroundings. While stalking, hunters should take great care to avoid breaking sticks or making other noises, particularly near feeding areas.



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The stalking hunter has to take extra care when firing their gun. Checking the background before firing a shot is a must. A modern bullet fired from a rifle may easily penetrate the body of an animal and still fly for a long distance endangering persons, other game, or objects.

### Drive Hunts (*Treibjagd*)

There are several different types of drive hunts, sometimes also called Social hunts (*Gesellschaftsjagden*). The hunting-rights holder will decide the type of drive hunt to be used. This decision will be made based on the number of hunters and beaters participating and on the number and kinds of game to be hunted. Well-trained hunting dogs are indispensable in any drive hunt.

Before a drive hunt, the hunter-in-charge will brief all members of the hunting party on techniques to be used, game that may be shot, and special safety rules that apply. The hunter must make sure that he or she fully understands all instructions given at the hunting party assembly point before leaving for the Revier.

The master of a social hunt (*Jagdleiter*) must ensure that all members of a shooting party have a valid hunting license. All participants in a drive hunt have to wear fluorescent warning colors. Usually hunters wear a blaze orange band around their hats, while beaters wear orange color vests.

The Baden-Wuerttemberg State forest organization requires warning vests for all participants.

Traditionally the commands for drive hunts were transmitted by horn signals, like “start of the hunt or end of the hunt (*Hahn in Ruh*)”. Today this is more and more replaced by giving the hunters the exact time of start and end of the hunt, but horn signals are still pretty common.

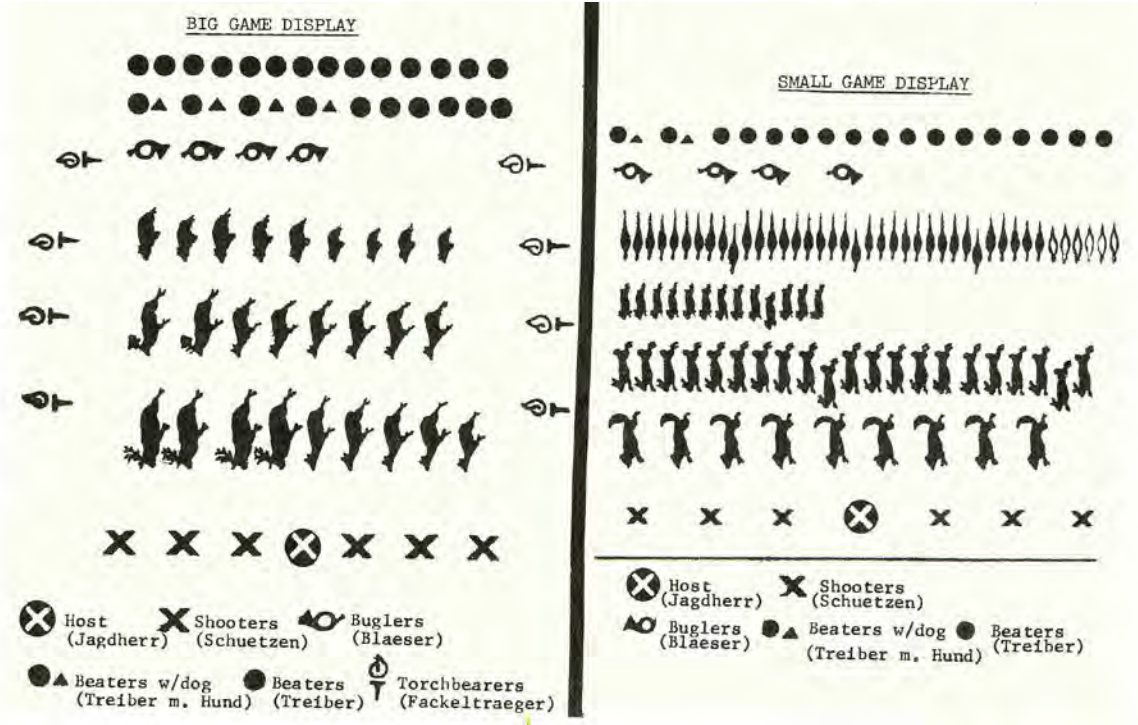


Warning colors



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# Guide to Hunting in Germany



Game display (*Strecke legen*)



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# Guide to Hunting in Germany



Presentation of the shooters branch (*Schützenbruch*)

The game harvested during the drive hunt will be displayed after the hunt (*Strecke legen*).

