



**Landowner Assist**

**for**

**DOC - NZDA**

**National Goat Competition 2024**

**Branch Name:.....**

# About the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

## Who we are

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association (NZDA) was established in May 1938. The NZDA has always promoted conservation of New Zealand's native flora and fauna, and the conservation of New Zealand's unique environment, as central to our sport and to the New Zealand way of life. It has made important contributions to hunting at a personal and policymaking level and has always been steadfast on the importance of ethics to hunting. With more than 8000 members, we're committed to raising the standards of our hunters and fostering a sense of true sportsmanship. We've are New Zealand's lead hunting and shooting organisation, representing licensed firearms owners, sporting shooters and recreational hunters. We are about comradeship, respect for the quarry and a love of the outdoors of New Zealand.

## What we stand for

The aims and objectives of the NZDA as an organisation are to:

- Promote and improve the role of the sporting shooter in New Zealand
- Help educate young people in the skills of hunting, shooting and the proper care and safe handling of firearms
- Encourage all hunters to abide by a strict code of ethics
- Work for a better understanding between landholders and members
- Actively advocate game conservation and assist appropriate authorities in game management programmes
- Act as an effective and credible voice, representing all New Zealand shooters to the public, community leaders and authorities.
- Support and be involved in the conservation and management of our natural environment

## Code of Ethics

Our code of ethics outlines the individual member's ethical responsibilities to the association and the community at large.

All members are expected to:

- approach recreational hunting from the highest possible level of ethics, with due regard to the welfare of the animals hunted, and prevention of cruelty to the same.
- not hunt or carry a firearm on property without the proper approval of the owner/ occupier/lessee/controlling authority and shall strictly observe any conditions imposed upon them
- be a responsible firearms owner and abide by current firearms laws
- avoid unnecessary or deliberate damage to the environment, and respect property and other users of the outdoors

- advocate for and support sensible conservation practices at all times and promote New Zealand's biodiversity 'in situ'
- practice the NZDA field guidelines when out
- hunting
- be exemplary members of NZDA by promoting and abiding by its rules, field guidelines and this code of ethics.

## What we do

The NZDA is involved, throughout New Zealand, in refurbishing, maintaining and rebuilding backcountry huts in co-operation with the department of Conservation (DOC) and other landowners. Members assist in patrolling traplines, planting, wilding pine removal and other conservation projects. We have branches and own and operate rifle ranges in different regions throughout New Zealand to ensure and promote safe and responsible shooting by members and the public as a whole. We carry out hunter training in the form of our highly reputed HUNTS course. Our national board meets and liaises with government ministers and agencies at top levels. Our branch executive also liaises with local and regional groups regarding policy, access issues and land users' rights.

For more information regarding this document contact a DOC-NZDA Goat Competition Access Representative:

1. North Island - Trevor Gratton [trevor.gratton@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:trevor.gratton@deerstalkers.org.nz)
2. South Island – Richard Wells [richard.wells@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:richard.wells@deerstalkers.org.nz)

or

National NZDA representative: Callum Sheridan [callum.sheridan@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:callum.sheridan@deerstalkers.org.nz)

## Insurance - we are covered

NZDA provides insurance coverage to all financial members (excluding Associate type), ensuring a comprehensive safety net during their recreational hunting activities. All members are issued with an annual membership card, which evidences their insurance coverage. Our insurance package, underwritten by AIG Insurance New Zealand Limited, includes Public and Products Liability Insurance and Statutory Liability Insurance, crucial for our members who are actively involved in NZDA activities or recreational hunting activities, on public and private properties.

### Policy Details:

- **Insurer:** AIG Insurance New Zealand Limited
- **Named Insured:** New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Incorporated, its branches, and members, including associated trusts and partnerships (National Heritage Trust, NZDA LP and Hunts Trust)
- **Description of Business:** Represents recreational hunters, personal hunting activities, and property owners.

## Coverage Details:

- **General and Products Liability Insurance:**

- **Limit of Liability:** \$10,000,000 for each occurrence, providing substantial protection against claims arising from incidents during insured activities, including hunting, shooting, and related NZDA recreational pursuits.
- **Coverage Includes:** Legal defence costs, settlements, and judgments related to third-party bodily injury and property damage claims.
- **Deductibles:** \$2,000 for each occurrence, emphasising our commitment to managing and mitigating risks responsibly.

