

- Always throw all trash into garbage cans
- Do not feed bread to birds or ducks. It is not healthy for them to eat and the birds and ducks will become dependent upon people feeding them. Feeding causes the ducks and birds to stray from their regular migration patterns and this could be dangerous for them.
- Never throw rocks, sticks or other items at wildlife. Put yourself in their place...would you like it if someone did that to you?
- Leave nests alone! Never move or play with a nest that has babies in it. The mother will care for the young until they are old enough to be on their own.
- Don't make loud noises that might frighten wildlife. Be a quiet observer...you'll see and hear a lot more.
- If you catch a fish, frog, toad or other small animal, be very careful so as not to cause any injury. It is interesting to look at an animal up close, but remember to release him immediately afterwards and to release in the same place where you found him.



*Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals*

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# Justice For Wildlife

**Don't be fooled into thinking hunting is essential.**

**Some** hunting advocates argue that hunting is necessary to control wildlife population and to prevent wildlife from destroying the environment via overfeeding. NHES contends that in most instances ample forage exists to support the wildlife population, and nature has provided natural controls over population growth—as animals increase in numbers, reproduction decreases.



Hunting is only a short-term solution to deer overpopulation complaints. After hunting season, less competition for food among the surviving population allows for healthier animals and increased reproduction. Scientific studies prove that populations of deer that are annually hunted reproduce at double or triple rates of those who are not hunted.

Killing even large numbers of deer does not stop the surviving deer from eating crops, crossing roads, and causing accidents. New solutions and designs to this problem are now working across the country. New Jersey and other states have recently begun to donate deer repellents to farmers and homeowners. Minnesota and Washington have installed roadside reflectors and these have effectively reduced deer-vehicle collisions.

Hunting in residential areas, as well as deep in the forest, can be highly dangerous. Annually, more than 200 people are killed in hunting accidents and another 1500 are injured. Many of those injuries are non-hunters. Companion and farm animals also become innocent victims each year as hunting season gets underway.

### **Canned Hunts = Certain and Cruel Death! Together We Can Take Action**

Did you know that there are over 500 ranches in Texas alone that allow exotic animals like cougars and leopards to be hunted down inside a fenced or small enclosed area to be shot for a fee? It happens much like ordering off of a menu — maybe a bobcat for \$250, a cougar for \$375 and a rhino for \$10,000. Many of these animals have been auctioned off and sold to “big game” ranches because they were either

bred for that purpose or abandoned by owners who didn't understand the responsibilities of caring for an exotic animal.

Many come to their certain demise at these ranches. To make this cruelty even worse, in some cases the animals are so used to human contact, they do not even know to run or be afraid. Not only is this cruel, but it also violates any hunters' code of ethics, in that the animals are enclosed.

NHES opposes the hunting of wildlife for either sport or trophy because neither serves any human survival need and is inherently cruel. As a society, we need to work to protect and restore key habitats for deer and other species. We need to rally for legislation that will preserve open space and provide land for wildlife to live freely and peacefully. At every possible opportunity, speak out for conservation and speak against killing.

### **Tips for the whole family— how to enjoy wildlife without harm:**

- Take photographs of wildlife
- Sit quietly and listen to nature, enjoy the many sounds
- Pick up and dispose of unused fish line. If left on the bank or in the water, fish line can terribly injure and kill fish, ducks and other animals that become entangled in the line. Children and adults may also be injured by hooks and fish line that has not been properly thrown away. Be responsible! Use a closed container to throw extra fish line away.