Beaters, hunters, and horn blowers will line up around the displayed game. The hunter in charge presents the *Schützenbruch* to the successful hunters.

After that the signals for “*Hirsch tot, Sau tot, Reh tot ....*” will be blown, followed by “End of hunt” (*Jagd vorbei*) and *Halali*. Tradition requires hunters to take their hats off during the Halali signal.

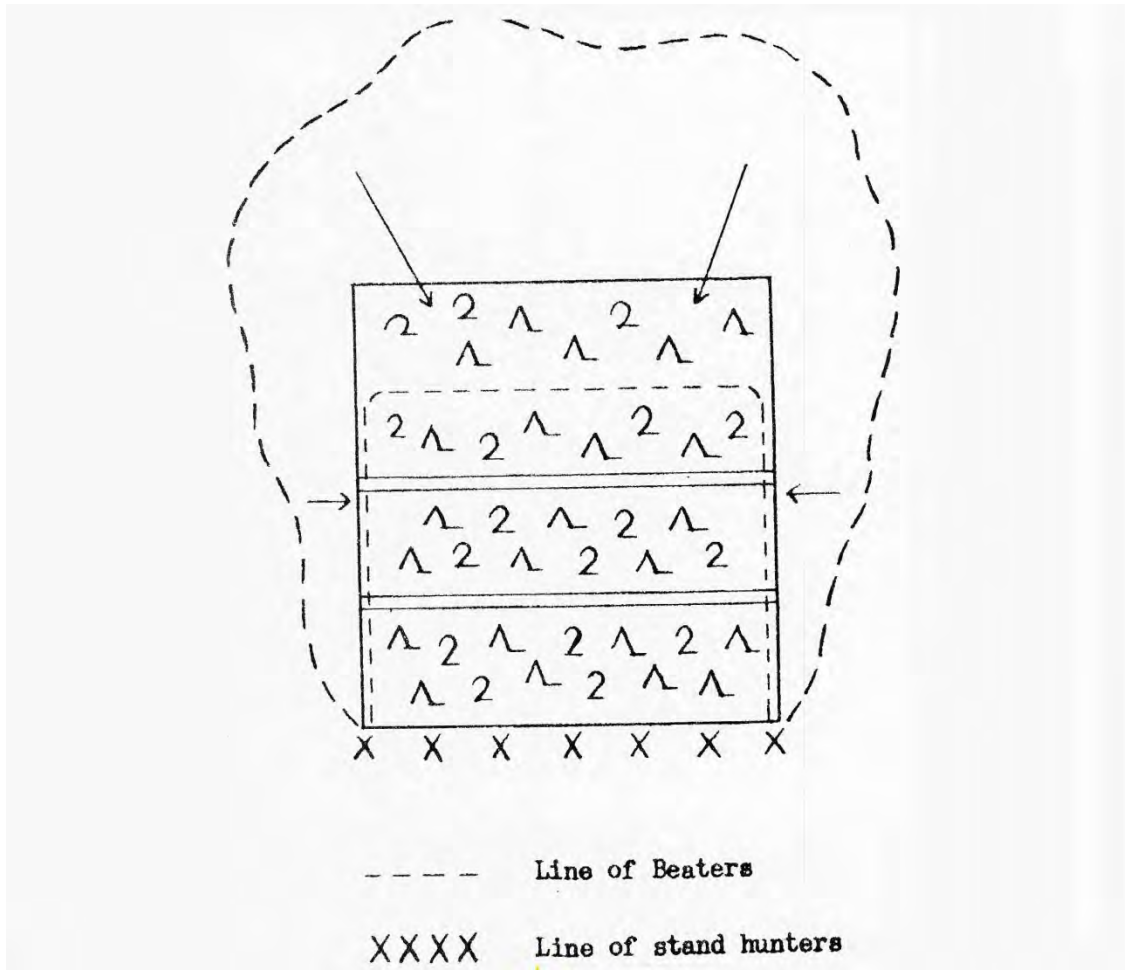


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The most popular drive hunts are:

### Small Game Standing Hunt (*Vorstehreiben*)

Hunters are posted along one side of small woodlots or brushy areas, facing the wind. The beaters move noisily through the entire patch, driving small game toward the posted hunters. This method is the preferred and most effective way to hunt birds and small game that hide in heavy cover or underbrush.