- **Statutory Liability Insurance:**

Financial protection against claims arising from unintentional breaches of specific New Zealand statutes. This is crucial for activities that could potentially infringe upon environmental, health, or safety laws

- **Limit of Liability:** \$500,000, covering legal expenses and fines imposed under New Zealand legislation for unintentional breaches. This is particularly vital for compliance with health, safety, and environmental laws.
- **Deductibles:**
  - Standard Deductible: \$2,000 for each loss.
  - Increased Deductible for Health and Safety at Work Act violations: \$5,000, highlighting the emphasis on maintaining stringent safety standards.

### **Peace of Mind for Landowners:**

The policy's extensive coverage ensures that members can engage in hunting and related activities knowing they are protected against a wide range of potential risks, and landowners are reassured that their property and interests are safeguarded when they allow NZDA members to use their land for hunting or conservation efforts.

**Landowner Assurance:** By allowing NZDA members onto their land, property owners can have peace of mind knowing that they are protected under our comprehensive liability cover. This ensures that any potential risks are adequately managed and covered, allowing for a trusting relationship between landowners and our members.

NZDA's policy includes several protections that extend to activities conducted on your land, such as:

- **Property Damage:** Should any accidental damage occur to your property during our activities, our policy covers repair or replacement costs, ensuring that your property is restored.
- **Legal Liability:** In the unlikely event of legal claims arising from our use of your land, our insurance provides comprehensive coverage for legal defence and potential damages, safeguarding against financial implications.
- **Extensions such as Care, Custody, and Control:** This specifically protects any property under our temporary control, which is vital when we are entrusted with your land or assets.

For detailed policy conditions, potential exclusions, and further inquiries, we encourage you to contact NZDA's National Office, which will liaise with AIG Insurance.

Landowners should look after their own interests. By allowing insured private hunters such as NZDA members onto their land, they can feel peace of mind knowing that they are covered.



## NZDA's general field hunting guidelines

- To approach the sport of recreational hunting from the highest possible level of ethics, with due regard to the welfare of the animals and the prevention of cruelty to same.
- To encourage the use, by hunters, of sporting arms of calibre and/or power adequate to ensure quick clean kills of the particular game species being hunted.
- To encourage the fullest possible use of the game killed by hunters and to avoid, always, unnecessary wastage of the game resource.
- To promote safe practices by ensuring oneself and others are suitably trained to minimise risks.
- To respect the property of others and respect the natural environment.
- To assist in the gathering of research information from the animal secured for association (and related) research programmes.
- To recommend and promote safe hunting practices, including the wearing of high visibility clothing that contrasts with the environment and the game being hunted. To be effective a responsible hunter should wear sufficient high visibility clothing
- To ensure immediate visual recognition by other hunters. This is an important risk management measure designed to minimise the risk of hunters failing to quickly identify other hunters but does not in any way detract from the primary responsibility of all hunters to positively identify their target.



# Landowner Assist Programme - 2024 National Goat Competition

## Vision

To create codified agreements between landowners and individual NZDA members through their branches that will provide ongoing benefits to both parties, in this case the reduction of goats on private properties.

## Mission

To enable landowners to concentrate their business while allowing ethical and responsible hunters the opportunity to assist in goat (and other animals if requested) control.

## Objectives

- Work collaboratively to assist with the control of goats (and other ungulates as directed) on private land where and when required by the landowner
- Develop relationships between the landowners, NZDA and its members.
- Provide direct assistance to landowners by undertaking animal control activities.
- Increase members' opportunities to hunt on private property.
- Improve public perception that hunting is one of many practical tools available for use in animal management.
- Reduce the impact of goats on farmland, forestry and other managed plant life as well as the general New Zealand natural landscape
- Provide opportunities to gather data that may be valuable to assist in future animal management activities and programmes.

## Programme overview

The NZDA - Landowner Assist programme proposes to help establish ongoing relationships between landowners, NZDA and its members. These relationships will provide landowners access to genuine, skilled, insured and responsible people, who are willing to engage in culling/shooting activities on behalf of the landowner or designated manager. The main aim is to create stronger bonds between NZDA and private landowners to help responsibly control overabundant animals especially ungulates.

The programme is based on the very successful Farmers Assist developed by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia - [Australia Farmer Assist](#)

The programme will enable NZDA members the opportunity to assist beyond simply animal management. Members may also be able to assist landowners by monitoring the property while undertaking shooting activities by reporting anything they believe is of interest or concern to the landowner. The programme provides an opportunity for landowners to meet new people and help create a foundation for a beneficial long-term relationship.

## Benefits

The programme is designed to have four key benefits:

1. Reduce goat numbers - Create immediate opportunities to control goats on private land in a managed framework
2. Landowners –will have the opportunity to reassign some of the time and resources spent (or missed) on animal control activities to their business.
3. NZDA branches and members –benefit by building relationships with landowners and managers that lead to participating in activities they enjoy.
4. The New Zealand environment – uncontrolled populations of animals can cause negative impacts to our unique natural environment and rural economies.

