

PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION FOR HUNTERS IN ARAGON

Updated handbook

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Cover image: Hind and fawn. Author: Javier Marco.

FOREWORD

The **23 September 85/17 Recommendation by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe proposes** to make the granting of a hunting licence dependent on the result of a hunters' examination which should include theory and practical tests. Likewise, the **Resolution 87/882 on the importance of hunting for Europe's rural regions**, approved by the Permanent Commission of the Council of Europe calls upon governments of the Member States to endeavour to foster better training and information among hunters, especially with regard to the suggestions made in the 85/17 Recommendation, pertaining to the training of hunters.

The 5 May 87/2015 Decree **of the Government of Aragon, whereby the proficiency examination for hunting in Aragon** is regulated, develops the legal provisions of the Hunting Law of Aragon in this regard, laying down the necessary knowledge to overcome the examination for obtaining the hunting licence and publicising them. Similarly, the procedures to follow, the format and content of the examination, as well as the exemption criteria are also regulated in accordance with the relevant legal provisions.

This handbook includes all information necessary for passing the hunters' examination in Aragon, even though some additional information, for clarification or of technical nature, has been included which is not subject to the examination questions list and which has been marked in blue typeface, and therefore **needs not be memorised**.

1. HUNTING PLANNING

The use of natural resources, and particularly the use of game animals, requires the implementation and application of rational criteria to ensure the conservation of populations of both, huntable species and other wildlife fauna, as well as the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment where this activity is performed, so that hunting is compatible with other land uses.

The term *hunting planning* refers to the set of rules, tools and measures applied to achieve sustainable hunting practices; that is to say, feasible not just today, but also in the future.

1.1. Hunting Law of Aragon.

As provided in the Spanish Constitution and the Statutes of Autonomy, the regulation of hunting in our country is under the exclusive competence of the Autonomous Communities. In the territory of Aragon, this activity is governed by the **12 March 1/2015 Hunting Law of Aragon**.

The purpose of these provisions is to regulate hunting practices in the Autonomous Community of Aragon in order to protect, preserve, develop and leverage in an orderly fashion its hunting resources, ensuring sustainability and compatibility with the conservation of other resources and natural environment uses.

The Hunting Law of Aragon governs the requirements that all hunters must adhere to in order to conduct this activity in Aragon. It also stipulates the conditions in which it can be done, the types of land where it can be practised as well as the areas where hunting is prohibited. The document also outlines the prohibited means, methods, facilities and devices, as well as the limitations for the benefit of hunting and exceptions to those prohibitions.

Lastly, it sets out a classification of acts which constitute administrative offences and may be sanctioned. It also includes information regarding the types of fines applicable and the various amounts.

1.2. General Hunting Plan of Aragon.

The policy document contains information regarding existing hunting resources on an annual basis. The document also contains how their exploitation is planned in the territory of Aragon. It is a supplementary document and is not specifically regulated by the technical plans or by the annual plans of each hunting preserve's hunting exploitation. It is approved by an **Order of the Regional Minister**

which deals with matters concerning hunting practices, and is published in the Official Bulletin of Aragon. For each season it defines, at least, the following items:

- Game species and their classification into big and small game species.
- Game species that cannot be hunted in the season, if applicable.
- Permitted types of hunting.
- Regulations and hunting periods according to species and types of hunting.
- General limitations in the benefit of game species and preventive measures for their control.
- Value of game species for the calculation of compensation for damage caused to these species.

1.3. Technical hunting plans.

The Technical hunting plan is a document which stipulates how to carry out hunting activities in a hunting ground – whether in hunting preserves or game reserves – without which hunting is not permitted. It sets out the guidelines for hunting management and the use of every hunting preserve or game reserve.

They are drafted by a technician qualified in the matters inherent to its contents. It includes a description of the enclosed ground, an initial census of game populations, a hunting planning for the next three seasons and the guidelines for monitoring this activity and game species populations.

It also covers the following, amongst other aspects:

- Maximum number of hunters

The [9 May 108/1995 Decree by the Government of Aragon](#), specifies the number of hunters per hunting day. The number may not exceed one hunter per every 50 acres when the type of use of the hunting preserve is for small game and wild boar hunting, and may not exceed one hunter per every 65 hectares for big game hunting. However, for battues, no limitations on the number of participating hunters are specified.

- Dog training areas

The Technical plans can define the dog training areas in the hunting preserve and its regime of use. These areas must be located more than 200 metres away from the border of the hunting preserves and must cover a surface smaller than 4% of the total area of the confined land, not exceeding 100 ha. [In the event that the plan initially approved for the hunting preserve made no reference to those areas, an amendment of the Technical Plan may be requested, in the form of an annex including a location map of the area.](#)

- Facilities for the recovery and development of game species

The auxiliary facilities for the recovery and development of game species are considered to be of limited capacity comprising of an area less than 1 ha. These are for the development and recovery of game species populations in the hunting preserves where they are located. The animals found in these areas cannot be moved outside the hunting preserve. [These activities must be outlined in the technical plan, and if it was not done in the beginning, the hunting preserve occupier may request the amendment of the plan through the corresponding annex.](#)

- Security service

The hunting preserves must have a security service **whether it be their own or contracted** which can be shared with other hunting preserves. The occupier of the hunting preserve shall report about the security service at their disposal to INAGA by means of an annex included in the preserve's technical plan.

The security staff in the hunting preserves must at least consist of one certified warden (using a proprietary service) or a contracted warden (using a contracted service) in every 50,000 hectares when the person's function is solely to perform hunting tasks, [and in every 25,000 hectares when, in addition, he/she performs other tasks.](#)

- Species and area protection regulations

The plan must include the relevant guidelines for the territory of the preserve concerning the instruments of management and the protection of *natural areas*, as well as the recovery plans for *protected species* affecting the hunting grounds. This requirement is mandatory when these instruments so provide, especially with regard to the precautions taken during *critical periods* such as breeding and

territorial limitations for the development of the hunting activity. These mainly affect the organisation of collective hunting activities and dog training areas.

1.4. Annual plans for hunting exploitation.

Annual Plans of hunting exploitation are the documents by which the preserve's occupier specifies the technical plan for each hunting season. Having as reference the findings about the previous season's captures and information regarding the monitoring carried out. They also detail the season's specific circumstances, with particular attention to the hunting preserve's:

- Species that can be hunted and their quotas.
- Hunting days.
- Types of hunting.
- Hunting pressure.
- Other activities that are intended to be performed in the season.

The annual plan must include a statement of results of the previous season for both species and quotas made as a financial balance sheet. Hunting is prohibited in the hunting preserve until the approval of the Annual Plan of hunting exploitation, which falls under the competencies of the INAGA.

The deadlines for submission of applications for approval of the plan by the hunting preserves are:

- Small game and wild boar plans June, July and August.
- Hunting Plans for half-closed season and passing migrant pigeons June
- Big Game hunting: quota allocation for deer or Pyrenean chamois February
- Big Game: quota allocation for deer or Iberian ibex June
- Big game: authorisation for fallow deer and mouflon June

1.5. Environment and biodiversity Protection.

There are different regulations aimed at protecting the natural environment and biodiversity that condition the exercise of hunting.

The implementation of European Union laws, mainly the **Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147 / EC)** and **Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43 / EC)** binds the State-level and regional-level legislation. These directives were transposed into the Spanish legal system under the **42/2007 Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity**. For its part, the **1/2015 Hunting Law of Aragon** also contains the directive's provisions regarding hunting. Both laws together provide the legislative framework of the General Hunting Plan for each season.

Examples of these regulations include the prohibition of hunting during birds mating, breeding and rearing seasons as set out in the Birds Directive and which approximately coincides with the period of the close season, or the prohibition of the use of non-selective methods, such as nets or leghold traps, stipulated in the Habitats Directive, which are also covered in the national and regional legislation mentioned above.

As a result, we can find limitations on hunting in *protected natural areas*, in special protection areas for birds (SPAs) and other Natura 2000 network's (SAC) sites, as well as areas defined in recovery or conservation of endangered species plans whenever they see fit. Therefore it is important to know if the land where hunting is to be conducted is affected by any of these areas' management instruments, such as the Management Plans for Natural Resources, Use and Management Master Plans, Natura Network Management Plans or Endangered Species Recovery Plans.

We also must note that some of these conditioning factors for hunting are already provided by **international conventions** for the protection of fauna and flora, signed by both Spain and the European Union.

For example: the inclusion of a *wetland area* on the List of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (**Ramsar, Iran, 1971**) in the Natura 2000 network or in a Protected Natural Area implies the *prohibition of possession and use of ammunition containing lead* for hunting and target shooting, whenever these activities are performed in the wetland area.

Although apparently unrelated to the exercise of hunting, other environmental regulations may affect many facets of this activity, such as the **Law 22/2011 on waste and polluted soil**, which prohibits the uncontrolled abandonment of any kind of non-hazardous waste, such as used ammunition cartridges; these are classified as a serious offence.

1.6. Natura 2000 network.

Natura 2000 network is a European network of natural areas that aims to ensure the maintenance or restoration, *at a favourable conservation status*, of the *habitats* of the species in its natural range within

the territory of the European Union. Areas belonging to the Natura 2000 network are classified into three categories:

- SCI** **Site of Community Importance**, aimed to contribute significantly to the maintenance or restoration of any of the types of natural habitats or any species stated in the directive itself. They exist as a proposal from the Member States, as a first step for their integration in the Natura 2000 network.
- SAC** **Special Area of Conservation**, the proposed SCIs are approved by the European Commission finally declared by the Member State, through the approval of a **Management Plan**. Along with the Management Plan, the conservation measures needed for the maintenance or restoration of a favourable conservation status shall be applied. Those measures should be regulatory – that is, regulated through rules – administrative – for example, aid or subsidies – and contractual – through contracts, agreements and settlements.
- SPA** **Special Protection Area for birds** have been designated by Member States under the Birds Directive in order to preserve certain species of birds as set out in the directive. SPAs are directly included into the Natura 2000 network.

While the Habitats Directive does not initially set out any particular limitation on human actions, it however stipulates that activities affecting significantly the environmental values, under which that area has been so declared, should not be performed or authorised. Therefore, it states that a prior assessment on the impact of their implications must be done before any authorisation is granted.

2. HUNTING AND NON-HUNTING GROUNDS.

In Aragon there are two basic types of areas in terms of hunting: the *hunting grounds* which are those where hunting can be practised because they have become game reserves or hunting preserves and the activity has been planned, and other types of areas, where the exercise of this activity is generally prohibited are referred to as *non-hunting grounds*. [The name and the requirements of the different hunting grounds may change from one autonomous community to another. It is important to know the regional regulations when hunting in different places in the national territory.](#)

2.1. Types of hunting preserves

Hunting preserve ('*coto de caza*') designates all continuous areas of land whose limits are properly marked, wherein a rational hunting exploitation can be performed, and has been declared as such by the competent Administration ([INAGA or Regional Minister responsible for hunting issues](#)).

The hunting preserves in Aragon must have a minimum area of 500 hectares, except for small game intensive game preserves that may have a surface area of 15 to 500 hectares.

According to the main purpose of the use of game species, the hunting preserves are classified as:

- Hunting preserves **for big game hunting**.
- Hunting preserves for **small game and wild boar hunting**.

According to its purposes and ownership, game preserves are classified into **public ownership** preserves, promoted by public administrations, and **privately-owned** preserves, of individuals, business entities or private associations.

a) Public preserves:

- **Community (regional) hunting preserves** ('*Cotos sociales*'). Those are the delimited plots of land, owned by the Autonomous Community of Aragon's Administration and whose fundamental purpose is to facilitate hunting to hunters in the Autonomous Community of Aragon.

The management of community hunting preserves is to be done by the Autonomous Community of Aragon's Administration, [which may exercise it directly or through agreements with partner organisations.](#)

- **Municipal hunting preserves** ('*Cotos municipales*'). These are promoted by municipalities or minor local authorities in the area in which they own the hunting rights. Municipal preserves must have operating regulations approved by the plenary assembly of the municipality council or, [where appropriate, by the local assembly or Open Council of the minor local authority](#).

The management of municipal hunting grounds or game preserves is the responsibility of the promoter [municipalities or minor local authorities](#), who do this either directly or by transfer to a local hunters' association, in which case the INAGA must be irrefutably notified to. These local hunters' sporting associations or Societies must be registered in the General Register of **Sporting associations** of Aragon.

Local hunters who request it shall have the right to hunt in the municipal hunting preserve provided that they are not *disqualified* from hunting and they expressly accept the conditions of the *operating regulations* of the municipal hunting ground that apply to them.

[A minimum of twenty per cent \(20%\) of the hunting exploitations authorised for the preserve during the season should be allocated to local hunters.](#)

b) Privately-owned game preserves:

- **Social game preserves** ('*Cotos deportivos*'). In these, the hunting exploitation management is carried out on a nonprofits basis, the preserves will be titled (owned) by the hunters sporting associations *federated* in the **Aragonese Hunting Federation** or titled by the Aragonese Federation of Hunting itself and the hunting exploitation is managed by affiliated hunters. These local hunters sporting associations must be registered in the **General Registry of Sporting associations of Aragon**.