### Big Game Standing Hunt (*Drückjagd, Ansitzdrückjagd*)

This method is perhaps the most popular way of deer and Wild Boar drive hunting. Hunters are posted close to main trails and known game paths. A small number of beaters and short legged dogs move with relatively low noise through the area.

In this method, the game flushed will be less likely to run fast, and the hunter will have more time for proper identification of the game before shooting.





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### Calling game (*Lockjagd*)

Hunters use calls during the mating season (*Blattzeit*) of Roe Buck and the mating season (*Brunftzeit*) of the Red Deer. To call the Roe Buck, the hunter uses a small whistle (squealer) that imitates the squeaking, high-pitched noise made by the female roe. For Red Deer the hunter uses a horn-like instrument to imitate the challenge of a male animal. Calls are also used for other game, for example, Fox or Ducks.

### Fox hunting (*Fuchs jagen*)

Especially in a “*Niederwildrevier*” it is important to keep the Fox population low.

Fox not only carry diseases like Rabies and the lesser Fox Tapeworm, they are also doing great damage to young feathered game and young hares. Many foxes are killed during drive hunts. Fox can also be hunted sitting on a high seat. The hunter may dig a hole not too far from the high seat and fill that hole with guts, hides and road kill animals. It is illegal to use any leftovers from the kitchen, like old steaks, sausage or fish.

The Fox will be attracted by that bait, after some time Fox from wide around will come to this place (*Luderplatz*) and this will offer the hunter a great chance to kill a good number of Foxes.

Another method is to set up a “mouse castle” (*Mäuseburg*) in front of the high seat. A little pile of old, broken tree branches, with some straw or hay in between, covered by tarpaulin, will soon be occupied by mice. The fox will visit that place to catch the mice. A popular method during winter is to hunt the Fox at the den (*Baujagd*).

The hunters encircle the den, making sure that all of the many exits are covered. The *Erdhund* (*Dackel*, Terrier) is sent down into the den. The dog will drive the Foxes out of the den.

Experienced hunters use Mice or Hare calls to attract Foxes close to their seat.

### Trapping (*Fallenjagd*)

A special permit and a training course is required to trap in Germany. Only traps that kill instantly or catch alive without injuring the animal are legal in Germany.

### Weapons and Cartridges (*Waffen und Munition*)

The energy with which the bullet hits the target is the most important factor in determining if the game will be killed cleanly and quickly. German hunting law requires a minimum energy and caliber:



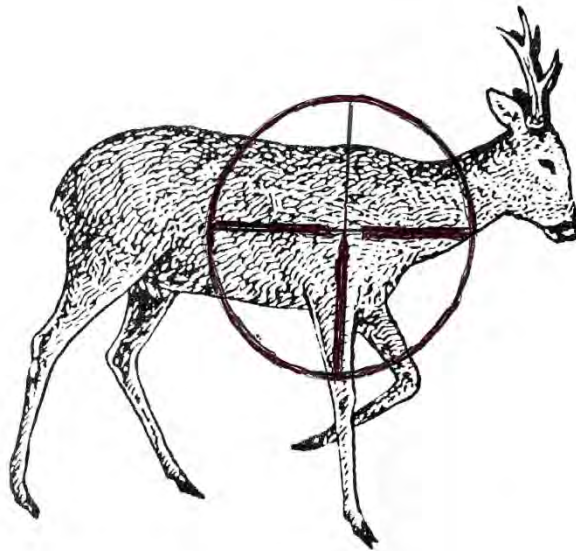
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Roe Deer	minimum energy 1,000 Joules E/100
All other cloven hoofed game	minimum energy 2,000 Joules E/100 plus minimum caliber 6.5mm (.25)
Handguns for finishing shot	minimum 200 Joules E/0

Shotgun slugs are not recommended for still hunts, but they are legal for short range shooting and are used primarily in drive hunts for Wild Boar. The use of shot of any size is forbidden for all cloven hoofed game.