## Data collection and feedback

This programme provides an opportunity to collect data and feedback from stakeholders to help shape future projects and activities. Data such as measurements of relative or absolute abundance of a problem species, their kill levels and any other information that is collectible, measurable and useful. These data will also assist in decision making regarding what (or if any) additional animal control measures need to be taken.

Apart from landowners advising NZDA of any inappropriate behavior, their views on how the programme can be enhanced will be valued. Feedback forms will be available for those who wish to review the programme. Any feedback will be used to assess the programme against its objectives and cultivate improvements for the benefit of future programmes.

## Programme implementation

NZDA welcomes collaboration from the Department of Conservation, Federated Farmers, Forest Owners Association, Regional Councils, and other like-minded bodies or groups to support this initiative.

Collaborating partners can also assist in the development and promotion of the programme within their membership bases. Ideas that add value to the objectives will always be appreciated.

## Participant Requirements

Shooting as an animal control method is often wrongly criticised as cruel and inhumane by those opposed to, or unfamiliar with firearms, firearm ownership and hunting activities.

A model for assessing the relative humaneness of pest animal control methods, developed in conjunction with the SPCA and the New Zealand Government, highlights that shooting has the lowest overall welfare impact when compared to other management tools.

Ethical hunting, as promoted by the NZDA, ensures that animals are killed in a way that rapid death is achieved and the potential for unnecessary pain and suffering is minimised. This conduct therefore eliminates any claim or action of deliberate or negligent cruelty.



To become a participant of this NZDA Landowner Assist programme, members will need to display a competent level of proficiency in marksmanship (their holding a current firearms license means they have the prerequisites regarding lawful and safe carriage, use and handling of firearms. This requirement will demonstrate an appropriate level of marksmanship equivalent to commercial or professional shooters and address basic animal welfare concerns.

## **Firearm proficiency and general hunting skills requirements**

The principles of ethical hunting dictate that a hunter should make every effort to get as close as possible to the intended target and, depending on circumstances, shoot from a stable supported position. A supported position involves using aids such as bipods and vehicle-mounted shooting rests, fence posts or natural objects such as trees, branches and ground-based objects.

Members applying for the Landowner Assist Programme will be checked by their branch to assess experience and skill levels before being registered.

## **Code of Practice**

All activities under the NZDA Landowner Assist programme must comply with the following. Any breaches may result in exclusion from the programme.

### **Use of dogs**

Only if permission is granted by the landowner/manager, will dogs be used to indicate or assist in the location of target animals.

The use of any dogs must not contravene any SPCA (New Zealand Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) laws and must comply with all DOC requirements regarding access on conservation land, if necessary. Any dog used or taken onto a property must be fully registered and hold all the necessary vaccinations, including but not limited to sheep measles and parvovirus (depending on the area). Where kiwi or weka are resident dogs will need an aversion training certificate. Proof of this must be provided in the application for permission. All participants must follow and adhere to all relevant firearms and hunting regulations. This includes holding a DOC hunting permit for the region, as well as a Fish & Game regional permit if required.

### **Permission to hunt**

All participants are required to be registered with their branch and gain permission prior to access. They may hunt on private land only with written permission as per the Plan Form below (from page 11) which must be filled out by both the landowner/manager and the hunter(s), and a copy of the Plan Form held by both parties (the hunters registered can photograph the original when signed). The landowner (or their stated representative) and the hunter must, prior to hunting, agree on the retrieval of game on the property. No fee is to be applied to any taking of meat or animal in general (see Advice on toxins further below).



## Confidentiality

Hunters will not disclose details of access, animals, or activities on the landowner's property to parties other than those registered (as held by the branch) and with the landowner in this agreement.

## Entry and exiting the property

In all cases, a formal agreement is included in the permission form on how entry and exit advice/notification will be undertaken. There are no exceptions to this for the sake of certainty, security, safety and risk management. The texting of "on farm" and "off farm" by the hunter is preferred, as this shows a record, however, other means may be agreed between the parties, for example, a handwritten note left in a certain place if there is no cellphone coverage or by prior agreement via e.g. email as to time, date and place of entry.

## Firearms Safety

Hunters will at all times abide by the **Seven Rules** of firearms safety too ensure there is no risk to themselves, other persons, stock or property. Paramount is the rule to clearly identify your target.