The management of the social hunting preserves is done directly by the occupier, being forbidden its lease, transfer of management or any other legal transaction with similar effects to the hunting exploitations, without prejudice to a change of ownership of the preserve being formalised after completion of all the legal formalities and met the necessary requirements.

In order to hold the rights of such preserves, the associations promoting these preserves must have a legally approved by-laws, in which the right to be a member of the local hunters should be recognised. A local hunter who requests it has the right to be a member of the sporting society and to hunt in the social hunting preserve, provided they expressly accept the association's by-laws, and the associations do not state a maximum number of members.

- **Private hunting preserves** (*'Cotos privados de caza'*). Private game preserves are those promoted by the owners or holders of 'in rem' rights or personal rights which determine the use and benefit of the hunting exploitation on those lands. Its purpose is the private or commercial hunting exploitation of natural game populations existing therein. They do not have any limitations on their commercial and economic management. New leases, transfer of management, sale of exploitation rights, etc. are allowed.
- **Intensive small game preserves** (*'Cotos intensivos de caza menor'*). Intensive small game preserves are those promoted by the owners or holders of rights of hunting exploitation in these areas. Hunting is performed mainly for commercial or mercantile purposes and the hunting is mainly based on the release of small game bred in confinement in duly authorised game farms, for its immediate capture.

2.2. Game reserves.

Game reserves are those delimited plots of land, declared as such by the Government of Aragon, intended to promote, preserve and foster certain game species because of its values and exceptional possibilities for the practice of hunting, subordinating its potential hunting exploitation to the development of these species. Likewise, one of its objectives is to promote the socio-economic development of the municipalities that make them up through the promotion and use of hunting activities.

The hunting rights of these game reserves belong to the Government of Aragon, and their management and administration will be entrusted to the department responsible for hunting matters.

2.3. Hunting-restricted preserves ("*Vedados de caza*").

Hunting-restricted preserves are those areas declared as such by the department responsible for hunting matters which also supervises them.

Their main purpose is to facilitate the recovery of game populations and the conservation and protection of wildlife listed as threatened species, and, therefore, hunting is generally prohibited. Nevertheless, exceptionally, control actions might be authorised on certain species for damage prevention, in accordance with the cases referred to in the Hunting Law of Aragon.

2.4. Non-hunting grounds.

Non-hunting grounds are those in which there is a general prohibition on hunting and do not have the status of hunting preserves ('*coto*'), hunting reserve or Hunting-restricted preserves ('*vedado de caza*'). Nonetheless, through the relevant authorisations or other administrative control systems **to be determined by means of an order of the Regional Minister responsible for hunting concerns**, population control of certain game species may be allowed in these areas when any of the circumstances set out in the Hunting Law of Aragon apply.

They have the status of **voluntary non-hunting area**, and their owners must mark it accordingly:

- Estates over five hundred hectares that, although with the potential of being hunting preserve, their owners have not requested so.
- Estates over five hectares and less than five hundred hectares which, by the owner's will, are not integrated into an adjacent hunting ground or are embedded in it.

The Hunting Law of Aragon prohibits commercial use of any kind of hunting activity in non-hunting areas.

2.5. Marking of hunting and non-hunting grounds.

The hunting grounds in Aragon should be demarcated by means of signposts placed along the entire outer and interior perimeter. The placement of these signposts must be in such a way that its displayed text or emblem is visible from outside the marked plot.

The signposts must be placed at a height above the ground of at least 1.50 m and they must be of two types:

Descriptive: **Dimensions: 50 cm x 33 cm.** Secured to the upper end of the post featuring, with black type on a white background, the type of hunting ground and its number or registration. Hunting Reserves signs and Social Hunting Preserve signs display on the upper left corner the symbol and the logo of the Government of Aragon.

For reference: **Dimensions: 30 cm x 20 cm.** Also located at the top of the post. They should be divided diagonally, the upper right area should be white and the bottom left area should be black.

The descriptive signs are to be placed at a distance no more than 1000 metres away from each other and at all access roads to the hunting ground at their point of intersection with the outer perimeter. Reference signs should be placed every 200 metres at most between the descriptive signs.

Furthermore, the voluntary non-hunting areas, game preserves, and safety zones which have been expressly declared must be marked. In the latter two cases, by means of descriptive signs posted along its entire outer perimeter, with the text displayed in black type on white background, "*Vedado de Caza*" ("Non-hunting Game preserve") and "*Zona de Seguridad*" ("Safety Zone") respectively.

3. HUNTING REQUIREMENTS.

3.1. Hunting licences.

The Aragon hunting licence is a personal and non-transferrable document whose possession is required for hunting in the territory of Aragon. It is mandatory for all hunters who perform any hunting activity in Aragon, except beaters and whippers-in participating in those, without carrying weapons, in their capacities of beaters and whippers-in, to beatings or battues, who do not require a hunting licence.

The Aragon hunting licence is issued by INAGA and becomes valid from the moment that its holder pays the relevant fee, and it will expire, in any case, one year after its issuance. However, licences for Aragon residents over 65 are free and are valid for 5 years.

Licences which have been cancelled or suspended after being issued after undertaking the appropriate *disciplinary proceedings*, must be submitted to one of the provincial offices of the department responsible for hunting matters, under the terms and conditions as defined in the relevant resolutions or rulings.

There is a valid hunting licence in the three Aragonese provinces, although an *interregional licence* has also been established – through an agreement between the Autonomous Communities – enabling hunting practices both in Aragon and in the regions that signed the agreement on interregional licences.

The Autonomous Communities in which the interregional licence issued in Aragón is valid are: Aragón, Asturias, Castilla y León, Extremadura, Galicia, Madrid y Comunidad Valenciana. Under the above agreement, inter-regional licences issued by the above-mentioned Autonomous Communities are also valid throughout the territory of Aragon.

In order to obtain the interregional hunting licence, passing an examination is obligatory for the new hunters who acquire such status after the signing of the inter-regional licence agreement. This obligation extends to the obtainment of the Aragonese licence, since so it has been stated in that agreement.

3.2. Hunting permits.

To exercise hunting in the hunting grounds of Aragon, apart from the hunting licence, one needs a specific *permit* from the owner or occupier of the hunting preserve or game reserve. The permit is personal and non-transferable and entitles its holder to exercise hunting activities under the conditions laid down therein and in accordance with current regulations.

The owner or occupier of the game preserve must have a roster listing the full name and national ID card or passport number of the people in favour of whom the hunting permits are issued, and the date which they are issued for.

3.3. Categories of hunters.

The 1/2015 Hunting Law of Aragon establishes the following categories of hunters.

- **Local hunter.** In general, a local hunter is deemed to be someone who has her/his habitual and permanent residence in the localities that are wholly or partly included in a particular hunting ground, however, they must be a registered legal resident in the municipalities which these localities belong to.

These also will be considered local hunters: owners or holders of other personal or proprietary rights which, in general, include the hunting rights of rural estates which cover, at least, an area of 5 hectares included in the hunting ground whose title deed is more than ten years old or the hereditary transmission deed of those who held it for ten years or longer period and, finally, their unemancipated children will also be considered local hunters.

However, in social hunting preserves, the owners or occupiers are responsible for establishing the requirements necessary for holding local hunter status and should be included in their by-laws. In terms of game reserves, the necessary requirements for holding the status of local hunter are set out in the hunting exploitation plans for each reserve.

- **Regional (Autonomous Community) hunter.** Anyone who, in a given municipality, is not a legal resident but is registered in an Aragonese municipality.
- **European community hunter.** Anyone who is a registered legal resident in any Spanish civil municipality (except in Aragon) or whose nationality is of any EU country.
- **Third countries hunter.** All hunters not included in the above categories.

Regarding *crews*, local, regional (Autonomous communities) or European community hunters crews can be defined so if half of the hunters plus one are local, regional or European community hunters respectively.

3.4. Hunter's liability during hunting activities and compulsory insurance.

Hunters are obliged to provide compensation for the damage caused in the performance of hunting activities, except when the act is only due to the injured's fault or negligence or in cases of force majeure. For covering any possible damage, the hunter must necessarily take out civil liability insurance.

The individuals defined by the state legislation shall be liable for any damage caused by minors of age of criminal responsibility.

In collective hunting activities, if there is no record of the individual responsible for the damage caused to people, all members of the hunting party will be jointly and mutually liable for the damage.

The hunter's civil liability insurance is regulated by the **63/1994 Royal Decree**, it is of obligatory subscription and covers in all Spanish territory the obligation of the hunters using weapons to compensate for any personal injury caused to individuals during the hunting activity [up to a maximum of € 90,151.82](#), including damage caused by an unintended firing of weapons as well as shots fired during rest times within the boundaries of the hunting ground while hunting. It excludes, however, cases in which the hunter is not obliged to compensate for, since the action is due solely to the fault or negligence of the injured or to force majeure.

Accrediting the insurance contract is a prerequisite for getting a new hunting licence; [while in Aragon, for the online processing, the *Statement of liability* is accepted](#). In addition, in order to hunt, hunters must have some accreditation stating that they are covered by an insurance policy, which should be in force at the time of hunting, so that it can be shown along with the hunting licence if it is required by authorities of the law.

4. GAME SPECIES AND HUNTING.

4.1. Definition of game species.

The Hunting Law of Aragon states that game species or *game animals*, are those defined annually in the General Hunting Plan of Aragon published in the Official Bulletin of Aragon. The following species are excluded from the definition as game animals: any other species not contained in the General Plan and the species listed or under any specific protection regime and, also, pets if they are not in a feral condition.

Nevertheless, from the game species defined in the General Hunting Plan for the hunting season, in the preserves, only those species authorised in its technical plan and in the corresponding annual plan for hunting exploitation shall be hunted, using the hunting types and periods as provided in these plans.

The General Hunting Plan of Aragon classifies game species into two groups: big game species and small game species.

[Currently the General Plan includes 34 species of small game and 7 of big game.](#)

4.2. Ownership of game animals.

As specified under the Hunting Law, when hunting is legally conducted, the hunter will acquire ownership of the animal through *occupancy*, i.e., at the time of its killing or capture. The release into the environment of a live game animal, both, previously captured specimens and game farm animals, implies that its owner renounces the ownership thereof, so that any person can acquire it by occupancy.

The hunter who wounds a small game animal in grounds where hunting is permitted (to her/him) will have the right to bag it, even though it enters or falls in a different ground, as long as that game animal is in a visible location from the boundary and the hunter enters the neighbouring ground to bag the quarry with the gun chamber empty and open, and the dog controlled. Otherwise the hunter must have authorisation from the holder of the hunting rights of the ground or from the land owner, if the ground had a non-hunting condition. For big game hunting, hunters must always have the written authorisation from the holder of the hunting rights or from the owner of the non-hunting grounds.

When one or more hunters flush out and chase a game animal, any other hunter must refrain, for as long as the chase lasts, from killing or attempting to hunt that animal down. It is understood that a game

animal is chased when the hunter who flush it out, with or without help from dogs or other means, proceeds to pursue it and has a reasonable chance of bagging it.

When in doubt regarding the ownership of the game animals, the customs and traditional practice of the area will apply. Failing that, the ownership belongs to the hunter who had killed it with regard to small game and to the author of the first *blood* when it concerns big game.

4.3. Big game species.

The General Hunting Plan currently in force includes seven big game species: wild boar, red deer, roe deer, fallow deer, Pyrenean chamois, Iberian ibex and mouflon.

The hunter must be capable of identifying these species, determining occasionally their sex and age, as prescribed by the regulations and authorisations granted.

4.3.1. WILD BOAR ([Sus scrofa](#))

The wild boar is the most prevalent big game species in Aragon. Its preferred habitat is the forest, although its adaptive capability allows it to inhabit scrublands and even in agricultural areas.

With a compact and robust trunk with an appearance similar to domestic pig (it is the same species); short legs and variable colour coat formed by bristles and downy hair (fluff undercoat hair) [in the subspecies castilianus](#). It is a medium-size mammal for which three age classes can easily be distinguished:

- ['Rayones'](#): (Spanish designation) wild boar piglets up to 6 months. 'Squeakers' would be the closest English term, from 0 to 10 months old] characterized by a camouflage coat with longitudinal stripes.
- ['Bermejós'](#): (Spanish word literally meaning 'auburn') from 6 months to one year old, its colour is reddish brown. The term in English would correspond to 'squeakers' (0-10 months) and juvenile piglets (10-12 months).
- [Adults](#): from they are 1 year old their most common fur is black, although it can vary over more reddish browns or even over grey colours in the oldest specimens. [Their average size is around 50 kg \(110 lbs\) in females and 80 kg \(177 lbs\) in adult males.](#)

It is a species with nocturnal habits and an omnivorous and opportunistic feeding habit depending on time of year: autumn fruits, cereals, roots and bulbs among others, supplementing this diet with invertebrates, carrion, eggs, chicks, small mammals and reptiles.

The Hunting Law of Aragon generally prohibits the capture of female specimens followed by 'rayones', or squeakers, which might be more common at the beginning and the end of the hunting season. Distinguishing the sexes on site requires practice and is not without error, it is advisable not to shoot any adult followed by squeakers.

As for possible errors in identification, the hunter must be especially careful in the Pyrenees, where a small bear in a densely forested area could lead to some confusion.



