



THE GRUNT!



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The NZPHA had a stand at the 2016 Sika Show in Taupo. A lot of hunters called in for a chat which kept the committee members busy answering and asking questions. Steve gave demonstrations to those interested on how to measure undrawn wild pig tusks.

The NZPHA committee has been advised that not enough information is being released to its members.

To clarify, the website is updated as soon as there is acceptable material to load on.

The newsletters go out as soon as possible after each committee meeting to all the Affiliated Pig Hunting Clubs. What we are hearing from the pig hunters who visited the NZPHA stand at the recent Sika show in Taupo, is that they hadn't seen the last newsletter that was on display.

The NZPHA sends the newsletter to All the clubs affiliated to the association. How that club contact releases the newsletter to its members is something that club has to sort out. The NZPHA committee only meet when there is a reason to so a newsletter is not going to be a regular every two months as with club newsletters.

Plus, the NZPHA supplies an update through "The Grunt" in the "Hooked on Boars" pig hunting magazine

A lot of work the committee is undertaking cannot be released until it is settled, an example is the nationwide policy for payment for collecting wild pig's heads for TB analysis. This is ongoing, with discussions with various Govt. departments. A lot of you reading this will know negotiating and dealing with Govt. departments is never easy. Common sense and simplicity do not come into it.

The NZPHA is very close in finalizing an agreement with an Insurance Broker that will provide every pig hunter affiliated to the NZPHA with a Public Liability insurance. That means those pig hunters who have paid their subs to a pig hunting club that is affiliated to the NZPHA and the individuals who have joined the NZ Pig Hunters Group, will be covered.

The Definition of Public Liability Insurance NZ.

In simple terms, it is a type of insurance where it pays compensation to any individual who suffered an injury or damage to a property as a result of failure or unintentional mistake of the owner of the business.

The final details are being sorted with an announcement to be made early 2016.

The NZPHA congratulates Brendan & Caleb Mathews for taking on the publication of the "Hooked on Boars"

pig hunting magazine and looks to working with them in continuing to supply pig hunters with the latest news from the NZPHA.

The NZPHA now has a member on the Inter-Agency Hunter Safety Committee. This committee was original set up by Kate Wilkinson, (then Minister of Conservation), with the express purpose of addressing hunter deaths. Other groups represented are NZ Police, DOC, NZ Deer Stalkers Association, Fish & Game, Game Animal Council and Firearms Instructors.

This committee had been in recess but the recent actions of the NZ Mountain Safety Council to unexpectedly abolish two positions administering key areas such as training and licensing and also disbanding an advisory committee on firearm safety has led to the Inter-Agency Hunter Safety committee reforming.

The NZPHA has put a submission in opposing the application from Waikato Regional Council, DOC and TB Free NZ for a consent to use 1080 poison until 2055 in the Waikato Region. The first round of submissions and consultation with affected groups closed 30 September 2015. They will now be reviewed and the formal notification (if granted) and call for submissions will be in December 2015.

At this point the NZPHA would like to thank Richard Prosser, NZ First MP, for his efforts in highlighting the issues around 1080.

On the subject of Kauri Die back. The DOC are planning and working to upgrade 33 tracks in the new year to help prevent the spread of the Kauri Die Back.

Two members of the NZPHA attended a meeting organized by the Game Animal Council in Wellington recently to help the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Primary Industries to define "generally accepted practice when hunting and killing wild animals in NZ".

This will help the judiciary when passing sentence under the laws of the recently amended Animal Welfare Act 2015.

The two court cases around animal cruelty that the NZPHA are involved in at present. The case in Gisborne is waiting for sentencing, (postponed to December 2015) and the case in Blenheim is ongoing.

For those pig hunters wanting to use dogs in the Te Ureweras, the NZPHA recommends that hunters: Google Tuhoe, click on Te Uru Taumatua, scroll down to Permission for hunting with pig dogs to find out the rules.

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NEW STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR TO BE SET FOR PIG HUNTERS

In previous articles the New Zealand Pig Hunting Association informed pig hunters of changes to the Animal Welfare Act with respect to how hunting is treated in the Act. The main change was that rather than hunting being covered by a blanket exemption from animal welfare regulations per se, the Act now sets out that conduct must be consistent with what is generally acceptable in New Zealand.

The recent sentencing of two Gisborne men who were found guilty of wilful ill-treatment of an animal resulting in the death of the animal has further strengthened the view that even under the old Animal Welfare Act hunting could not be used to justify cruelty to hunted game.