### Shot placement

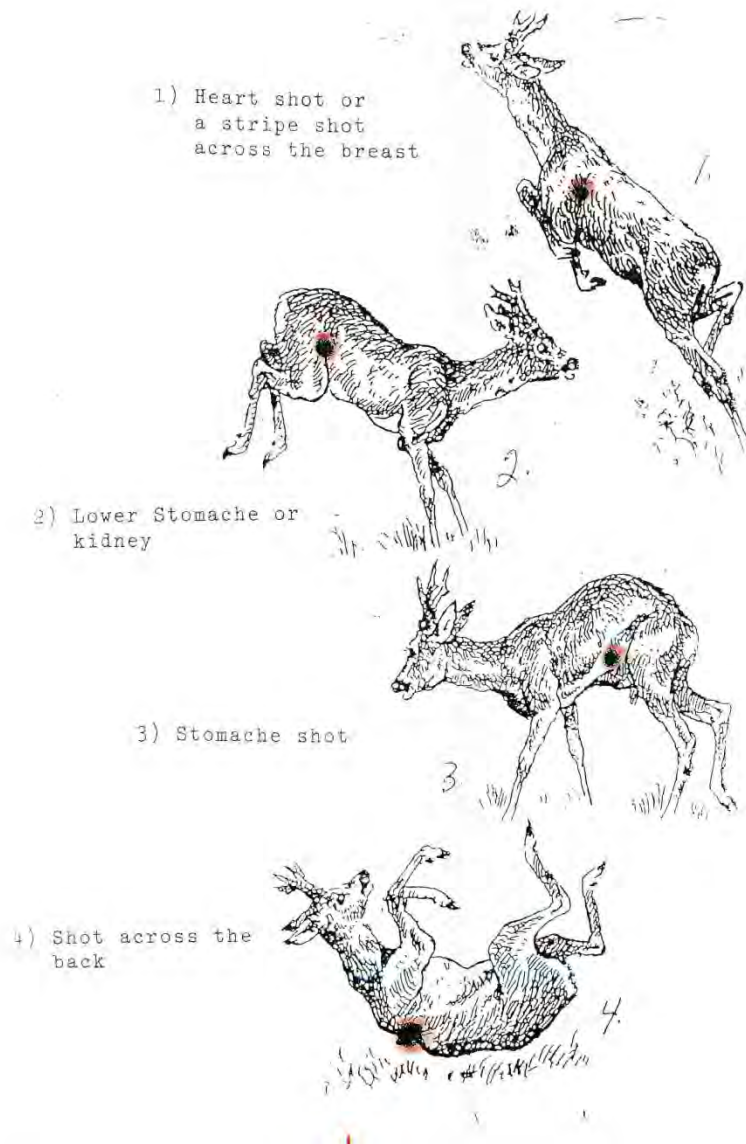
Accuracy and proper placement of shots will increase the number of clean kills. The hunter must know the location of the vital spot (*Blattschuss*) on game to keep the number of wounded animals to an absolute minimum. The most effective shot is to shoot at the broadside of the animal. The hunter should attempt to hit the point immediately above the center of the front leg (when leg is in normal position) and about one-third to one-half of the way up the height of the chest. In quartering shots, the hunter should aim so that the bullet will angle into the vital area.



Correct shot placement



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1) Heart or lung shot (*Herz-Lungenschuss*): The animal may jump up with the front legs and may run for up to 100 yards. Blood will come from mouth and nose. The blood will be light-red and foamy on lung shots, dark red if the liver was hit.

2) Kidney shot (*Nierenschuss*): The animal will jump up with the rear end and run away relatively slow and awkward.

3) Stomach shot (*Waidwundschuss*): The bowels or stomach are hit. Animal will kick with rear legs and run away with a bent back. Dirty parts of intestines or stomach may be found at the point of impact.