Wild boar (Author: Marco A. Escudero, Javier Marco)

4.3.2. RED DEER (*Cervus elaphus*)

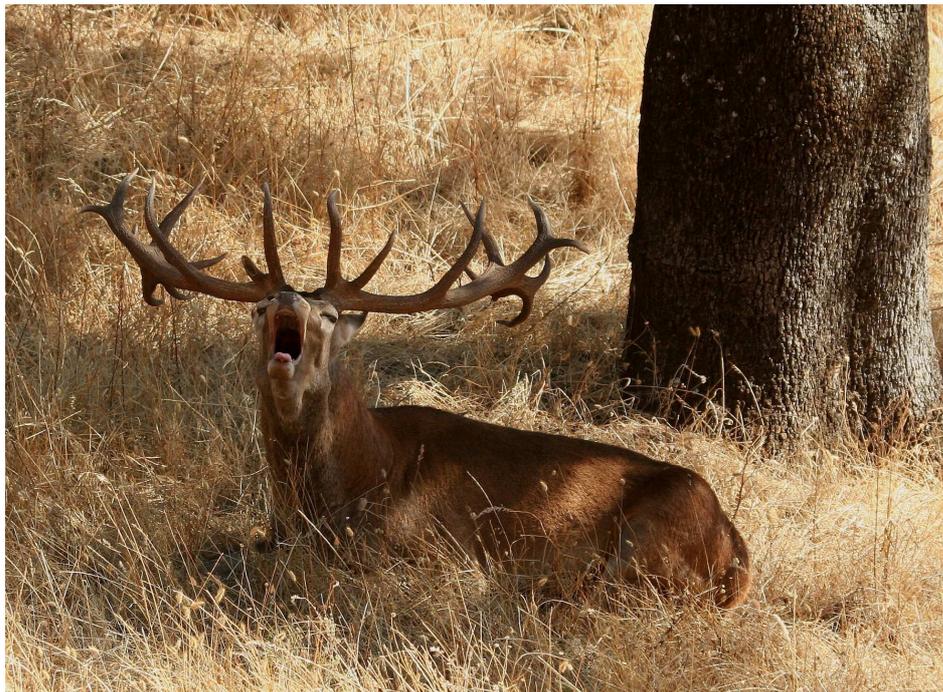
The red deer is the largest game species in the Iberian Peninsula, and its most usual habitat is the forest. Their habits are also nocturnal and its diet, herbivorous.

This species shows a clear sexual dimorphism, adult females are smaller than males, more slender and lack antlers. The males are more massive and are endowed with remarkable antlers which grow annually.

The hunting regulations establish requirements based on sex and age, so the hunter must be capable of identifying such characters on site. The following classes are distinguished:

- **Fawns:** up to one year of age, where there is no differentiation of sex and they are characterized by a reddish brown camouflage coat with white spots. These spots will fade with age until they acquire their adult coat, ranging from reddish brown to light brown.
- **Females (Does):** their main identifying feature is the absence of antlers, although it should be noted that in the months of March and April the males' antlers casting occurs, hindering their identification.

- *Female yearlings* ('*Primalas*' in Spanish): young female red deer up to 2 years, characterized by their small size compared to the adult mother accompanying the yearling.
- *Adult hind*: from 2 years of age, its size increases **reaching with age an average weight of 90 kg (198 lbs)**.
- Males (Stags):
 - '*Varetos*' (the Spanish word for sub-adult individuals between 1 and 2 years old): young deer between 1 and 2 years of age, characterized by antlers made up of two discreetly curved rods without ramifications.
 - '*Horquillones*' (the Spanish word for 'fawn'): subadult specimens between two and three years; generally they have a small fork at the top of the antlers and two emerging "brow tines" at the base thereof.
 - *Adult deer*: from the third year its size increases, **reaching with age an average weight of about 130 kg (286 lbs)**; its most characteristic feature is one antler with multiple ramifications or tines that vary according to age and environmental and genetic factors.



Stag bellowing. (Author: Marco A. Escudero)

The '*desmogue*' ('horn casting') occurs between the months of March and April. Immediately after, new antlers begin to grow covered by soft velvet skin with many blood vessels or vascular skin, the "velvet". In early September the antlers are already fully formed and devoid of this velvet skin.

4.3.3. ROE DEER (*Capreolus capreolus*)

The roe deer is the smallest cervid on the Iberian Peninsula. Its preferred habitat is the forest, although it features a great adaptive capacity which is allowing it to expand to scrub formations and even to predominantly agricultural areas. Their habits are also nocturnal and its diet, herbivorous.

We can distinguish the following types of sex and age:

- '*Corcinos*' (Spanish term for Baby roe deer up to 1 year old): up to 1 year old, without distinction between sexes and characterized by a camouflage a dark brown fur coat with white spots, which fade with age as they acquire the adult coat, which varies from reddish brown to greyish brown depending if it is summer or winter.
- Female roe deer: they lack antlers, although it should be borne in mind that during the months from October to December the males' casting of the antlers occurs, which makes more difficult the identification, and this identification is often based on the presence of the crest, which gives the anal escutcheon a heart-shaped aspect, as opposed to the typical kidney-shaped aspect of males'. *It reaches its adult size in the second year, with an average weight of about 20 kg (44 lbs).*
- Male roe deer: As in the case of red deer, they are characterized by antlers that are shed annually, the first consisting of two small rods. From the second or third *beam*, antlers will feature three tines; every year they increase over the previous year very discreetly in length and thickness. The antlers shed between October and November and are again formed between March and May. *Adult males reach an average weight of about 30 kg (66 lbs).*

The difference in size with the red deer is relevant, albeit in poor observation conditions, a baby deer could be confused with an adult female roe deer or with a male roe deer with its antlers casted.



Roe deer: male with velvet covering his antlers and female. (Author: Marco A. Escudero)

4.3.4. FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama*)

The presence of fallow deer in Aragon is scarce and only consequence of releases or escapes. As in the earlier described species, it prefers forest habitats and shows a clear difference between sexes.

Distinguishable sex and age classes are similar to those described in red deer and roe deer. The main distinguishing features are the palmate antlers of the males, the white mottled coat (although little or no perceptible in winter coats), white bordered in black anal disc and its intermediate size, 60 kg (132 lbs) for males and 50 kg (110 lbs) in females, on average.



Male fallow deer with antlers covered with velvet. (Author: Javier Marco)



Male fallow deer. (Author: Marco A. Escudero)

4.3.5. IBERIAN IBEX (*Capra pyrenaica*)

This species is one of the most emblematic of the Iberian Peninsula as it is an *endemism* thereof, i.e., it is native and live naturally in our peninsula, exclusively. There are two subspecies, of which *Capra pyrenaica hispanica* is the one that can be found in Aragón. It is currently expanding throughout the autonomous region.

The Iberian Ibex prefers (usually) steep forest habitats, with woods and scrub, generally in Mediterranean climate.

It is a gregarious *species* which tend to live in groups or *herds*, with diurnal and crepuscular habits, it has unbranched horns, curved backwards and opening towards the ends, which forms continuously with winter breaks, which creates the segmented horn aspect – as if they were rings –, which allows to derive the age of the specimen. The following types of sex and age can be distinguished:

- Kids: up to 1 year old, always accompanied by the mother, from which can be distinguished by its smaller size and small horns.
- Female ibex: females reach their adult size around the second year **weighing about 40 kg (88 lbs) and** horns much smaller than the males'. Its coat varies from light brown to greyish.
- Male mountain ibex: males **can reach a weight of 100 kg (220 lbs)** and their lyre-shaped or bow-shaped horns are of large size. With age, their coats become dark brown, almost black.

The only species with which it could be mistaken in Aragon is the feral domestic goat or '*cimarrona*' – 'untamed' in Spanish – (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) in areas whose distributions coincide. While the feral domestic goat, coming directly from domestic goats, shows a very different and varied coat and it is generally smaller.



Iberian ibex. (Author: Marco A. Escudero)

4.3.6. CHAMOIS OR PYRENEAN CHAMOIS (*Rupicapra pyrenaica pyrenaica*)

Of the two subspecies of chamois with a presence on the peninsula, namely, the Pyrenean chamois is the one living in the Pyrenees. It is similar to a goat but smaller than the Iberian Ibex, with small hook-shaped horns and typical dark patches on both sides of the head stretching from the muzzle to the eyes. It inhabits the high mountain areas, from pastureland areas above the forest levels to Pyrenean forests.

We can distinguish the following types of sex and age:

- Kids: up to 1 year old, always accompanied by the mother, from which they can be distinguished by their smaller size and small horns.
- Young: up to 2 years of age, usually the horns do not exceed the height of their ears.

- Adult female: it reaches its adult size around its second year of age, [with an average weight of about 20 kg \(44 lbs\)](#). Distinguishing them with the male can be done by the horns, since the female's are thinner and the hook is slightly closed.
- Adult males: [they reach 35 kg \(77 lbs\)](#) and can be distinguished from females by their horns, the latter having a closed hook pointing to the ground, and, also, by the presence of the *penile brush*.

The Hunting Law of Aragon generally prohibits capturing female Pyrenean chamois accompanied by kids of that season and specimens of less than two years old.

4.3.7. MOUFLON ([Ovis aries musimon](#))

The mouflon is a sheep-like animal with shorter wool and dark brown colour. Males are endowed with large segmented and backwards curved spiral horns, similar to those of domestic sheep, and his winter coat is dark brown with a white saddle-shaped patch. The female has no horns or if she has them with very short length.

The distinguishable sex and age classes are similar to those described in Iberian Ibex and Pyrenean Chamois. [Its size varies between 25 and 50 kg. \(55-110 lbs\)](#)

Its presence in Aragon is due to introductions with specimens from Corsica, where it originated. It is a species with rather diurnal habits which prefers typically Mediterranean scrubland habitats.

4.4. Types of big game hunting.

The most common types of hunting in Aragon for big game species are: battue, stalking or stand hunting.

4.4.1. BATTUE ('BATIDA')

The battue or drive hunt is a type of collective hunting in which some people, aided by dogs (*beaters*, *huntsmen* or '*rehaleros*' – 'kennel huntsmen' –) move forward flushing the game which is in a predetermined area or '*mancha*' ('spot'), towards the line of *hunting positions*, where the hunters are stationed awaiting the crossing of the game to shoot them.

Depending on the number of hunters involved and the degree of organisation of the hunt, this hunting type may be given other names like '*gancho*' (hook), '*resaque*' (beating) or '*montería*' (Driven Hunting of wild boars, deer and other big game animals, generally aided by hound dogs). In Aragon, there is no maximum number of participants set for battues. There are no restrictions as long as it does not hinder its proper performance and the safety of hunters is not undermined. This type of hunting is restricted to **wild boar** and **red deer**, although **roe deer** and **fox** can also be killed during wild boar battues.

Due to the conditions in which this type of hunting is conducted it is not without risks. For this reason the Hunting Law of Aragon and the General Hunting Plan put certain provisions in place for this type with regard to safety concerns, which are detailed in the section of safety standards in hunting activities. In game reserves and community-owned game preserves, their own legislation shall apply.

It is mandatory that the holders of preserves to keep a *logbook to keep record* of the battues that have taken place on their preserves. In this logbook, the person in charge of the battue should insert, immediately after the end of the battue, a record with the date, place or specific spot where the battue has been held, the time of it began and ended, and, also, the number of specimens of each species hunted.

In addition, the General Plan includes other matters of interest:

- Red deer and roe deer hunting in this type also depends on the maximum authorised quotas and on the marking of game animals with seals.
- This type must be organised and authorised in writing by the occupier of the preserve. The authorisation must be in the possession of the head of the crew and should reflect the areas to beat, the authorised persons, the meeting point and the date of the battue.
- Before a battue begins and on the same day of the battue, the occupier of the game preserve or the head of the crew must visibly signal its commencement on the main access roads,

waymarked paths and firebreaks in the area to be beaten. Signals placed must be of resistant material, rectangular, of minimum dimensions of 29 cm x 21 cm, and must contain the international warning sign, consisting of a red equilateral triangle, the number of the game preserve and the text: 'PELIGRO BATIDA DE CAZA MAYOR' (DANGER: BIG GAME HUNT), the date of the battue, and the start and end times. Signs should be removed once the battue is finished.

- As a security measure, beaters are authorised to carry weapons armed with non-metallic cartridges with 10, 11 or 12 calibre bullet or pellets. One firearm is permitted for every pack of dogs.
- Double ought ammunition is authorised for hunting foxes in battues or wild boar beatings.
- Only a maximum of two firearms is allowed per every battue hunting position.

4.4.2. STALKING ('RECECHO')

Stalking is a type of individual hunt where the hunter actively searches for game animals advancing through the most preferred areas by these animals and observing in the distance through binoculars. Once the game animal is located and identified, a stealthy approach begins until the hunter is in a range where a more accurate shot is possible and effective for the killing of the game.

The hunter can be accompanied by a gamekeeper who knows the habits of animals and their preferred locations and a trained hunting dog for tracking wounded game, the dog is usually on a leash.

Stalking deer during the bellowing (rut) season

In the case of the buck in the rutting season or '*berrea*' (bellowing) season, stalking must be done approaching the animal while it is bellowing, allowing detection by the hunter and even choosing the game specimen, if several males are found competing for a harem of females.

Bowhunting

This is a type of stalking characterised by the weapon used.