The men who encouraged their dogs to viciously and repeatedly attack live goats, one of which had a broken leg. As part of their defence they put forward the argument that this was just an integral part of hunting.

Videos posted on Facebook showed an adult male goat being held while two pit bull type dogs were encouraged to attack the goat. In the video, the dogs bite the goat's face, lips, nose, and neck for several minutes while one man laughs and shouts encouragement to the dogs. The goat eventually dies after having its throat cut.

A Veterinarian concluded from watching the footage that the dogs inflicted significant violence on the goat, the Defendant encouraged this, and the prolonged suffering and slow death of the goat was unacceptable.

A second goat is dragged by its right hind leg, which appears to have an open fracture in the femur, while pit bull type dogs attack the goat. The goat's screams can be clearly heard throughout. Three dogs repeatedly bite the goat on the neck and face. The goat tries to flee but collapses on its fractured hind leg. Both Defendants can be heard enthusiastically encouraging the dogs throughout.

A Veterinarian concluded from watching the footage that the goat would have been in extreme pain from the fractured leg and the prolonged attack by the dogs. A high level of violence was displayed and the Defendants encouraged and enjoyed the violence.

Ric Odom, CEO of SPCA New Zealand said that "this case is an example of an alarming increase in what you could call 'recreational cruelty'."

"This tends to feature young men and the subjects of their cruelty are usually so-called pest species, like possums, goats, and rabbits. They often film themselves doing it and then post the videos on YouTube or Facebook. Sometimes they justify

their behaviour by saying the animals are 'just pests'.

"Let's be very clear about this: New Zealand legislation is designed to protect all animals against this kind of abuse. Even though the act of hunting and killing an animal is a lawful activity in New Zealand, once an animal has been 'captured' for the purpose of killing it, people are legally obliged to kill it in such a way that the animal doesn't suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

"The recently passed Animal Welfare Amendment Act has strengthened these obligations by creating specific offences for the reckless and wilful ill treatment of wild animals. It is simply unacceptable to encourage dogs to attack a wild animal that has been captured and we will vigorously investigate anyone who does so."

NZPHA executive members and Game Animal Councillors Steve Mc Fall and Garry Ottmann appeared as expert witnesses for the prosecution in the case and both concluded that what was depicted in the videos could not be justified in the name of hunting.

In summing up the case, Judge JC Down said: "...the hunter's responsibility remains to humanely dispatch that animal as soon as possible ... Not all hunters will be aware of codes of practice. But all hunters are, in my view, subject to the law as it stands in the statute book. It is often stated that ignorance of the law is no defence and there is no clearer example of that than in this case..."

To assist hunters to understand their obligations in terms of animal welfare and what is generally accepted hunting practice, The New Zealand Pig Hunting Association in conjunction with the Game Animal Council will be compiling a code of conduct for Pig Hunting. We will be consulting both experts and others in the pig hunting fraternity to arrive at what will be generally accepted behaviour. Hunters need to be acutely aware of what they should and should not do as part of their hunting experience.

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HERD OF SPECIAL INTEREST FOR PIG HUNTING?



The Game Animal Council has sought recommendations from hunters on what populations of game animals they think should form herds of special interest (HOSI). This is where partnerships with hunting clubs, groups and organisations will be very important. They have developed a set of items that we would like hunters to consider when making recommendations to the GAC for designating HOSI. These criteria and matters to be considered are on the GAC website www.nzgac.org.nz

One of the key changes hunters will notice are that animals that are part of a herd of special interest are no longer subject to the Wild Animal Control Act and all the problems it has created for game animals and hunting since its inception in 1977.

A couple of points to note are:

- The herd exists on public conservation land. Herds of special interest can only be designated for animals existing on public conservation land. The herd can be defined by species and place.
- For example the wapiti herd has a defined area in Fiordland National Park
- The Minister in proposing a herd of special interest must write a management plan. We are a Game Animal Council so the herd must be able to be managed for hunting purposes and that management provide benefits to hunting. For example:

- There are clear management objectives specified in a management plan, including at least one of:
- Enhanced trophy hunting (either or both recreational and commercial)
- Enhanced meat hunting (either or both recreational and commercial)
- Enhancements to experiences (e.g. by provision of better access or facilities)
- Training opportunities
- Conservation benefits
- Other

Management objective(s) and/or actions must be:

- Physically achievable
- Economically achievable
- Legislatively achievable (and consistent with overriding considerations)
- Enforceable
- Not be offensive to Maori culture and traditions
- Not impose unreasonable costs on hunters
- Maintain or enhance conservation values in the Herd of Special Interest area
- There must be no unmitigated adverse effects on neighbouring areas

The GAC has limited resources to directly fund management so in the first instance it will be important for there to be a management organisation that is capable of undertaking the management specified in any management plan.