4) Spine shot (*Krellschuss*): The animal will collapse immediately, but will probably come up again after a short time.



## Guide to Hunting in Germany

The neck, head, and spine are vulnerable areas but are small targets and very difficult to hit. These targets should be used only if other shots are not possible, and then only by expert shooters.

Hunters should never aim at the haunch, hip, paunch, or thigh. Animals hit in one of these areas often are lost and may suffer a painful death. If the animal immediately falls or collapses when shot, the hunter should reload his or her weapon and observe the animal for a short time (10 minutes).

The hunter should ensure that the animal is not merely stunned and that it will not recover while the hunter is otherwise occupied.

Rather than try impossible shots, hunters should not shoot at all.

If there is time, the hunter should use a rest for the weapon. If game is wounded, the hunter must search for it.

Hunters should use branch signs as reference points and make a thorough search for hair and blood at the spot where the animal was wounded and along its trail from where it was wounded.

Lighter, foamy blood indicates a lung shot  
Blood with small particles in it indicates a paunch shot  
Blood without particles indicates a meat shot  
Very dark blood indicates a liver shot.

The length and color of hair found also help determine the location of the wound. In tracking wounded game, hunters will use dogs trained to follow a blood trail.

It is customary to wait an hour or more before a trail is followed. The search for an animal wounded in the late evening is usually postponed until the next morning.

A wounded deer that is not tracked immediately will often be found near the place where it was wounded.

Although the search is often long and tedious, a true sportsman (*Waidgerechter Jäger*) will make every effort to find and kill the wounded game.



## Guide to Hunting in Germany

### Field dressing (*Aufbrechen*)

All harvested game should be gutted as soon as possible to prevent the meat from spoiling (Also see hygiene regulations at the end of the game disease part). This action is especially important during the warm part of the hunting season.

When gutting the harvested game, it is important that German customs and practices be followed to ensure the meat remains healthy and consumable by humans.

The following are brief descriptions of gutting procedures for cloven hoofed game:

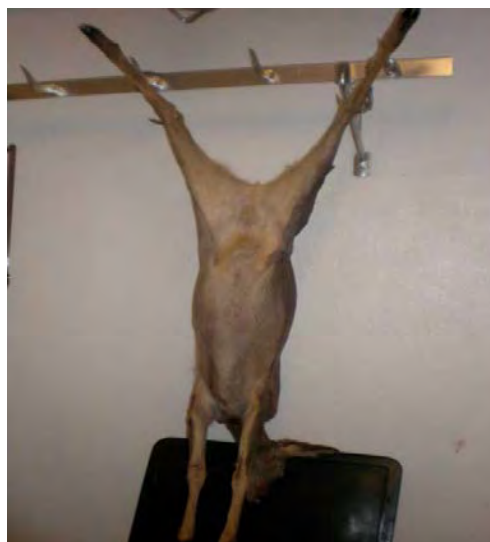
#### **- Indoors, in a clean room**

For millennia, hunters have broken open and field dressed their harvested game on the ground. While this may be a time-honored tradition, the benefits from processing harvested game in a clean room with running water and functional drains are numerous.

The most important factor in this process is changing wild game meat to consumable food products for the hunter, their family, and possibly for others who will buy the wild game meat from the hunter or from the administrator of the hunting area.



All indoor photos are provided by the Bavarian state ministry for ecology and health, courtesy of Dr. Michael Mayer



Inverting the harvested game and working from the abdomen to the throat has become most acceptable in terms of good hygiene.



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**Dressing harvested game indoors and inverted, in a clean room**





## Guide to Hunting in Germany



By working in a clean room, it is much easier to determine if any of the internal organs are diseased. It's also easier to retain parts of the "*Kleine Jägerrecht*" or "*Geräusch*" (lungs, heart, liver, kidneys, tongue, and spleen)

It is very important that all "gut-shot" game are properly cleaned and gutted immediately, and brought into a refrigerated area as soon as possible.

German hunting culture recommends using disposable gloves while gutting animals to protect from any possible diseases that may be in the game, particularly with wild boar.