4.4.3. DRAG HUNTING ('CAZA AL RASTRO')

This hunting type is performed by a hunter or a small group who use leashed scenthounds (bloodhounds), which track the game trails, search for them, flush them out and hound the game animal for trying to shoot it in the spots of possible crossing. This is a very traditional type of hunting in northern Spain. In the province of Huesca it is used regularly for hunting wild boar in forested areas.

4.4.4. STAND HUNTING ('AGUARDO')

The stand hunting ('*aguardo*' / '*espera*') is another type of individual hunting where the hunter deliberately stations herself/himself to lurk in a preferred place for the game animals. The position or location where the hunter is hidden can be fabricated or specially prepared, in which case it is called 'position'.

This type is as selective as stalking, since it allows time to observe and identify the game animal, so it is applicable to all authorised big game species.

When the stand hunting is conducted to control agricultural damage, the night methods and the use of lighting devices that increase the safety of these activities may be permitted.

4.4.5. ROUGH SHOOTING ('AL SALTO')

In Aragon, hunting wild boar '*al salto*' (on the jump) is also permitted, similar to the method employed in small game hunting.

4.5. Big game hunting periods.

Regular hunting periods are set each year in the General Hunting Plan; the following are currently in force:

Types / species	Open season
Wild boar	From 3 rd Sunday of September to 4th Sunday of February.
Red deer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males and females: From 3rd Sunday in September to 4th Sunday in February. • Stalking of stags: From 15th of September to 4th Sunday of February. <p>Moreover, in certain municipalities (Annex No. 3 of the Plan), in stand hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males and females: From 1st of April to 1st Sunday of June.
Fallow deer and mouflon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males and females: From 3rd Sunday of September to 4th Sunday of February.
Iberian ibex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males and kids: 1st Sunday in October to 31st May • Females and kids: 1st Sunday of October to 1st Sunday in March
Pyrenean chamois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males: 3rd Sunday in April to 1st July • Males and females: 2nd Sunday in September to 3rd Sunday in February.

Types / species	Open season
Roe deer	<p><u>In wild boar battues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males and females: 3rd Sunday of September to 4th Sunday of February. <p><u>Stalking:</u></p> <p>In certain municipalities (Annex No. 5 of the Plan):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males and females: 1st March to 15th November, <p>Rest of Aragon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males: 1st April to 15th November, • Females: 15th of September to 4th Sunday of February

4.6. Use of game seals.

As established in the General Hunting Plan of Aragon, every capture of **red deer**, **Pyrenean chamois**, **deer roe** and **Iberian ibex** must be marked with a seal supplied by INAGA, along with the resolution authorising the corresponding quota to the hunting preserve for the season. The seals shall be numerically identified and shall be provided in a number equal to the authorised quota for each species for the preserve, distinguishing those for females or males by different colours.

The seal tag is divided into two which, whenever used, must be torn on the indicated line. The species and hunting date must be indicated on both parts. The torn part of the seal tag, called '*matriz*' (stub), must be returned to INAGA and pasted on the printed form provided for this purpose. The tie-loop with the rest of the tag must remain fixed to the hunted animal.

The seals must be marked and the stub must be torn before fixing it to the dead animal.

In the case of STALKING, the seal must be held by the hunter during the hunt, and must be affixed immediately after killing the animal and before leaving the hunting area. In the case of the BATTUE hunts, it should be affixed at the end of the hunt, and before leaving the meeting point thereof, which must necessarily be located within the hunting preserve boundaries where the battue has been held.

The seal tie has to be passed all the way through one of the ears of the killed animal or, in the case of roe deer, red deer and Pyrenean chamois, fastened to the antlers or horns, and securing both horns in the case of Pyrenean chamois.

Failure to return the unused seals or the used seals stubs, and if the returned stubs do not include markings indicating the date of the hunt, constitutes a serious administrative offence that is punishable with a fine of a minimum of € 300.01 and can result in being banned from hunting exploitation in the preserve in the next season.

The loss or theft of seals or their stubs must be reported to INAGA and must include the corresponding report of the incident to the law enforcement agents ('*Guardia Civil*'), in the absence of which, the consequences cited in the preceding paragraph will follow.

4.7. Small game species.

The General Hunting Plan defines the small game species, among which there are only 3 mammals: Rabbit, Hare and Fox, and the remaining 31 species are birds.

BIRDS

4.7.1. GAME WATERFOWL

They form a large group of 11 species of game birds whose annual catches exceed 20,000 pieces in Aragon. It is important that the hunter is able to distinguish these species which are often the most frequently spotted, although it must not be forgotten that in the Iberian Peninsula, more than 40 non-game species can be found between *anatidae* (ducks, common pochards, teals and geese) and *Rallidae* (rails, coots and moorhens).

The most common species is the **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*), a sedentary – *non-migratory species* – of about 1000 g. Its most visible feature in flight is a large iridescent blue speculum, intense orange legs and yellow bill. The male in breeding plumage has an eye-catching green head, while females have a striped plumage typical of waterfowl, making harder their identification if she is not accompanied by the male. All similar species with which can be mislead are game species in Aragon (*Gadwall*, *Shoveler*, *Northern Pintail*).

The **Common (Eurasian) coot** (*Fulica atra*) is also another very frequent sedentary species. Its size is somewhat lower, about 800 g, and it is characterized by its black colour except for its white peak and white frontal shield. It is very difficult to distinguish it from the Red-knobbed Coot, a non-game species, rare in Aragon, except in some isolated area, which is why the General Plan does not allow hunting it in the lagoons of Bezas and Rubiales (Teruel).

The rest of game waterfowl species are generally *wintering migratory*, although some of them can sometimes have sedentary settlements, remaining in our territory all year.

One of the most frequent species in Aragon is the **Eurasian or common teal** (*Anas crecca*). It is a small duck of about 300 g. The male in breeding plumage has a greyish body plumage with a green-masked brown head, but from afar only a dark-coloured head can be perceived. The female, as most *anatidae*, presents the typical barred plumage. They can be mistaken with other non-game teals

([Garganey](#), [blue-winged teal](#), [marbled teal](#)) but they are quite rare species in Aragon, at least in winter season.

The **Common pochard** (*Aythya ferina*) is also very common. It is a duck of [about 900 g](#); the male in breeding plumage has brown head, black breast and tail and white body. The female is brown and cream coloured. It is not very similar to other species, with the exception of females.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): is a duck [of about 800 g](#), not very common in Aragon, except in some areas of the province of Zaragoza. Its most characteristic feature is the tuft or bun on its head. The male in breeding plumage is black except for its white belly and flanks, while the female is dark brown with cream-coloured belly. It can be mistaken with other species of pochard, though, they are rare in Aragon.

Eurasian wigeon (*Anas penelope*): duck of [about 700 g](#), the male in breeding plumage is easily distinguished by its creamy crown and white wing panel. Females are more difficult to distinguish, since they present the typical barred plumage of females of genus *Anas*. Similar species with which can be mistaken [are the Gadwall and the Northern pintail](#), and those are also game species.

Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*): medium-sized duck [that reaches 800 g](#), identifiable, in flight, by its slender silhouette because of its long neck and tail. The male in breeding plumage has brown head and greyish body with black striped patterning, especially towards the tail. The female has the typical barred pattern. All species with which may be mistaken are game species ([Mallard](#), [Gadwall](#), [Eurasian wigeon](#)).

Northern shoveller (*Anas clypeata*): a small duck of [about 600 g](#), whose most characteristic trait is its large bill. The male in breeding plumage has green head and brown and white body, while the female has the typical barred pattern. It can only be mistaken with very rare species in Aragon.

Red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*) is a large duck, [exceeding 1,100 g](#), appearing mainly in the provinces of Teruel and Zaragoza, even with sedentary populations. It is characterized by its large head. The male in breeding plumage shows a reddish brown head and black and white body. The female has brown colours. It is not very similar to other species, with the exception of the females.

The following are also game species, although they are species with very rare presence in Aragón:

Greylag goose or common goose (*Anser anser*): very large, bulky species [of more than 3 kg](#). There are similar species that could lead to confusion [as the Greater white-fronted goose or pink-footed goose](#), although they are also very rare.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): medium sized species [which does not reach 800 g](#), very rare in Aragon, at least in winter. The male in breeding plumage is easily identified as it is the only duck in greyish colours with black *stern*. Females have the typical barred pattern of the waterfowl. Similar species with which it can be mistaken [are the Gadwall and the Northern pintail](#), and they are also game species.

4.7.2. GAME WADERS

Waders is a very diverse group of birds, which are generally associated with wetlands. Where 'wader' is used to refer to long-legged wading birds.

The game waders in Aragon are four: the Common Snipe, the Jack Snipe, the Lapwing and the Eurasian woodcock or Woodcock, species of great hunting relevance and their most typical habitats are forests.

The most likely confusion for the **Common snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*), bird with a long, straight beak, is with the Eurasian woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), although the former is a smaller bird of **about 100 g**, frequent in Aragon but in wetlands, rice paddies, irrigated crops, including meadows. **Annual catches in Aragon are around 1,000 quaries.**

The Common snipe might also be mistaken with the **Jack snipe** (*Lymnocyptes minimus*), although its size is smaller (**70 g**) and is less common in Aragon.

The **Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*) is a bird **exceeding 200 g**, frequent especially in open areas of pastures, meadows or irrigated crops with 1,500 yearly catches **in Aragon**. This is an unmistakable bird which has a crest on its head; in flight, their black and white colours stand out.

The **Woodcock** or **Eurasian woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola*) is a wintering migratory bird; **over 10,000 woodcocks are caught yearly in Aragón**. It is the largest among the game waders, **with an average weight of around 300 g**. It is a wintering migratory species inhabiting forest areas with some humidity, but there are sedentary populations in the Pyrenees. It is characterized by its long beak and *cryptic* camouflage plumage, barred and brown coloured – which helps her to remain hidden from predators – (with brownish-grey, ochre and blacks patches). With strictly crepuscular habits, during the day it remains hidden in the woods, either of *conifers* (pine trees), or *oaks* – genus *Quercus* – (holmoak, oaks and gall-oaks), and at dusk it goes out to feed to wetter areas.

4.7.3. QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*)

The **Quail** is a small summer migratory *pheasant*, **of about 100 g in weight**, of plump appearance with short tail, long wings and cryptic camouflage brown streaked plumage on the upper part; males, larger, show a black and white stripe at the bottom of the neck and females, a mottled chest, although the *sexual dimorphism* is poorly marked. It inhabits mainly on agricultural crops, meadows and pasturelands; it is mainly a ratite, it avoids vegetated areas of dense scrub. It can be mistaken for juveniles of Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*), which inhabits the Pyrenees. **The number of specimens hunted annually in Aragon, according to data from the statements of results, exceeds 250,000.**

4.7.4. EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

This is a small wintering migratory bird of about 80 g, although with sedentary populations mainly in the province of Huesca. In Aragon over 25,000 animals per season are captured. Its back is black with small purple spots on the back and white spots on the rest of the body. The Spotless starling (*Sturnus unicolor*) is very similar, although it does not have these spots, which must be taken into account, since the Spotless starling is not a game species. Both could be, less easily, mistaken for the Common blackbird, but its flight and behaviour are also unmistakable.

4.7.5. COMMON PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*)

It is the largest pheasant in Aragon, males reaching 1,400 g, though, it is an introduced species, their presence is rare, but it may occur around riparian areas and particularly in the vicinity of intensive management preserves. It has a reddish colouring with a long tail and proportionally short wings. The confusion is impossible in the case of male due to its metallic green head and neck with striking red wattles around the eyes – unfeathered fleshy fold of skin –, and only the female could be mistaken for a female Capercaillie or a Little bustard, although the former is much larger and the latter, smaller, and they do not share habitats in any of the cases.

4.7.6. BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Chroicocephalus = Larus ridibundus*)

It is the only game species in Aragon of the family of seagulls. It is a bird of around 300 g, with orange legs, red bill – blacker in the summer –, white body and light grey and chocolate-brown head in breeding plumage. They can only be mistaken with other seagulls which, in principle, are very rare in Aragon, since the only seagull which also regularly appears is the Yellow-legged Gull, although its size reaches 1,100 g, its legs are yellow, white body and dark grey back and wings.

4.7.7. PIGEONS (*Columba spp.*)

Pigeons, on the whole, exceed 125,000 captures per season in Aragon, being also a game animal of great importance. They are species from the *Columbidae* family with weights ranging from 300 to 500 g depending on the species, with its bluish-grey plumage and unmistakable flight relative to other non-game species. In this genus, the following game species are included:

Common wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) is the largest of pigeon species, closely connected to forest areas, but in recent decades has also colonized parks and gardens. It has abundant sedentary populations that increase with the arrival of other wintering migratory populations.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*) of smaller size and more slender, is the least common of the three, but also abundant. It also has sedentary and migratory wintering populations.

Rock dove (*Columba livia*) is the most abundant of the three, since it is the pigeon that lives in urban areas and it is even reared as domestic. It is only sedentary and the natural populations are connected to crag and cliff areas.



Common wood pigeon. (Author: Marco A. Escudero)

4.7.8. RED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*)

The **Red-legged partridge** is one of the most appreciated for hunting in Aragon. This pheasant of medium size reaches about 500 and share habitats with rabbit and hare. Easily recognizable from its stocky appearance, with a barely noticeable tail, short wings, reddish brown upper plumage and greyish chest with streaks of white, red and brown colours. Its short and energetic flight is highly distinguishable for its sound.

