



## **AHNI Code of Conduct and Firearm Safety**

### **Objectives**

AHNI is a registered hunting club. It aims to make sure the members know the Code of Conduct and Firearm Safety when hunting.

The Code aims to prevent cruelty and encourage the considerate treatment of game hunted.

Hunting without care and consideration for ecosystems may interrupt the natural balance between animals and their environment. To enhance the environment and its wildlife, this code supports the participation of hunters in conservation and environmental programs.

### **Firearm Safety**

Treat every firearm as being loaded. Ensure that the firearm is unloaded and that the action is open when carrying. Remember it is often the **unloaded** firearm that kills.

Always ensure firearms are pointed in a safe direction. Never point your firearm at something you do not wish to destroy.

Never have loaded firearms in the car (unless in use), home or camp. When entering a house, car or camp always remove all ammunition from all firearms.

Identify your target. Make sure you can clearly see your target before shooting and be aware of what is behind your target.

### **Code of Conduct**

- Know your Game and when seasons open for the relevant species to hunt.
- Know and respect the game you are hunting. Obey the law and behave within society's expectations.
- Hunted animals must at all times be free and unrestricted in the wild.
- Firearms and ammunition or bows and arrows must be used that will humanely kill the species being hunted.

- An animal must only be shot at when:
  - It can be clearly seen and recognized;
  - It is within the effective range of the firearm, ammunition, or bow and arrow and the skills of the hunter; and
  - A humane kill is likely.
- A hunter must shoot to cause a quick and painless death.
- Every animal which is shot must be immediately examined to ensure that it is dead. Every animal which isn't dead on retrieval must be humanely destroyed immediately.
- If an animal is wounded and escapes, all reasonable attempts must be made to locate it so it can be killed quickly and humanely before hunting another animal.
- Hunters must be aware of and observe all regulations and legislation that relates to hunting and the use of firearms.
- No member will bring anything they are not licensed for, be it blades or firearms, and make sure the venue is accredited for use of such items

### **Rules of Etiquette**

- Leave gates as you find them
- Ask permission to light cooking fires first
- Keep cooking fires as small as possible
- Put your fires out properly before leaving
- Keep clear of stock routes
- Drive only on defined tracks
- Be especially careful with target identification & danger zones if spotlighting
- Keep away from water troughs
- Never contaminate stock water with soaps
- Take your rubbish away with you
- Ensure the property owner is well aware of your movements
- If you are successful, offer to share your game with the owner
- Report any suspicious or unusual events to the owner
- Don't keep returning with new people – guard 'your' hunting areas jealously!