It is also important to not place recently harvested game into a refrigerated room too quickly. Otherwise the natural rigor mortis process can be hindered and cause damage to the meat. Allow the harvested game to reach a room temperature before cooling to the optimal aging temperature of 7° Centigrade.

In extremely cold temperatures (below -10° Centigrade) it is important to field dress larger game quickly in order to allow the body to cool properly. Otherwise, the exterior meat can freeze. This exterior freezing insulates the warmth inside the body cavity, and allows rapid bacterial growth to occur, not to mention making normal gutting almost impossible.

When gutting harvested game inside, it is very important to practice all common sense sanitary measures. Insure that knives, cutting pliers and saws are all clean and washed in warm water. Insure that all countertops and cutting boards are clean and sterilized. Although wood has a natural enzyme that kills bacteria, wooden cutting boards and wooden handled knives are not allowed to be used when processing meat.

Animals that have been shot during periods of rut will retain a very strong scent in both the internal organs and the meat. Bovidae and Cervidae will lose this distinct smell and taste after a prolonged cooling period, but the meat of the wild boar may retain it forever. It is not only discouraged, but is illegal to introduce wild boar meat that has been



## Guide to Hunting in Germany

harvested during the rut into the human food chain, as many people are allergic to the hormones in the meat caused by rutting.

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### **- Field dressing outdoors, on the ground**

When gutting harvested game in the field, it is very important to use sanitary practices as much as possible.

Refrain from sticking the knife into the ground, using grass to wipe out the insides and laying the exposed meat in a manner that it touches the ground.

If it is not possible to get the harvested game to a refrigerated area soon, plan to gut the animal and hang it up to allow air to dry the inside cavity, which will hinder bacterial growth.

Protect the harvested game from flies. Fly nets are available from game outfitters or can be made from nylon screen material.

The practice of splitting the pelvis is becoming less popular in Germany, and it is recommended to leave the pelvis intact, and remove the section of large intestine from all cloven hoofed game. Although there are arguments for both ways of doing this, it is becoming common practice to not split the pelvis.

It is also important to remove the tongue from a gutted animal, keeping it attached to the larynx. Otherwise, bacteria from undigested food on the tongue and in the throat can adversely affect the aging process.

If the harvested game has been poorly shot, make sure to remove as much bloodshot meat and damaged meat as possible, as this is where bacteria growth will be most prevalent. Wash as much of the area as possible using clean drinking water, not pond or ground water.

When using a hose, do not let water run from the outside of the animal to the inside, and be very careful with getting water from the outside into the entry or exit wounds.

Before placing the harvested game in a refrigerated area, re-inspect the animal to make sure that all remains of the intestines, bladder and sex organs are completely removed, particularly in the anal canal and other areas that are hard to see.

If the benefits of a clean room with running water are not available, the following procedures have been used successfully by hunters for many years.

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### **- Field dressing outdoors, on the ground (continued)**

- 1) Lay animal on its back and bend the head backwards so that the antlers or horns are on the ground and the throat is exposed. Stand between the hind legs of the animal with your feet pressing down the ends of the animal's hind legs.
- 2) On males remove the testicles and cut around the penis, leaving the urethra intact, then put penis with connected urethra to the side.
- 3) Now cut the hide and abdominal wall from rear to the breastbone. At first a small cut is made, permitting the index and middle finger to reach inside. Insert the blade of the hunting knife, blade up between the two fingers. With the fingers lift the abdominal wall while cutting. The entire belly thus is cut open without breaking the intestines.
- 4) There is no more need to protect the blade from cutting into intestines after reaching the breastbone. On young game and Roe Deer the breast body can be cut with the hunting knife. Older game and Red Deer and Wild Boar may require the use of a saw. Cut through the breast bone all the way up to the throat.
- 5) Cut the pelvic seam. Take the haunches with both hands, palms pointing outward and break the pelvic joint. Cut around anus to separate it from the body.
- 6) Next, cut windpipe and gullet (*Drossel* and *Schlund*) and pull backwards, removing heart, lungs, liver, stomach, and entire intestines from the carcass.
- 7) Check all organs for unhealthy indicators / Remove heart, lung, liver and kidneys and store in a clean place.
- 8) Open the veins leading from the back to the haunches to allow the blood to drain. Lift the animal up to drain all blood from the body cavity. If possible hang animal head upward for better drainage. Keep stomach cavity open to allow air circulation.