In mountain areas and above 1,000 metres of altitude, it can share habitat with the grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), which is a non-game species, smaller, with a plumper appearance and a dark patch on chest.

Currently, it has been reported that just fewer than 100,000 specimens of this species are hunted every year.



Red-legged partridge.. (Autor: Marco A. Escudero, Javier Marco)

4.7.9. EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

The **Turtle dove** is a species of the clade *Columbidae* common in Aragon, whose harvest amount to around 60,000 specimens per year according to the statements of results in recent years. It is a summer migratory small bird (140 g), only likely to be mistaken with the Collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) which is not a game species, but for which, controls for agricultural damage are allowed in certain places of Aragon. The main differences, in flight, are its larger size of the Collared dove (200 g) and the uniform cream colour, generally, contrasting with the brown striped pattern of the Turtle dove on its back.



Turtle dove. (Author: Marco A. Escudero)

4.7.10. MAGPIE AND CARRION CROW

Both species of *corvids* are sedentary and frequent in Aragon although they are normally hunted only as a control measure, given its opportunistic nature, to avoid damage from predation to other game species or damage to certain crops. [Magpie harvest in Aragon exceed 30,000 specimens per season](#), while those of Carrion crow are just testimonial.

The **Common magpie** or '**Picaraza**' - Spanish common name for magpie - (*Pica pica*), also known as '**garza**' (heron) in the territories of Upper Aragon, it is a corvid [of around 200 g](#) and unmistakable appearance due to its black and white iridescent plumage and long tail. It is very common in almost all the territory, even in strictly urban environments.

The **Carrion Crow** (*Corvus corone*) is a black coloured corvid [of about 500](#) with black plumage and beak. There are several non-game species with which might be mistaken as the Common raven (*Corvus corax*), although it is a very similar species, it is twice its size; the Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), whose peak is of cream colour, no feathers in its immediate area, and, in flight, the wings are rounded, being very rare in Aragon; different species of Choughs (*Pyrrhocorax sp.*) smaller, with yellow or red beak and its wings, in flight, are also rounded; [or](#) Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) whose size is nearly half of the carrion crow size and with grey nape.



Carrion crow. [\(Author: Marco A. Escudero\)](#)

4.7.11. THRUSHES (*Turdus spp.*)

The True thrushes, also known as '*torda*' or '*Malviz*' ('malvis'), are migratory birds with darker plumage on the back and lighter and mottled on the belly, small size, [of 60-120 g, depending on the species](#) found in virtually all the territory of Aragon. There are four common game species with a frequent presence in Aragon.

- **Mistle Thrush** (*Turdus viscivorus*) is the largest with 130 g. It is a wintering migrant, although sedentary populations are not rare. It is a very common species in Aragon. Belly and chest with a dark mottled pattern, and greyish-brown tail.
- **Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*), somewhat smaller than the Mistle Thrush (100 g), is exclusively a wintering migrant. Grey head, brown back, orange chest with a black striped pattern and white belly.
- **Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*) is the smallest (60 g) and is only frequent in winter. Flanks and ventral areas of wings are reddish chestnut coloured, showing a contrasting streak of cream colour at eye level, very distinctive.
- **Song Thrush or common thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*) is also of small size: (70 g). In this case, it is a summer migrant, inhabiting particularly mountain areas. Despite its name, it is the least frequent in Aragon. Its back is brown and its belly, white mottled, does not feature the clear streak at the eye.

Hunting thrushes is very traditional in Aragon and its harvest amount to about 200,000 specimens.

MAMMALS

4.7.12. RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

The **Rabbit** is a small herbivorous *lagomorph*, originating from the Iberian Peninsula, surrounding areas of North Africa and southern France, which are well known, popularly, with an average size of 1,000 g, greyish-brown coloured, long erect ears, very prominent, and very white cottony tail. It preferably inhabits scrubland and pastureland or crops, where it digs its burrows, preferably on loose soils, which can have a large area and many mouths. Its presence is scarce above 1,000 m of altitude.

Although, for decades, the populations of this species have been decimated by two diseases, myxomatosis and rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD), in large areas of the central Ebro valley, Monegros and Bajo Cinca, the recovery of the species it is causing major damage to agricultural crops. More than 300,000 specimens of this species hunted annually in Aragon, according to data from the statements of results, being the most hunted game species.

Rabbit can only be mistaken when its identification with the younger hares, since adult hares are larger, with longer ears and have a striking black streak on the tail, absent in the rabbit. In any case, hares are less frequent.

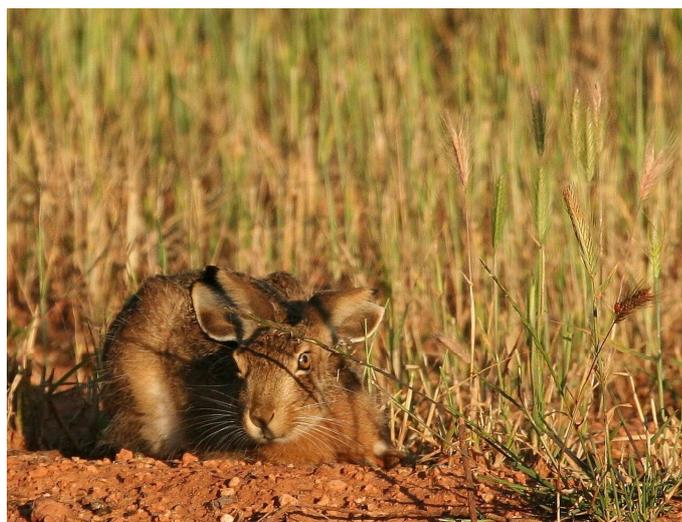


Rabbit. (Author: Marco A. Escudero)

4.7.13. HARES (*Lepus spp.*)

They are *lagomorphs* with a more slender body than the Rabbit, of light brown colour, and white belly, longer ears and high hind limbs development, much more suited to racing than those of the rabbit.

The **Iberian Hare** (*Lepus granatensis*) is present in almost all Aragon, being scarce in the pre-Pyrenean foothills and absent in the Pyrenees, spaces where the **European or common hare** or (*Lepus europaeus*) can be found. The Iberian hare is smaller than the European, with an average weight of 2 kg (4.4 lbs) and its preferred habitat is the cereal-growing plains. The European hare, with a more uniform and dark colour, reaches 4 kg (8.8 lbs) of weight and prefers more forested habitats. Hares harvest in Aragon amounts to around 40,000 quarries declared per season.



Hare on her form. (Autor: Marco A. Escudero)

4.7.14. FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The **Iberian fox (*Vulpes vulpes silacea*)**, is a subspecies of the Common fox or Red fox, a small *canid*, with an average weight of 8 kg (17.6 lbs), of narrow snout and long ears, has a coat of grey-beige and tawny colour, short in summer, acquires greater length during the winter period, although in the Iberian fox, without the typical reddish or yellowish tones, inherent of the standard species. Its long, thick greyish tail is distinctive.

It is a carnivorous, anthropophilic and very opportunistic species that colonize all habitats found in Aragon. Its diet includes offspring and chicks and also eggs of various game and non-game species but also mammals, invertebrates, berries and other fruits, carrion, and organic waste. Where it is abundant, the rabbit is their main prey due to its profitability in terms of effort and performance.

In Aragon, over 15,000 captures are reported annually, and they are hunted through multiple types throughout most of the year.



Fox cub. (Autor: Marco A. Escudero)

4.8. **Types of small game hunting.**

Basically there are two small game hunting types: the hunter walks around the ground in search and pursuit of game or chooses to remain stationed, still, and waiting for the game to get closer and enter the shooting range or come out of hiding. The following would fall in the first category of hunting types: rough shooting, in squads, coursing with greyhounds and falconry; the following would fall in the second category: passing migrant pigeon hunting ('*caza de paloma en paso*'), waterfowl, thrush in permanent positions, partridge with decoys and rabbiting with ferrets. In the beating ('*ojeo*') type, the one who

moves is the beater, but the hunter remains, still, waiting. It resembles the "battue" of small game, so it could be considered a mixed type.

4.8.1. ROUGH SHOOTING. ('CAZA AL SALTO')

Rough shooting (opportunistic hunting) is a type of individual hunting where the hunter moves through the preferred areas for wild game, trying to capture animals that come her/his way. The hunter is usually accompanied by one or more dogs to help her/him locate the game animal, flush it out and bag it later. During the half-close season, the rough shooting of small game species is prohibited outside agricultural areas, meadows and mountain pastures. In these areas, only stand hunting may be practised.

4.8.2. BEATING IN SQUADS ('CAZA EN MANO')

Several hunters in a line, at variable distances between them, move stealthily on the ground with their dogs, shooting game that the dogs flush and adopt different strategies throughout the hunting day.

This type is often used for hunting Red-legged partridge, Rabbit, Hare, Woodcock and Quail, but any other authorised small game species may also be killed.

4.8.3. BEATING IN WALKING LINES. ('OJEO')

Partridges are shoosed away by beaters to drive them through a line of hunters stationed with their firearms. Each hunter is accompanied by an assistant who locates and retrieves the hunted game and, sometimes, an additional person who is responsible for loading the weapons the hunter uses, although this method is not commonly used in Aragon.

4.8.4. HARE COURSING WITH GREYHOUNDS.

This is done on flat and sparsely vegetated land. No weapons are used; however, the greyhound is used for hunting. Hunter intervention, in this case, is primarily focused on the training of the animal. The other type of hunting where a dog is used to capture quarries is **rabbit hunting with 'podenco' (sighthound)**.

4.8.5. FALCONRY.

Falconry is a type of hunting practiced using trained birds of prey trained for this purpose and includes the training operations. The conditions for the practice of falconry in Aragon, and training and flight of birds used for this purpose are detailed in a specific section.

4.8.6. RABBIT HUNTING WITH FERRETS.

This type of hunting has experienced a substantial boom due to the problems caused by the overabundance of rabbits in some areas of the central part of Aragon. It consists of using the ferret to drive the rabbits out from their burrows in order to hunt them down with firearms, '**caza a cado abierto**' (clearing the holes of burrows, locating the quarry and shooting them immobile) or '**a toro suelto**' (scare the animal out and shoot the bolting rabbit on the run) or using a **net or purse net**.

In addition to the hunting licence, keeping ferrets to exercise rabbit hunting requires a special authorisation granted by the INAGA.

This method can be practiced in all preserves which include it in their Technical Plan, as well as in non-hunting preserves and grounds in order to control agricultural damage either with exceptional express authorisation or through the fulfilment of certain conditions and requirements set out in the General Hunting Plan.

4.8.7. HUNTING FROM FIXED POSITIONS.

The hunter, hidden, stalks the game animals stationed in specific locations and times preferred by the animals, waiting for them to approach in order to shoot them. This method is mainly used for hunting Waterfowl, Pigeons, Turtle dove and Thrushes, however, it can be applied to any game species authorised in the General Hunting Plan, except for Woodcock, for which is expressly forbidden.

The hunter can lure the game animals using authorised decoys and with the aid of dogs, to retrieve them. Often, positions are prepared in advance for hunts that are usually performed in the same place, to improve the hunter's comfort and in order to hide from the game animal's view.

Passing migrant pigeon (*'Paloma en paso'*). This is practiced in the migration season and positions are placed in the bird's transit areas, generally, these are traditional stands in high mountain areas that may have a stone wall and protective screens.

Thrush hunting from fixed-positions stands. The fixed-position stands are located in the transit zones from the roosts up to the usual feeding stations.

Ducks with wildfowl decoys. The wildfowl decoys consist of artificial ducks which are placed floating in the water, around a stand which may be a barrel inserted into the water.

Pigeon with wildfowl decoys. Wildfowl decoys may also be authorised for hunting pigeons.

4.8.8. PARTRIDGE WITH MALE DECOY.

This is the only type of hunting not intended to control agricultural damage that may be permitted in the mating season. Its use is based on the need to reduce the number of old males of the species with low reproductive capacity with many years of mating behind them since this skill result in them ousting other males which, in principle, might have greater value for breeding.

A reduced exploitation of specimens (3, 4 or 5) per day is permitted for a short period of time which varies according to environmental conditions. These conditions determine the onset and duration of oestrus in this species. In Aragon this period runs usually from late January to mid-March and seldom in early April.

The hunter prepares the stand a few days in advance in order to be out of place regarding the surroundings and allow her/him to ensure that he/she is completely hidden. It is advisable not to place the position within less than 500 m from the boundary with other preserves. The cage with the male partridge, used as decoy, is to be placed about 20 m from the stand on a high place, rock, mound or any other natural element. The decoy lures the other male competitors with her singing in order to get them into shooting range of the hunter.

The use of blind or mutilated decoy specimens as decoy is not permitted.

4.8.9. SPECIAL TYPES OF FOX HUNTING.

Due to its predatory nature as compared to other species and its opportunistic character, this species is hunted most of the year by various hunting methods. In addition to the types used for other small game species, in Aragon fox-hunting is systematically permitted in wild boar battues, besides using burrow dogs – as is done with ferrets and rabbit hunting. The use of free-running snares (without safety stops) is permitted in certain specific areas within the preserve and under the supervision of the person responsible for its installation – and, during the close season for other species, hunter's drive hunts without dogs or stand hunting in preferred places for this species is also permitted.