Criteria for this includes but is not limited to:

- It is a formally constituted legal entity
- It is representative of the spectrum of interests in the herd
- It has an income stream sufficient to cover the costs of the proposed management
- It has the expertise required for the management program (this could be a role taken up by the GAC)

Items 1 and 2 in our criteria are must haves as they are set out in the GAC Act. Herds may have one or more of the balance. The more of these attributes a herd has then

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TOP 10 TUSK COMPETITION 2015

Results of 2015 competition

DATE	NAME	SIZE	LOCATION
September 2015	K Schroeder	22 4/8	Peninsula Club
July 2015	Dean Lupton	21 5/8	Te Kuiti
January 2015	Mark Giddens	21 3/8	Hawkes Bay
August 2015	C Henderson	21 2/8	Omaru
May 2015	Joe Steel	21 1/8	Turangi
August 2015	R Zehnder	21 1/8	Tainui
June 2015	Mark Davies	20 7/8	Coromandel
June 2015	Steve Wilson	20 4/8	Tainui
July 2015	Pat Kennedy	20 2/8	Hawkes Bay
May 2015	Ron Knight	20 1/8	Te Aroha

the more likely it is to be designated as a herd of special interest. These criteria may seem daunting but they are not. The GAC can help anyone through the process.

At this stage we have received expressions for herds of deer but nothing from the pig hunting sector. One suggestion from the NZ Pig Hunting Association would be any areas we could manage for training our young people in how to successfully hunt pigs. Any feedback or suggestions please contact the NZ Pig Hunting Association.

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NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

Following on from issue 47 of Hooked on Boars, the NZPHA article "The Grunt", a new standard of behaviour has been drafted by the NZPHA in the form of a Code of Conduct that all pig hunters will be expected to abide by.

This code will guide the Judiciary on what is acceptable practice and behaviour in terms of animal welfare in the sport of pig hunting. The code of conduct does not just apply to what is acceptable in how to dispatch an animal that has been captured but includes all facets of pig hunting from the welfare and housing of dogs / horses used in hunting, to the transporting of dogs to the hunt, eg. nobody wants to see more dogs carried in a dog crate than what the dog crate is designed for. The days of carrying dead animals over the bonnet of vehicles in full public view, are not acceptable. While engaged in pig hunting, the pig hunter will not knowingly enter into illegal activity against the laws of NZ. Among other things, pig hunters should conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring themselves or any club or association that they are affiliated to, into disrepute. This does not just apply to the physical act of hunting but also how the hunter portrays themselves in the electronic media.

The code has had its first draft and is likely to be ratified subject to minor amendments and then publicly released at the next NZPHA committee meeting.

From the last NZPHA committee meeting, the Chairman of the NZ Game Animal Council, Don Hammond, was present

and gave a report on the activities of the GAC.

Of the many topics discussed, the main concerns were in the subject of "licensing of recreational hunters". Contrary to rumours there are NO proposals by the GAC for the licensing of recreational hunters. The GAC is certainly looking at all avenues for the funding of the GAC. But from the recreational hunting sector, the GAC is exploring more indirect mechanisms for recreation to contribute to the protection of hunting. This is a fairer way of us all investing in the future of our sport. The average recreational hunter prepared to purchase a decent firearm is not going to be concerned if a small amount is levied on that firearm or on a packet of ammunition. This will not be an issue for pig hunters since how many packets of ammunition would you use annually while pig hunting.

The 2016 NZPHA AGM is set for Sunday 27th June to be held at the Te Awamutu Information Centre, 1 Gorst Ave, Te Awamutu, starting at 1pm sharp. Don Hammond, Chairman of the NZ Game Animal Council has been invited to be the guest speaker.

Pig Hunters are asked to review the latest Battle for the Birds 2016 press release that has been released by the GAC and NZDA. It can be found on the NZPHA & GAC & NZDA websites as well as many face book forums. Complete the short survey and have your input ■

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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The NZPHA held its 6th AGM on the 26th June 2016, from which we welcome to the committee, Grant Bunting from Christchurch, Greg Deal from the Southern PHC, Todd Hewitt from the Peninsula PHC and Glenn Morris from the Te Kuiti PHC. The South Island now has four representatives on the committee. Grant has taken on the job of Secretary with Angela staying on as Treasurer. Geraldine from Hawkes Bay PHC, has stood down this year but the club still stays affiliated to the Association.