Field dressing (*Aufbrechen*) on the ground after a successful evening hunt



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### Guide to Hunting in Germany



Checking for diseases



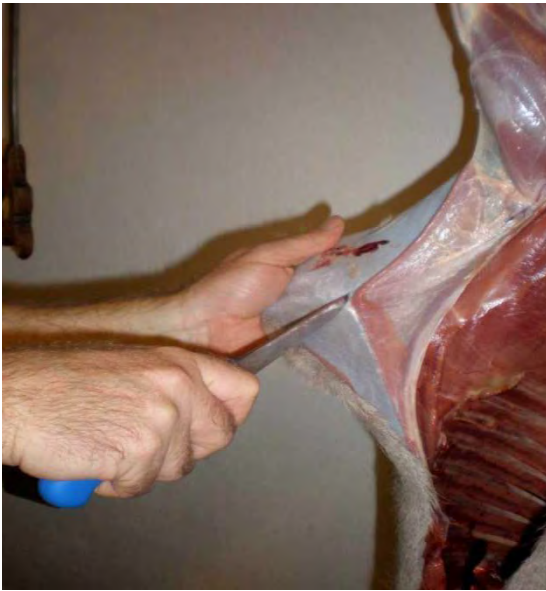
Drain blood and let cool air circulate



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### Removing the hide with good hygiene practices

Working with a very sharp knife, with the blade always cutting away from any other human hands involved in the process, it's important to keep the cutting hand clean while the unclean hand(s) may move around to lift the hide for more effective cutting.



### Removing the hide



## Guide to Hunting in Germany



Examples of a clean cutting hand and soiled supporting hand, along with a clean carcass and entry wound after removing the hide.

### Other hygienic and health related issues

**Meat handler's certification:** By German law, every piece of wild game meat made available for human consumption must be inspected by a knowledgeable individual (*Kundige Person*). Talk with the instructor staff about where to obtain "*Kundige Person*" certification locally.

Every local hunting organization (*Jagdverband*), will have certified training available throughout the year. While these classes are conducted in German language, all hunters who plan to consume and/or distribute meat from game that they have harvested must have this certification. Otherwise, there is a requirement to have a certified hunter present every time harvested game is gutted. As the best time to inspect an animal for unhealthy problems or diseases is when the animal is gutted, knowing what to look for is very important.

"*Kundige Person*" certification can be accomplished relatively easily, and it entitles the individual to place wild game meat into the human consumption chain that does not go beyond 100 kilometers, as long as the meat is for private consumption only. Part of the requirement is to maintain some sort of control capability that allows identification and a traceable route if problems arise with the meat.



## Guide to Hunting in Germany

“*Kundige Person*” certification is not only required for deer and wild boar, but for all animals that are harvested, including birds, hares and badgers.

**Tissue testing:** All cervidae, bovidae, lagomorphs, and fowl shot in Germany do not require any professional tissue testing before they can enter the food stream, only inspection by the knowledgeable person. Generally, the hunter will know before they harvest an animal whether or not the animal appears to be sick or injured. If there are no external signs of disease, then a normal inspection of the guts is sufficient to insure the animal is safe for human consumption. Some outward visible signs of a sick animal might include diarrhea, limping or coughing, or even a poor weak appearance. All of these signs would warrant further closer inspection.

All mustelids, rodents, carnivores and suidae however, require a much more extensive professional tissue examination before they can be released for human consumption. Although not common, badgers, beavers, squirrels, nutria and foxes are known to be eaten by humans in Europe. Therefore, all of these species require many of the same tissue tests that are conducted on wild boar.

Being omnivores, wild boar and the animals described above have a great chance of being exposed to trichinosis. Therefore, the muscle meat of all mustelids, rodents, carnivores and suidae must be inspected for this parasite. Tissue samples from the wild boar also must be inspected for hog cholera or pig fever (*Schweinepest*), as well as Cesium 137 in certain parts of Germany.

