Recreational Hunting of Feral Deer

Hunting and Permits

Where can I find more information about recreational hunting in South Australia?

- Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia (CHASA)

What are the ways I can hunt deer?

In South Australia the hunting of deer is by shooting and bows.

What licenses and permits do I need so I can hunt feral deer?

You need:

- Written permission from the landholder on a Hunting On Private Land form.

Persons under 18 years of age using a firearm must be supervised by a licensed person.
Firearms license

How do I apply for a firearms licence?
Contact the South Australian Police Firearms Branch on (08) 7322 3346 or obtain information online at SAPOL Firearms and Weapons (www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons)

How should I transport my firearm when I go hunting?
- Keep firearms in a separate container to ammunition, which must be in a locked box or glove box.
- Store firearms covered, in an unmarked case or bag, in a locked boot.
- Firearms must be not be transported when loaded.
- Do not leave the vehicle unattended unless there is reasonable need and it must be locked.

Where can I find out about ammunition and calibre recommended for deer?
Access the online Modern Hunting Guide developed jointly by CHASA and Department for Environment and Water.

Where can I find the Firearms Act 2015?
You can find the South Australian Legislation Firearms Act 2015 online (www.legislation.sa.gov.au)

How to ground shoot feral deer

Where can I find out about how to cull feral deer?
Deer must be destroyed humanely. Pest Smart Code of Practice (DEE001) details the standard operating procedure for shooting feral deer (www.pestsmart.org.au/ground-shooting-of-wild-deer/).

Hunters must take all reasonable steps to avoid any cruelty or mistreatment offences under the Animal Welfare Act (1985).

Can I use a spotlight to hunt deer?
Yes.

What do I do with the carcasses?
You can choose to either:
- Leave the carcasses to degrade.
- Take meat for consumption by yourself and your family. Deer meat cannot be sold or given away.

What if I don’t have a firearms licence or don’t feel comfortable killing animals?
There are programs that link hunters with property owners who have feral deer on their properties.

You are encouraged to engage a hunter who is part of an organised group of highly skilled hunters, and which has strong governance and an emphasis on safety.