4.9. Small game hunting periods.

The hunting seasons stipulated in the General Hunting Plan of Aragon. There are two key periods for hunting small game for which hunting is permitted in most of the preserves in Aragon: the *ordinary*, which runs from October to January, during which they can hunt all game species, and *half-close season*, which is shorter than the ordinary and before the ordinary period, where one can only hunt certain species for a maximum of 17 days between August and September.

To these periods we should add those caused by seasonal movements of the species themselves, such as pigeon hunting in migratory transit, thrush, woodcock and waterfowl hunting periods; and the other special periods, motivated by the impact which populations of certain species may have on wild species, for example foxes – or on the crops – or rabbits, in which case the extension of the period is associated with a particular geographic area and with certain conditions of implementation of the hunting practice.

The following table lists the hunting periods by species and types of hunting.

Types / species	Open season
Small game hunting	2nd Sunday of October to the 3 rd Sunday of January.
Rabbit	Also, in the municipalities of Annex No. 2 of the General Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in half-close season: 2nd Sunday of August to 3^{er}d Sunday of September • ordinary period: until 1st of April
Thrush and starling	2nd Sunday in October to the 1 st Sunday in February.
Woodcock and waterfowl	From 2nd Sunday in October to the 3 rd Sunday in February. The Mallard, besides, in half-close season on municipalities from Annex No. 4 of the General Plan.
Half-close season	From 2nd Sunday in August to 3 rd Sunday in September
Passing migrant pigeon	1 st Sunday in September to 3 rd Sunday in November
Fox	In general: 3 rd Sunday in September to 1 st Sunday in February. Battue without dog and stand hunting: 3 rd Sunday in January to 30th of June 30 During wild boar battues: 3 rd Sunday in September to 4th Sunday in February. Half-close season: 2nd Sunday in August to 3 ^{er} d Sunday in September Free-running snares (without safety stops): between April 15 and July 31 With burrow dogs and firearms: all year round

5. PROHIBITED HUNTING MEANS AND METHODS

As indicated on section 1.5 there are some hunting limitations which are determined by European level rules as well as international conventions such as the Birds Directive or the Regulation banning the use of leghold traps in the European Union; state level regulations, such as the Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity or the Arms Regulation; or at autonomous community level, as in the case of Hunting Law of Aragon and other regulations and specific management tools for certain species or protected natural areas, namely, Natural Resources Management Plans, Use and Management Plans, and Threatened Species Recovery Plans.

5.1. Prohibited means and methods.

- a) Possession, use and trade of massive or non-selective procedures for the capture or killing of animals.
- b) Locally causing the disappearance of the populations of a species, or seriously disturbing this species.
- c) Use and possession of all kinds of poisonous, paralyzing, tranquilizing and explosive gases or substances.
- d) Use and possession of chemical attractants, except for water, mineral salts and food, whose input is considered to be beneficial for the conditions of the hunting ground.
- e) Shooting game species within less than fifty meters from artificial feeding or drinking stations, excluding agricultural damage control actions.
- f) The use and possession of, living or naturalised, decoys of listed species, and other blind or mutilated live decoys, as well as all types of electrical decoys, including recordings.
- g) The use and possession of electrocuting devices capable of killing or stunning.
- h) The use of mirrors, headlamps, torches and other artificial light sources, except in the case of night still hunts for preventing damages to agriculture.
- i) The use of snares without safety stops, all kinds of traps, hooks, pits, creels and non-selective traps, in principle or in their conditions of utilisation.
- j) The use and possession of all kinds of nets or devices requiring the use of netting. However, the Hunting Law of Aragon provides an exception for the net or "purse net" used in rabbit hunting with ferret in burrows and, by means of exceptional authorisation, for the use of vertical nets under the direct supervision of hunters for rabbit control in safety zones for agricultural damage.

- k) All kinds of means or methods involving the use of lime, birdlime, glues or similar products.
- l) Shooting animals from aircrafts, motorised land vehicles and watercrafts.
- m) Hunting areas delimited by enclosures or fences that prevent free movement of game species, except when they aim to protect crops, the exploitation of forest products or other compatible uses for certain types of hunting, in which case, an explicit authorisation will be necessary.

5.2. Prohibited weapons, ammunition and devices.

- a) Guns powered by compressed air and other gases.
- b) Automatic firearms and semi-automatic firearms with a magazine capable of holding more than two cartridges.
- c) Tranquilizer (paralyzing or anaesthetic injection) guns.
- d) Short firearms.
- e) Those whose use is prohibited under current legislation: crossbows, prohibited by the Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity; long firearms with rifled bore barrels, calibre 5.6 mm (22 US), with rimfire percussion, whether it be single-shot, either repeating or semiautomatic; they are restricted to target shooting by the Arms Regulation ([Royal Decree 137/1993](#)),
- f) The possession and use of shotgun slug ammunition cartridges, i.e., projectiles housed in cartridges of a mass equal to or greater than 2.5 grams.
- g) The possession and use of ammunition containing lead for hunting and target shooting, when these activities are conducted on wetlands included in the List of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), in wetland areas of the Natura 2000 network and in the wetlands included in protected natural areas.
- h) Other ammunition to be listed by order of the Regional Minister responsible for hunting matters.
- i) Silencers.
- j) Illuminating targets devices, except in the case of nocturnal stands hunting in order to prevent damage to agriculture.
- k) Sighting devices comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter for night shooting.

5.3. Prohibitions for the benefit of hunting.

- a) The introduction of different species or subspecies other than native game species and which may compete with the native species or alter their genetic purity or disrupt the ecological balance.
- b) Hunting birds during the mating, breeding and rearing seasons, as well as, in the case of migratory birds, during their journey to the rearing grounds is prohibited.
- c) Hunting in close season or out of the hunting days specified in the plans.
- d) Possession of dead game species specimens during the close season, unless its legitimate origin is justified.
- e) Hunting outside the period from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except for certain types of expressly authorised night hunting.
- f) Hunting on *lucky days*, i.e., in those days when, as a result of fire, flood, drought, wildlife disease and other causes, animals are deprived of their normal faculties of defence or forced to gather in certain places.
- g) Hunting in snow-covered areas where snow continuously covers the ground and the defence capacity of the game animals is reduced, except for the exceptions made in the General Hunting Plan.
- h) Hunting when, due to the fog, rain, snow, smoke or other causes, visibility is diminished in such a manner that the defence capacity of the game animals may be reduced or it may be dangerous for people or goods.
- i) Hunting when shooters visibility is less than two hundred and fifty metres.
- j) Hunting making use of animals or any kind of vehicle as a means of concealment.
- k) '*Chantear*', luring or shooing the game away from other people's areas.
- l) Destroying, harassing, disturbing or altering the warrens, burrows or nests of game species, except in expressly authorised hunting types or methods.
- m) Hunting in '*línea de retranca*' during big game battues
- n) Except for amply justified reasons in the hunting plans, hunting wild boar females followed by '*rayones*' or squeakers (up to six months of age) and of Pyrenean chamois females accompanied by kids of that season and specimens of less than two years of age.

For these limitations, the following definitions are set out below:

- 'Chantear' action: methods used to startle or alarm the existing game in an area with the intention to cause them to flee or alter their natural inclinations; excluding the input of supplementary feeding and the drinking facilities, since both are considered improvements for the benefit of game, even though these might lure game from neighbouring areas.
- 'retranca' lines or positions: those located within less than a thousand metres away from the nearest weapons line. Lines from two adjacent battues which direct themselves to opposite directions shall not be deemed 'retranca' lines

5.4. Restrictions derived from the management instruments.

Other restrictions to hunting may derive from management tools for protected natural areas or from recovery plans for threatened species.

Bonelli's eagle recovery plan in Aragon, [326/2011 Decree of the Government of Aragon.](#)

- In the critical areas for Bonelli's Eagle protection, from February 1 and June 30, performing ordinary uses of big game hunting, involving more than one hunter, is not allowed. Dog training activities are also not permitted.

Bearded vulture recovery plan, [45/2003 Decree of the Government of Aragon.](#)

- Preserves which include Bearded vulture's critical areas must observe special caution in locating and performing wild boar battues and in the location of dog training grounds.
- From 1st December to 15th May, temporary non-hunting game preserves can be established, to whose regulation, the concerned hunting preserves' technical plans must be adapted.

Natural Resources Management Plan of the Riparian groves and Oxbow Lakes of the Ebro River, [89/2007 Decree of the Government of Aragon](#)

- Zone 1. Hunting outside the legally constituted preserves and hunting during half-close season are both prohibited. Likewise, repopulations with all kinds of game species and intensive game exploitations or in game farms are also prohibited.

Master Plan for Use and Management of Natural Park of Moncayo, 177/2014 Decree of the Government of Aragón.

- In the Natural Park of Moncayo, game restocking and the introduction of individuals of any other species are prohibited.
- Hunting in the Natural Park is restricted to the following hunting types and periods:
 - Wood pigeon in autumn transit from fixed positions during the season stipulated in the General Hunting Plan, except in the spot of the Hoyo.
 - Wild boar battues during the season established in the General Hunting Plan.
 - Roe deer battues on the same dates as the wild boar's.
 - Roe deer stalking only in April, May and June and exclusively for males.
- Hunting is prohibited in Areas of Restricted Hunting exploitation defined in the Natural Resources Management Plan.

6. SPECIAL AND EXTRAORDINARY AUTHORISATIONS.

The legislation allows the granting of different types of extraordinary authorisations on certain cases and fulfilling certain requirements, both for scientific purposes and for controlling damage to people, property or ecosystems. Other activities are subject to special authorisation to ensure that during their execution, nature is adequately protected and the public interest is safeguarded.

6.1. Control of species for damage to crops or to other property.

Two systems are available for population control of certain species in order to prevent or alleviate damage to crops or to other property, depending on the species and types of grounds where the activity takes place. On the one hand, the express authorisation on an exceptional basis, which the grantee should receive once the relevant file motivated by her/his application, is processed, and, on the other hand, the written notification to INAGA that should fulfil a number of requirements, without which such notice is invalid.

A) Notifications of control actions for game species in municipal, social, private and intensive small game hunting preserves.

In order to prevent agricultural or other kind of damage, the occupiers or managers of hunting preserves and the local councils within the scope of the municipal district can organise control actions for certain species, as provided for in the General Hunting Plan, upon prior written notice to INAGA and to the corresponding headquarters of the Guardia Civil (Civil Guard, law enforcement unit).

Species for which control notifications can be performed are feral dogs, feral cats, feral domestic goats, domestic pigeon and spotless starlings in any season; and European starling, magpie, jackdaw, carrion crow and wild boar in their respective close seasons.

Firearms and bows can be used. For wild boar, stand hunting may be conducted during the close season, whereas in battues, controls are only possible, within this season, from 1st July.

[Likewise, after notifying the INAGA, local councils can organise activities for capturing domestic pigeons and spotless starlings with cage traps within their urban centres.](#)

To ensure that the person concerned can perform the control actions, the notification must contain the following information, without which it is ineffective, i.e., the lack or absence of any of them implies that communication is invalid and therefore there is no authority available to perform the control activities.

- Species subject to control.
- Specific dates and places of intervention.

- Type.
- Authorised persons.
- Approval by the Nature Protection Officer ('Agente de Protección de la Naturaleza' or APN) of the concerned territory, noting the damage or deeming them as foreseeable.
- Approval by the holders/owners of the preserves concerned in case of a notification done by the Town Council.

Once these have been done, within fifteen days, the harvest results must be submitted to INAGA. Compliance with this requirement is a prerequisite for granting future authorisations.

As this is a notification, the INAGA does not issue any resolution whatsoever. The concerned party is empowered to perform the proposed actions from the time the written record is registered in the corresponding administrative register and the relevant notification to the Guardia Civil is made.

B) Notifications of control actions for rabbit in non-hunting grounds.

Please note the following exception with regard to rabbit population controls carried out in non-hunting grounds of certain municipalities in the middle third of Aragon, which are set in the corresponding Annex of the season's General Hunting Plan.

The notification can be submitted, at any time of the year, by the owners of areas located in the municipal districts established in the General Hunting Plan, or the persons authorised by them.

- Means:**
- Firearms
 - Bow
 - Cage traps and 'cercones' (corral traps)
 - Nets with direct supervision and beating ('ojeo')
 - Falconry.
 - Ferrets and auxiliary means

The use of dogs is not allowed.

- Periods**
- Firearms: the second Sunday in October to 1st of April.
 - Other methods: any time of the year.

The notification should contain the following information.

- A photocopy of the applicant's ID card or passport and that of the official who will perform the control.
- Intervention dates.
- Specific places, indicating the land registry parcels.
- Type of hunting to be conducted.
- Identification of authorised persons, with ID card or passport.
- Approval by the Nature Protection Warden ('Agente de Protección de la Naturaleza' or APN) of the concerned area, noting the damage or deeming those as foreseeable.

The lack or absence of any of these implies that the notification is invalid and therefore the authorisation to perform the activity control will not be available.

Once completed, within fifteen days, the harvest results must be submitted to INAGA. Compliance with this requirement is a prerequisite for granting future authorisations.

As this is a notification, the INAGA does not issue any resolution whatsoever. The concerned party is empowered to perform the proposed actions from the moment the written record is registered in the corresponding administrative register and the relevant notification to the Guardia Civil is made.