The guest Speaker was Don Hammond, Chairman of the NZ Game Animal Council. He diverted from his prepared speech and instead gave his insights into matters facing the NZPHA that had arisen from the minutes.

The first meeting of the new committee was called for on 24th July 2016. A lot of ongoing issues have finally come to completion and were able to be signed off.

The first matter to discuss was the latest developments concerning the OSPRI operations in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges. The NZPHA has sought legal advice and is acting on that.

The NZPHA Code of Conduct has been ratified after being reviewed and with one minor amendment. The Code provides guidelines as to what is acceptable in all aspects of wild pig hunting in NZ. It can be referred to by the Ministry of Primary Industries, The RNZSPCA and the Judiciary amongst others, to determine how pig hunters should conduct themselves.

It will be sent to affiliated clubs and posted on the association website.

The Pig head collection policy has had its final draft and now will be sent to the appropriate government departments for their support and implementation.

The NZPHA has continued to pursue a Public Liability Insurance for pig hunters in NZ, and has found a deal for \$6.50 per person for \$10 million dollars cover. Some conditions apply. It is only available to Pig Hunting clubs and individuals who are affiliated to the NZPHA. Each club that is interested is to apply in the first instance to the secretary at admin@nzpighunting.org.nz who will direct them to the right contacts. Each club will then deal direct with the Insurance Broker.

The NZPHA has only been active for 6 years but has some major accomplishments. A full list (so far) will be posted on the website and sent to affiliated clubs.

After providing the Te Urewera Trust Board with a policy on the use of dogs on Trust land, the NZPHA has formed a set of guidelines that can be used between Land owners and Hunters in the private sector. If followed, it is designed to reduce conflict and misunderstanding between both parties. The list is on the website and has been sent to affiliated clubs.

Kauri Die Back. The Association has been keeping a watching brief on this subject which came about from claims that wild pigs were spreading the disease and so

all wild pigs should be exterminated in the Kauri Forests.

There is no data/scientific proof to substantiate those claims and the assertions may have stopped but the NZPHA continues to keep a watching brief. It is more likely that humans walking from tree to tree is the mode of spread. Putting cleaning stations at the end of tracks in the Kauri forests and building/upgrading those tracks is one way to help slow the spread. Encouraging news is being released (30/6/2016) that Plant and Food research scientists are using a common horticultural chemical to fight off the disease. Trials are showing promising results. The scientific team are confident that within two years they will have developed a treatment regime for Kauri that would be both safe and effective.

Because of increased costs due to the compliance with Health & Safety regulations, the NZPHA will not have a booth at the Sika show in Taupo this year.

The NZPHA is actively seeking responses from Government departments into the matters surrounding TB being artificially infected into possums and then released into the wild. In the Press release (23/3/2016) from Richard Prosser, NZ First MP, questions were asked in Parliament about the operation. The reply from Hon Nathan Guy, Minister of Primary Industries states "that no pigs, possums or deer have been found with naturally occurring TB in this area". Yet in a e-mail (dated 26/5/2016), in reply to questions asked by Steve McFall, Councillor on NZPHA and Councillor on the NZGAC, to Land Care Research. The reply from Dan Tompkins, LCR, states "Both of the sites used for these studies have for decades had, and still have, chronic TB in wildlife". So who is advising the Minister of Primary Industries? If TB is known to be "chronic" in those areas, then why hasn't TB Free / OSPRI conducted operations to eradicate the TB?

The NZPHA is investigating the causes of the Go Slow toxin in dogs. The first advice to all pig hunters is Do Not feed raw or cooked wild pig meat to your dogs. Especially in areas where the toxin is known. Cooking the meat may not be successful in stopping the effects. Testing of pig meat samples is under way to determine the cause of the toxin. To determine how wide spread the toxin is, we need hunters details of their experiences, what are the symptoms that they have encountered etc. Send to admin@nzpighunting.org.nz ■

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ARE YOUR DOGS ON A GO SLOW?

What you need to know

The NZPHA and Massey University are investigating the Go Slow disease which can affect all breeds of dogs but in particular dogs used for pig hunting in NZ.