It is a punishable crime to release wild boar meat for human consumption without having it tested for trichinosis. Before hunting, check with the responsible person for the hunting area for their local veterinarian service provider. In addition, get advice on the specific location where mustelids, rodents, carnivores and suidae may be gutted and stored for testing.

**Road kill:** German law forbids using road-kill and animals discovered dead for human consumption. Any animal discovered dead in the forest should also be kept from being consumed by other wild animals by burying the animal at least 50 cm underground.

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### Trophy preparation

A wide variety of trophies are available as byproducts of the hunt. Trophies include:

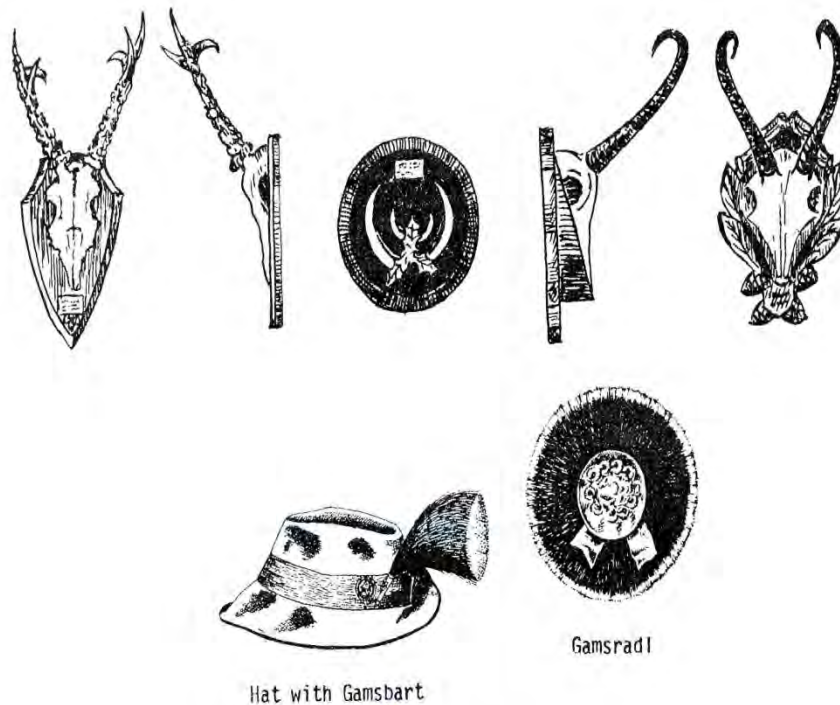
- Antlers or whole heads of Red Deer, Roe Deer, Fallow Deer, and Sika Deer.
- Horns or whole heads of Chamois and Moufflon.
- Tusks of the Wild Boar (*Keilerwaffen*).



## Guide to Hunting in Germany

- Eyeteeth (*Grandeln*). Each male or female Red Deer has two eyeteeth, one each in the left and right half of the upper jaw. These eyeteeth are rarely found in Fallow Deer or Roe Deer. Hunters soak eyeteeth in water for a couple of days, then clean, dry, and take the teeth to a jeweler. The jeweler will set the eyeteeth in pieces of precious metals to make cufflinks, rings, broaches, or necklaces.

- The mane of Red Deer stags (*Hirschbart*), the long hair on the back of Chamois (*Gamsbart*), Wild Boar (*Saubart*), or Badger (*Dachsbart*) during winter. If the plucked hairs are too short for a brush (*Bart*), the hunter can make a wheel (*Radl*).



The hunter should inform their guide immediately after a successful hunt how the hunter desires the trophy mounted. If the hunter plans a full head mount (shoulder mount), no throat cut should be made in the field dressing of the animal.

A generous amount of cape extending to the breast and shoulder line will make the work of the taxidermist easier. A taxidermist is not a magician. Proper care of harvested game before reaching the taxidermist is extremely important. If the animal has bad hide, a broken skull, or missing or damaged feathers, this limits the chances for a taxidermist to create an attractive trophy.