

Guidelines for Controllers Accessing Private Property



CDMC

Cardinia Deer Management
Coalition Incorporated

Guidelines for Controllers Accessing Private Property

Before culling or hunting animals on a new private property for the first time:

- Meet the property owner in person
- Have all your documentation & references with you
 - Firearms licence,
 - ADA, SSAA or Field and Game membership card,
 - Game licence, if you have one
- Learn as much **current** information as you can and keep in contact over time to see if there are any changes
- Get a map of the property from the landowner and create a Shooting Plan for the property (see below)
- Walk or drive the property, accurately establish the boundaries, where you are allowed and where you are **not allowed** to go and establish where it is safe and where it is **not safe** to shoot. Mark these clearly on your Shooting Plan.
- Find out if there are any neighbour issues, make sure you know where their dwellings and assets are, livestock locations, their calving/foaling etc paddocks and any other issues they may have
- Discuss issues such as timing and frequency of culls, other feral animals to cull, carcass management, use of spotlights (try to avoid these anyway)
- Ask what animals landowners permit controllers to control and those that are not permitted. Adhere strictly to these instructions, WITHOUT Exceptions
- Once you have come to an agreement, give the landowner the Permission to Destroy Deer on Private Property form to fill in and sign for you

Each time you enter a property to cull deer

- Contact them 48 hours in advance of your plans to cull whenever possible
- Make sure you have your licences and the landowner's permission form with you
- **Do NOT** enter property all gung-ho ready for "the hunt"; be measured and professional
- Upon entry to property speak with the landowner(s) if present and learn as much **current** information from them as you can prior to hunt. They know their property and a controller cannot get enough information from them. Use this current, local knowledge.
- Leave all gates as you find them. If they are open, leave them open. If they are closed, leave them closed. **It is very important to adhere to this rule.**
- **Do NOT Enter** any machinery or equipment sheds or interfere with any equipment, machinery or livestock.
- **Do NOT** discharge a firearm in close proximity to stock or buildings.
- Please inform the landowner of any accidental damage or problems you may have encountered during your visit.
 - Best not to leave problems for the landowners to find after you have left, even damage or property maintenance issues not caused by you.
- Do not discard animal remains in or near waterways.

- Wherever possible, make every effort to move carcasses and remains into scrub and out of plain sight, unless you have made alternative arrangements with the landowner.
- 4x4 Self recovery equipment is necessary and recommended if driving within property boundaries. Firstly, DON'T GET BOGGED! Before driving your vehicle into wet paddocks, make appropriate assessment of weather conditions prior to a hunt. But, if you do get stuck,
 - Do not rely on landowners to rescue you!!!

Each time you leave a property after a cull

- Notify the landowner and CDMC of the results, successful or not
- Make sure everything is left as you found it
- Make sure any damage is reported
- Make sure the carcass has been treated as per your agreement with the landowner
- Notify the landowner if a shot animal left the property &/or could not be recovered

Adherence to these rules helps will help establish a good landowner – controller relationship and promote good practice.

Non-adherence to these guidelines may result in removal from CDMC approved controller list.

CDMC will seek regular feedback from landowners on the progress of culling on their land.

New controllers will initially be on probation during which time we will contact landowners for feedback. The length of time this last will depend on the feedback and the frequency of culling.

Remember, landowners have given controllers special permission to cull deer on their land and controllers are therefore guests.

DO the right thing: read and understand the guidelines and adhere to them.

CDMC thank you in advance for your understanding.

Please contact Glen Kostiuk or Andrew Firth if you wish to discuss any of these guidelines.

Cross boundary culling

If you wish to conduct cross boundary shooting on neighbouring properties, you will need to have written permission from both property owners and a signed permission form for both properties. Failure to do this is dangerous and could put you at great legal risk.

Property Shooting Plan

A well-constructed shooting plan for every property you cull deer on is one of your best insurance policies if something goes wrong. If you can demonstrate you have conducted a thorough due diligence, considering all the risks and considerations to the owners and any surrounding properties, it may save you from legal action or help with a potential legal case.

What should it have?

The primary purpose of a Property Shooting Plan is safety. Safety to the property owners, their neighbours and all their animals and assets. Also safety for yourself.

A well drawn plan will include as a minimum an accurate map with:

- All dwellings, sheds and other large or important structures marked on it
- Prohibited areas clearly marked
- Property access points and allowed vehicle tracks clearly marked
- Safe and unsafe shooting directions clearly marked
- No shoot areas and livestock paddocks clearly marked
- Sensitive areas on neighbouring properties ie frequent human activity, presence of stock
- Notes of any agreements or understandings you have with neighbouring property owners

Make sure the property owner has a copy.