Back ground

You've just got home from a successful hunt and the dogs are in their kennels, happily chewing on some meat and bones from a wild pig you caught. The next morning you plan to go hunting again, but the dogs are shaking and struggling to stand, and one has vomited. They seem to get worse after you let them out of the kennels and sit down after walking a few steps. By the following day, the shaking has mostly stopped, but the dogs have no energy. Most of them recover over the following few weeks, but still struggle to keep up at the end of a long hunt. Several months later, one dog still can't hunt properly. You try some vitamin supplements recommended by the vet and it seems to help a bit, but he never quite returns to full form.

If you've had dogs with Go Slow, this story will be all too familiar to you. Go Slow is a disease that was first recognised in Northland 20 years ago, but it is now known to occur in various areas throughout the upper North Island. This year, several cases have also been seen in southern Wairarapa, where Go Slow hasn't been a problem in the past. In the South Island, Go Slow is almost unheard of, apart from two cases last year in working dogs on a high country station.

Symptoms of Go Slow develop within 2 hours after a dog has eaten Go Slow pork, but the symptoms may not be noticed until the dogs are hunted next. Meat, offal and bones from wild pigs have all been linked to cases of Go Slow, and signs usually occur more rapidly when dogs eat fresh liver in the middle of a hunt compared to being fed when they're at rest and not exercising. Freezing and cooking wild pork does not remove the risk. In general, meat from wild animals other than pigs doesn't cause Go Slow, although one dog developed symptoms after eating meat from a wild steer. Not every pig caught in a Go Slow area is a Go Slow pig, and individual dogs vary in their susceptibility to Go Slow disease, so some members of a pack that eat Go Slow pork may appear worse affected than others. All breeds of dogs can be affected, from pet Fox Terriers to working Huntaways and everything in between.

Go Slow mainly targets the muscle of dogs and interferes with the way that the muscle produces energy. Normally, small structures within each muscle fibre (known as mitochondria) act as power plants for the muscle, generating energy as needed. In dogs with Go Slow, some of the mitochondria change how they look and stop working as they should. When a muscle lacks energy (especially during exercise), it can't contract and relax properly, and the dog starts trembling and can't walk. Certain enzymes leak out of the injured muscle fibres, and these can be measured on a simple blood test to help diagnose the disease. Go Slow also causes changes in the liver, and specific liver enzymes in the

blood are usually higher than normal. It isn't currently known whether species other than dogs can be affected by Go Slow. Pigs linked to cases in dogs often seem to be in good condition and healthy when they are caught, but some have similar muscle and mitochondrial changes to the dogs.

Muscle may recover over time, so the main treatment for Go Slow currently is rest. Most affected dogs need 1-3 months off hunting, and some will still continue to have problems even after long periods with no exercise. Various vitamin supplements have been used to try and support muscle function and energy production, including B vitamins, selenium and vitamin E. A high quality diet, such as Eukanuba or Hill's may also help. In severe cases, dogs with Go Slow may struggle to stand, eat and drink, and may also have diarrhoea; these dogs need to be seen by a vet early on and benefit from being on a drip (intravenous fluids). Vitamin B (Vite B from Ethical Agents, or Megablud sachets from the same company), water, and rest are the mainstays of current treatment as we can offer it.

While we don't yet know the exact cause of Go Slow, it seems that the pigs are eating something poisonous that is passed on to the dogs. Manmade poisons such as 1080, brodifacoum and sodium nitrate have been investigated, but these have not been used in many of the areas where Go Slow occurs. In addition, the changes that occur in the muscle with Go Slow are not typical of any of these poisons, and residues of brodifacoum and 1080 have not been detected in tests on a small number of dogs. There are several species of plants and fungi that may produce toxins that can be passed through the meat, but these are difficult to test for. Liver samples from healthy dogs and Go Slow dogs are currently being analysed and compared to try and find differences in metabolic pathways that may give further clues regarding the cause of Go Slow.

As pig hunters, you can help us put together the rest of the Go Slow puzzle. If you have dogs that you think may have Go Slow, or if you have dealt with it in the past, we're keen to talk to you. Samples of wild pork or other meat linked to Go Slow cases are being collected for future testing, along with samples from any dogs with Go Slow that don't recover. If you think you can help in any way, contact Hayley Hunt at h.hunt@massey.ac.nz or phone 0273410874. Together, we hope to get to the bottom of what's causing Go Slow, so we can stop dogs shaking and enjoy hunting for our wild pork and bacon. ■

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