C) Authorisations for species control in hunting preserves

For instances in which the notification is not stipulated as a possibility for performing the control of species for damages, an INAGA express authorisation is required, without prejudice to the capabilities of the Department of Agriculture and Environment.

The holders/owners or managers of hunting preserves and the town councils in the scope of the municipal district, may, at any time of year, request authorisation to perform control actions of game species and feral dogs, feral cats, feral domestic goat, domestic pigeon, spotless starling.

- Means:**
- Cage traps *
 - Ferrets and nets *
 - Cushioned snares*
 - Firearms, bow **

(*) *The use of some of these methods is limited to certain species; one should consult the provisions of the General Hunting Plan.*

(**) *For big game species, except for wild boar, only in the categories of stalking and stand hunting with firearms.*

- Periods**
- Feral animals and anthropophilic animals: .any time of year.
 - Game species:.....species closure period
 - Wild boar: stand hunting:.....close period for wild boar.
 battues..... from 1st July up to the end of the close season

The application should contain the following information.

- Species subject to control.
- Specific dates and places of intervention.
- Placement plan of the cage traps and/or cushioned snares, if applicable.
- Type.
- Authorised persons.
- Approval by the Nature Conservation Warden ('*Agente de Protección de la Naturaleza*' or APN) of the concerned area, noting the damage or deeming them as foreseeable.
- Approval by the holders/owners of the concerned preserves by means of notification done by the Town Council.

The lack or absence of any of these shall result in INAGA making consequential requests of rectification, which may delay the resolution of the case.

Once this is completed, within fifteen days, the harvest results must be submitted to INAGA. Compliance with this requirement is a prerequisite for granting future authorisations.

The deadline for the INAGA to issue a resolution is a month from the entry in the register of the Institute. The administrative silence has estimating effects.

6.2. Keeping of ferrets.

Keeping ferrets to exercise rabbit hunting requires special authorisation from INAGA, which does not relieve the hunter of the obligation to obtain the required hunting licence enabling her/him to hunt in Aragon.

In order to control rabbit damage on agricultural crops, this type of hunting can be practiced in all preserves whose technical plans provide for it, as well as in those preserves and non-hunting grounds the INAGA exceptionally authorises its practice or, in certain instances, when so deemed, and are subject to a system of prior notification.

6.3. Dogs.

Hunting dogs can only be used for hunting in places and times, provided the people using them have the faculties to do so and in a way that conforms to the rules governing this matter as set out in the hunting preserves and dog training areas, if any, being their owners liable for the compliance with the rules governing their use and the damage they may cause.

6.4. Keeping of falconry birds and their training and use in the hunting activity.

The keeping and use of specimens of birds of prey for the practice of falconry requires the possession of the permit issued by the INAGA, for which a copy of the CITES permit is a prerequisite, in the case of specimens which require this permit, or, otherwise, the accreditation of the legal origin and provenance of birds issued by the competent body concerned.

The possession permit is personal and non-transferable. It is drawn up in the name of a single owner and is valid for two years. Its owners may transfer the specimens permanently or temporarily, in which case the period of transfer must be less than six months and such transfer shall be communicated to INAGA prior to this implementation.

The bird should be registered in the *Birds of Prey Register of Aragon*, which contains personal data of whoever holds the ownership of the specimen, the purposes for which the possession permit was granted, the characteristics of the specimen, their identification data and the location where it is kept. Likewise, it must incorporate the changes in location, temporal transfers, loss and death of the animal.

All birds of prey for which a possession permit has been granted in Aragon must be identified by an irremovable ring recognised as such by the competent department, which serves to identify the animal, without prejudice to the use of any other additional marking procedure that the competent authority deems necessary.

The practice of falconry can be carried out on hunting grounds under the following conditions:

In the hunting period:

- Rough shooting must be contained in the Technical Plan and in the Annual Plan for hunting exploitation,
- It can only be practiced in the preserve areas, if any, which have been determined to this use.

In the close season:

- Only training flights in dog training areas, and in other areas defined in the Technical Plans and Annual Plans for hunting exploitation,
- Always with artificial decoy, domestic pigeon or escaping specimens of farmed game species.

The training flights can only be performed using domestic pigeons as decoys, 'escaping' ('de escape') released specimens from game farms, and artificial decoys, on any day of the year in the following areas:

- Non-hunting areas, "non-voluntary" in nature,
- Voluntary hunting areas provided that the express authorisation of the hunting rights' owner is obtained.
- Safety zones not included in the hunting grounds with the exception of toll motorways, dual carriageways, main roads and railways in use. In the case of urban centres, the flights must be conducted in accordance with the municipal regulations.

In areas covered by Protected Natural Areas, Natura 2000 network and areas within the scope of Management Plans for Natural Resources (*Planes de Ordenación de Recursos Naturales: PORN*) **only if their planning instruments expressly authorise it.**

6.5. Keeping of live specimens of game species.

Without prejudice to the provisions of other sectoral laws that may apply to the keeping of animals, authorisation granted by the INAGA is required for possession of:

- any specimen of big game species,
- more than 10 live specimens of small game species.

Once these specimens are kept, they will no longer be wild game animals and become domesticated wild animals. Just like any other domestic animal, the keeper is liable for it, as well as for the damages caused by this animal. Generally, the regulations on animal protection, pet animals registering and keeping of potentially dangerous animals will apply.

6.6. Possession of hunting trophies.

Trophies of big game species: hunted specimens of red deer, Pyrenean chamois, roe deer and Iberian ibex must be identified with their respective seal supplied along with the authorisation.

Trophies of animals found dead in the field; horns/antlers attached to the skull of the red deer, Pyrenean chamois, roe deer, Iberian ibex, fallow deer and mouflon, and tusks of male wild boar. Those trophies cannot be collected or removed from where they were found. Their discovery must be reported to the appropriate Provincial Service responsible for hunting matters or to an authority of the law, who will take charge of the trophy. The Provincial Service is the authority that determines the final destination of these trophies.

6.7. Scientific bird ringing.

Every hunter is obliged to hand over the rings and markers of birds killed by her/him to the relevant Provincial Service of the department responsible for hunting matters.

6.8. Movement and release of game species.

Any shipment of live game species through the territory of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, to or from a place therein, either to be released into the wild, or to be integrated into game farms, or for to be slaughtered in approved abattoirs, must be covered by the official health document for animal movement as provided in current regulations, issued by the official veterinary services of its place of origin.

The escaping release preys (*'presas de escape'*) for falconry birds are exempt from this obligation up to a maximum of fifteen specimens per shipment.

Big game specimens shall be identified by a permanent means, such as, among others, the approved eartags or microchips for similarly sized domestic animals. Small game specimens do not need this identification.

The transportation of live game species for their release anywhere in Aragon must be notified through documents by the emissary, at least three working days in advance, to the official veterinary services of destination belonging to the agri-environment county ('*comarca*') office which is the competent authority for the territory. The above documents must be accompanied by supporting and sufficient documentation with reference to the genetic line of origin, as well as information about the place of origin, approximate date and time of arrival and the specific destination.

If an order of the Regional Minister responsible for hunting concerns so provides, the above mentioned health animal movement document may not be necessary, exclusively in the case of translocations of live wild rabbits caught in any area, hunting or non-hunting, for its release in any Aragonese land in which written permission from the owner has been obtained. However, translocations must be, in all cases, covered by a movement document to be sent back to the agri-environment county ('*comarca*') office of destination not later than forty-eight hours after the release of the rabbits.

Furthermore, repopulation and release of game animals in the wild always requires authorisation by INAGA, although releases are exempt from such an authorisation in the following instances:

- Those carried out in intensive small game preserves during the normal development of their authorised commercial activity.
- Those carried out in training dogs areas approved for this purpose.
- The release of animals from duly authorised game farms to the hunting grounds on which those are located.
- Those coming from the auxiliary facilities for recovery and development of authorised game species.

The application must be made by the hunting preserves' occupiers or managers, and by falconers or other natural or legal persons showing proof of the grounds for the application.

In the case where the release is requested for the training of falconry birds on non-hunting grounds, the authorisation processing implies the payment of a fee.

6.9. Commercialisation of game species.

The trading of species is regulated by the [1118/1989](#) Royal Decree, whose main provisions have the status of basic legislation. Only live specimens and eggs, if any, of certain species that come from game farms, industrial dovecotes and hunting preserves expressly authorised for the breeding and sale of living game specimens will be subject to commercialisation.

Both the import and export of live specimens of these species require authorisation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment with an animal health certificate. Domestic trade only requires a transport permit issued by the Autonomous Community of origin, the issuance of which must be notified to the Autonomous Community of destination before it is dispatched. The packing cases, crates, or similar packings to be employed must be accompanied by the same permit and must carry visible identification labels of the original farm.

Commercialisation of dead specimens of these species can be carried out at any time of year provided that specimens are marked or sealed with a reference indicating the farm and date of origin. The export of these specimens, or the trophies thereof, also requires authorisation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in order to prove that those were legally obtained. For unmarketable species, the authorisation covers only the export of trophies, maximum two for big game species and twenty for small game species.

Marketable game species <i>R.D. (Royal Decree) 1118/1989</i>	
Mammals	Birds
Hare (<i>Lepus spp.</i>)	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)
Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	Red-legged partridge (<i>Alectoris rufa</i>)
Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)	Barbary partridge (<i>Alectoris barbara</i>)
Wild boar (<i>Sus scropha</i>)	Common pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)
Red deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	Wood pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)
Roe deer (<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>)	Stock dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>)
Chamois (<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>)	Quail (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>)
Fallow deer (<i>Dama dama</i>)	
Iberian ibex (<i>Capra pirenaica</i>)	
Mouflon (<i>Ovis aries musimon</i>)	
Barbary sheep (<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>)	

7. HUNTING SAFETY MEASURES.

7.1. Safety zones.

Safety zones are those where special precautionary measures aimed to ensure adequate protection of people and property must be taken. The 1/2015 Hunting Law of Aragon defined safety zones and certain limits, which may be higher if so explicitly stated. The following are safety zones:

- Toll motorways, dual carriageways and main roads, plus a stretch of 25 metres on both sides measured from the land elevation or the slope.
- Authorised outdoor sports event tracks.
- Paved roads and trails deemed public property, plus 10 metres on each side measured from the central axis.
- Railways in use.
- Urban and rural centres.
- Areas expressly declared by administrative ruling.
- A strip of 200 metres around urban and rural centres.
- A strip of 100 meters around isolated inhabited buildings or livestock facilities in use.

In these safety zones, hunting is generally prohibited, as well as shooting in the direction of these zones when the hunter is at a distance less than the range of the weapon or when it is possible to reach it because of the layout of the middle ground.

When crossing these zones, the hunter must carry the weapon chamber empty and open; all arrows in the quiver, if carrying a bow; or the knife sheathed, should he/she carry one.

Nevertheless, it is permitted to place hunting stands in forest trails or unpaved roads suitable for vehicle traffic, for which the following conditions must be met:

- The battue must be properly signalled.
- Shooting is only allowed if done towards outside the trail or road.
- The hunter must empty and leave open the chamber of the firearm when he/she detects the transit of vehicles, people or cattle at a distance less than the range of the weapon used.

7.2. Safety during hunts.

In general, there are a number of obligations for hunters involved in battues.

- The gun chamber must be emptied and left open when the hunter is at less than 50 m from other people.
- Shooting with bullets above the grade level of the land is forbidden. On the contrary, guns should be fired in such a manner that any stray bullets impact on the visible ground from the position of the hunter.
- For turtle dove, pigeon and waterfowl shootings, the positions should be placed at a distance of at least 30 meters from each other, and place shields of at least 20 dm² when they are at a distance of less than 50 m from each other. The distance may be shorter if the layout of the ground surface makes it impossible to fire at the surrounding positions.
- For night waiting, the use of devices that allow illuminating the quarries subject of control is permitted.

If the hunt is organised as a battue, the following rules apply:

Prohibitions:

- Having the firearm loaded before the hunter gets to the shooting position or after leaving it.
- Shooting the firearms before the start of the hunt. Once the hunt is over, the weapons must be unloaded.
- More than two firearms per battue position.
- The change or abandonment of positions during the hunt. Where necessary, you can only do this if you have previously informed the organiser or their duly authorised representatives.

Obligations:

- Wearing orange, yellow or bright red waistcoats, or armbands on either arms, or headgear that incorporates at least one band of four centimetres wide in these colours.
- Locate the positions so that they are protected from the firing of the other hunters. If not possible, the positions line should be located closed to the plot being beaten and with the hunters' back facing this plot.
- Before you start hunting, the person in charge of the battue must inform hunters about their permitted firing range; shooting will not be allowed outside it, neither towards the rest of the positions in sight.

- Closely located hunters should agree on how to mark their position.
- Posting signs warning about the battue at the main access points, and waymarked paths and firebreaks in the area to be hunted. The signposts must be of a minimum size of 29 cm x 21 cm with the following information:
 - international warning sign consisting of a red equilateral triangle,
 - the registration number of the hunting preserve,
 - the text: 'PELIGRO BATIDA DE CAZA MAYOR' (DANGER: BIG GAME HUNT)
 - the date of the battue/hunt,
 - the start and end times.
- Beaters are authorised to carry weapons armed with non-metallic cartridges with 10, 11 or 12 calibre bullet or pellets, and one firearm is permitted for every pack of dogs.



*Model of sign for battue published in
the General Hunting Plan of Aragon.*

8. OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS.

Any action or omission that violates the provisions of the Law or implementing regulation classified therein, without prejudice to any civil or criminal liabilities that may arise thereof shall result in administrative sanctions. Depending on the acts, if they involved the infringement of the Hunting Law of Aragon or of other regional or state implementation regulation, sanctions will be provided for in accordance with the rule infringed.

Within the scope of their respective competences, the reporting of possible breaches of the Hunting Law and other rules governing the exercise thereof is the responsibility of:

- Nature protection officers and nature conservation wardens of public administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon,
- Rural game wardens recognised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs,
- Game wardens who are civil servants of local entities and employed by those to carry out surveillance of hunting activities,
- Security guards who provide services, directly or indirectly, hired by the Administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon,
- Authorities of the law and security forces that have these powers conferred,
- Gamekeepers of the preserves, recognised or hired, in accordance with the provisions of the Hunting Law, only in the scope of the hunting grounds in which they are employed.

The following are considered as authorities of the law in the exercise of their functions of supervision and control of the hunting activities:

- Nature conservation wardens of the public administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon,
- Game wardens who are civil servants of local entities and employed by those for the surveillance of hunting activities,
- State law enforcement authorities and security forces that have these powers conferred upon them.

8.1. Offences.

Administrative offences related with hunting activities are classified as minor, serious and very serious.

Minor offences:

1. Hunting in possession of the mandatory documents, but not keeping it on her/him, provided that it is submitted to the competent authorities within fifteen calendar days.
2. Failure to comply with any requirements, conditions and obligations established in the law governing the ownership of game animals.
3. Accompanying a minor hunter without preventing this from violating the provisions of this law.
4. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Law with regard to the use of dogs in the hunting exercises.
5. Failure to submit the rings and markers, worn by the birds killed, to the department responsible for hunting matters.
6. Violating other requirements, obligations or prohibitions that are not classified as serious or very serious offence in the Hunting Law.
7. Commercialisation of dead hunted species whose trade is not allowed.

Serious offences:

1. Violating regulations on the marking of the hunting grounds by the occupier of the preserve.
2. Violating the marking rules of voluntary non-hunting areas by the owner or owners of the estates which are part of those areas.
3. Pulling out, knocking down, moving, damaging or altering any sign provided for under the hunting regulations without the permission of the occupier of the marked land.
4. Leasing, subleasing or transferring the management of social hunting preserves to third parties.
5. Failure of the occupier to notify the competent Administration of the municipal hunting preserve, private hunting preserve or small game intensive preserve about any transfer of its management.
6. Breaching the conditions required for the establishment or modification of a hunting ground, as well as the misrepresentation of its boundaries or surface.
7. Breaching the conditions and requirements regarding the establishment, management and use of municipal, social, private and small game intensive preserves.
8. Hunting in areas where it is expressly prohibited without the authorisation of the competent body of the Administration or, where relevant, without the due notification to that body.

9. Hunting without a licence, with a licence containing falsified data, a withdrawn licence or while deprived of obtaining it by a final judgment or administrative decision.
10. Hunting without the permission of the preserve occupier or falsifying the data contained in this permission.
11. Hunting without permission in game reserves and social hunting preserves.
12. Falsifying the hunter category.
13. Not having a logbook available for the taxidermy studio.
14. Hunting, or allowing it, by the occupier of the preserve, without having submitted the corresponding technical plan of the preserve and the annual plan for hunting exploitation and without having it approved.
15. Failure on the part of the occupier of the preserve or on the part of the hunters, to comply with the contents of the technical plan and the annual plan of the preserve's hunting exploitation approved by the Administration.
16. The violation of specific provisions contained in the General Hunting Plan.
17. Breaching the hunting requirements.
18. Violating the provisions on prohibited means, procedures and facilities.
19. Violating the provisions on weapons, ammunition, calibres and auxiliary devices.
20. Falsifying data in order to obtain exceptional authorisations and violating the conditional content of these exceptional authorisations which have been granted.
21. Hunting during close season or within the established period, on a non-hunting day, and the keeping of dead game species during the close season, unless their legitimate origin is justified.
22. Hunting outside the period from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except for certain types of expressly authorised types of hunting.
23. Hunting on snow-covered grounds, except in the instances set out in the General Hunting Plan.
24. Hunting when, due to fog, rain, snow, smoke or other causes, visibility is diminished in such a manner that the defence capacity of the game animals may be reduced or it may be dangerous for people or property.
25. Hunting when shooters visibility is less than two hundred and fifty metres.
26. Hunting with the aid of animals or any kind of vehicle as a means of concealment.

27. 'Chantear' (practice aimed to startle or alarm the existing game in a land intending to predispose them to flee or alter their natural inclinations to stay in an area), luring or shooing the game away from other people's areas.
28. Violating the prohibitions stipulated in the General Hunting Plan regarding the prohibited types of hunting.
29. Destroying, harassing, disturbing or altering the warrens, burrows or nests of game species, except in hunting types or methods expressly authorised by the INAGA.
30. Having falconry birds without authorisation, and violating the conditions of authorisation granted for the utilisation of these animals.
31. Having ferrets for hunting without authorisation, and violating the conditions of authorisation granted for the utilisation of these animals.
32. Violating safety rules during hunts.
33. Breaching the conditions for granting hunting authorisations granted for scientific purposes.
34. Neglecting the rules for the conservation of nests, chicks, burrows, colonies, and breeding grounds of game species.
35. Failure to declare, on the part of the occupier of hunting grounds, epizootic diseases and zoonoses affecting game animals.
36. Failure by the hunting grounds occupiers to comply with the rules ordered to prevent or fight epizootic diseases and zoonoses.
37. Violating the provisions on the protection of native game species.
38. Installing game farms without being in possession of the relevant authorisation, and breaching the conditions laid down in it and other obligations under the law.
39. Commercialising, transporting, importing or exporting game specimens, live or dead, and embryos or eggs, without fulfilling the established requirements.
40. Commercialising canned, frozen or chilled hunted game without complying with the conditions enacted for that purpose by the competent body on public health concerns to ensure its legal provenance.
41. Hindering the action of the law enforcement officials while performing their duties.

42. Obstructing the performance of the duties of authorities of the law while inspecting game or obstructing access to the hunter's vehicles or to the various hunting grounds, game farms and hunting-related industries.
43. Failure to notify authorities of the law as quickly as possible about the existence of apparently poisoned baits or wildlife specimens allegedly affected by those baits.
44. Commercialising live hunted species whose trade is not permitted.

Very serious offences.

1. The introduction or release of game species without proper authorisation or breach of the requirements thereof.
2. Hunting without permission in protected natural areas.
3. Hunting chamois, Iberian ibex, deer, roe deer, fallow deer and mouflon without a licence or without the mandatory authorisations and permits.
4. Distributing poison on the plot with the intention of causing the death of species that could prey on game species populations or their eggs or those of species of mammals, birds and reptiles included in the catalogues of endangered species.
5. Make commercial use of any hunting activity in non-hunting areas.
6. Exporting live Iberian ibex specimens without authorisation.

8.2. Sanctions.

The offences classified in the hunting law are penalized as follows:

- Minor *offences*, a fine of 60 to 300 euros.
- Serious *offences*, a fine of 300.01 to 3,000 euros.
- Very serious *offences*, a fine of 3,000.01 a 60,000 euros.

The sanctions may involve *ancillary measures* such as:

- Disqualification from hunting.
- Cancellation of the preserve licence.

- Suspension of all hunting activity in the preserve.
- Withdrawal of authorisations.

For sanctions for violations of other applicable regulations, reference is to be made to the provisions of these regulations.

8.3. Criminal behaviour.

Certain hunting behaviours may constitute as *crimes* under the Criminal Code. The penalties involve the imposition of a *custodial sentences* or *fines* whose amounts are determined *in days*, depending on the severity of the crime committed, leaving the amount to be paid by the convicted person per each day of fine at the judge's discretion.

In any case, the penalties may result in special disqualification from exercising a profession or trade or for the right to hunt. Sometimes, both.

The behaviours and their respective penalties are shown in the table below.

Behaviour Articles 333 to 336 of the 10/1995 Organic Law	Penalty	Disqualification from profession	Disqualificati on from hunting
1. Introducing non-native species of wildlife animals, in a manner which distorts the biological balance, in contravention of laws or general provisions intended to protect species of flora or fauna.	imprisonment of 4 months to 2 years or fine of 8 to 24 months	1 to 3 years.	-
2. Hunting protected wildlife species, smuggling them, their parts or derivatives thereof; or performing activities that prevent or hinder their breeding or migration. If these acts were committed by gross negligence.	imprisonment of 6 months to 2 years or fine of 8 to 24 months imprisonment of 3 months to 1 year or fine of 4 to 8 months	2 to 4 years 3 months to 2 years.	2 to 4 years 3 months to 2 years
3. Hunting species when it is expressly prohibited by specific rules on their hunting.	fine of 8 to 12 months	-	2 to 5 years
4. Hunting on public or private – from third parties – areas, subject to special hunting regulations, without due permission from the occupier. If, in addition, severe damage occurs to the hunting heritage of a plot of land subject to special hunting regulations	fine of 4 to 8 months imprisonment of 6 months to 2 years	- -	1 to 3 years. 2 to 5 years
5. The use of poisons, explosives or other devices or techniques with similar destructive or non-selective effectiveness for wildlife,	imprisonment of 4 months to 2 years or fine of 8 to 24 months	1 to 3 years.	1 to 3 years.

Penalties may be imposed in the upper scales of those established, when the offence affects a protected natural area or an endangered species, or, as appropriate, when performed in a group or using prohibited gear or means.

8.4. Regional Registry of Hunting Offenders (of the Autonomous community).

All the information pertaining to those who have been punished by a final ruling, judicial or administrative, for serious or very serious misconduct, in relation to hunting, are registered on the *Regional Registry of Hunting Offenders*, under the department responsible for hunting matters. This is done without prejudice to the rights recognised by the applicable laws for personal data protection. The duration of the registration is 5 years, provided that during that period, new sanctions have not been registered, and unless there is a final judicial ruling determining a longer period.

The Registry entry includes:

- the reason for the sanction,
- the amount of the fine and of the compensation, if established.
- the disqualification from hunting and its duration, if appropriate.

Registrations and changes that may occur in the Registry must be submitted to the *Registro Español de Infractores de Caza y Pesca* (Spanish National Registry of Hunting Offenders)

9. HUNTING REGULATIONS.

9.1. International regulations.

- Convention for the Protection of Birds useful to Agriculture, signed in Paris on 9 January, 1954.
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 2 February 1971 Ramsar, Iran
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Signed at Washington on 3 March, 1973.
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species. Done at Bonn on 23 June 1979.
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats Made at Berne on September 19, 1979.
- Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009, on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
- Regulation 3626/82 of 3 December 1982 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Recommendation 85/17 of 23 February on the training of hunters.
- Resolution 87/882 of 1 July on the importance of hunting for the rural regions of Europe.
- Council Regulation No 3254/91 of 4 November 1991 prohibiting the use of leghold traps in the Community and the introduction into the Community of pelts and manufactured goods of certain wild animal species originating in countries which catch them by means of leghold traps or trapping methods which do not meet international humane trapping standards
- Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.
- Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
- Directive 92/45/EEC on health and hygiene standards in the transport of meat.
- Directive 92/118/EEC on public health requirements governing trade and imports of products. Annex 13 on hunting trophies.

9.2. State regulations

- Law 42/2007, of 13 December, on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity
- Royal Decree 1118/1989, of 15 September, by which the species hunted and fished in a commercial way are determined.
- Royal Decree 630/2013, of 2 August, governing the Spanish catalogue of invasive alien species.

9.3. Regulations of the Autonomous Community of Aragon

- Law 1/2015 of 12 March on Hunting in Aragon.
- Decree 245/2007 of 2 October, of the Government of Aragon, on regulating the holding and use of birds of prey in Aragon.
- Order of 26 October, 2009, of the Regional Minister of Environment of the Government of Aragon, implementing the Decree 245/2007, of 2 October, of the Government of Aragon, regulating the holding and use of birds in the Autonomous Community of Aragon, in respect of the practice of training flights of birds of prey in non-hunting areas.
- Decree 177/2014 of 4 November Decree, of the Government of Aragón, approving the Master Plan for Use and Management of Natural Park of Moncayo.
- Decree 326/2011 of 27 September Decree, of the Government of Aragon, establishing a protection regime for the Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) in Aragon, and approving the recovery plan.
- Decree 45/2003 25 February, Decree of the Government of Aragon, establishing a protection regime for the bearded vulture and approving the Recovery Plan.
- Decree 89/2007 of 8 May, of the Government of Aragon, by which the Natural Resources Management Plan of the Riparian groves and Oxbow Lakes of the Ebro River is given its final approval.
- Decree 108/1995 of 9 May, of the Government of Aragon, developing the Titles 1, 11 and VII of Hunting Law 12/1992, of December 10, of the Autonomous Community. (Applicable in everything that does not contradict the provisions of Law 1/2015, 12 March, on Hunting in Aragon).