**The 7 rules  
of firearm safety**

- Rule 1** Treat every firearm as loaded
- Rule 2** Always point firearms in a safe direction
- Rule 3** Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire
- Rule 4** Identify your target beyond all doubt
- Rule 5** Check your firing zone
- Rule 6** Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely
- Rule 7** Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Engage safety

STORAGE HANDLING  
TRANSPORT SHOOTING

**Te Tari Pūreke**  
Firearms Safety Authority

## Animal welfare

No unnecessary pain or suffering should be inflicted on any animal being hunted or culled. There is an obligation to achieve a rapid humane death. A rapid humane death can be achieved by observing the following.

- Target the animal in a way that achieves a humane kill (i.e., shot placement into the head or chest kill zone).
- A shot must be taken within the recommended kill range of the firearm and ammunition being used.
- The firearm and ammunition choice must be sufficient for the size of the targeted animal to achieve a humane kill (for goats a centrefire minimum of .222 Rem .
- If a lactating female is killed, participants must make every effort to locate and kill any dependent young quickly and humanely
- If an animal is wounded, participants must make every effort to locate and kill the animal quickly and humanely

In most situations, the preferred shot placement is the chest kill zone. The chest kill zone provides a much larger target area than the head kill zone, which reduces the likelihood of wounding. Animal movement is unpredictable and any sudden head movement coinciding with the time of trigger pull may cause an undesirable result.

Hunters must ensure that any unintentional wounded animal is quickly located, and all efforts are made to follow up the initial shot with a quick kill shot to minimise any pain and suffering.

If an animal is unintentionally wounded and remains conscious, after either collapsing on the spot or running a short distance prior to collapse, it is the responsibility of the hunter to follow up the failed attempt by promptly placing a second shot into the head kill zone.

If an animal is unintentionally wounded and has run off, it is the responsibility of the hunter to follow up the failed attempt by locating and promptly placing a further shot or shots into the chest kill zone to sufficiently kill the animal outright.

## Record-keeping requirements

It will be a requirement of the NZDA Landowner Assist programme that each participant should record specific information during and after each hunting activity.

A field data collection sheet is available when applying to hunt and can also be found in the appendix. The main purpose of the data sheets is to calculate specific species relative abundance and record hunting effort and results.

The information recorded will help determine the trend of specific animal populations on the property, which will allow parties to gauge the success of hunting and other management efforts undertaken on the property.

Over time, this information will assist in determining appropriate management actions at the property level by the farmer.

NZDA National reserves the right to use all information collected on data sheets through the NZDA Landowner Assist programme for research or promotional purposes (whilst maintaining individual landowner details confidential). This information will provide a snapshot of NZDA member commitment to animal management in terms of expenditure and volunteer hours spent undertaking activities.

## Advice notes on toxins for farmers and hunters

Wild meat taken through this programme is regarded as recreational catch. See here for full MPI Information: [MPI A-Guide-to-Homekill-and-Recreational-Catch](#)

Recreational catch involves killing, capturing, taking or harvesting a wild animal and then processing it. It is considered recreational catch when the hunter, fisherman or other persons intends to use or consume the wild animal themselves.

Recreational catch is not processed through the regulated system, so it is not subject to the same rigorous regulatory controls that apply to meat purchased from a supermarket or a butcher. This means no assurances can be given on whether it is safe to eat.

It is illegal to trade or sell unregulated meat.

Donating recreational catch meat products to family or a foodbank or charity is acceptable. These situations must not involve any form of trade (under the Animal Products Act, trade cover, barter, as a prize or reward, advertising or any other valuable consideration).

### Important Facts

- Any unregulated meat is used at the risk of the persons consuming it. Hunters donating their recreational catch to a foodbank or other charity need to make sure that the recipients understand that the meat is recreational catch.
- A foodbank or other charity will need to make sure that anyone they distribute the recreational catch to also understands that it is unregulated meat and that it is eaten at their own risk.
- Any foodbank or charity using unregulated meat needs to follow basic food safety and product traceability guidelines.

Some of the food safety concerns to be made aware of in consideration of providing recreational caught meat include:

- Bacterial contamination – this could occur because of external wounds or sores, cross contamination during field dressing (especially if the gut is punctured or due to incorrect handling) and lack of temperature control after dressing
- Chemical contamination – this could occur because of the animal eating poison baits used to control pests, the animal having scavenged carcasses of animals that have eaten poison baits or exposing the carcass of the animal to chemicals or poisons during transportation.
- Other contamination and deterioration due to there being no requirements for processing, packing, storage, labelling or distribution.

# NZDA - Landowner Assist Animal Control & Access Plan Form



All parties must recognize that this form is not a legally binding document. The owner or manager of the property reserves the right to withdraw permission to access and can cancel or alter any part of this agreement at any time, while advising the branch of any changes.

## Property management and description

<b>Owner/manager name/s</b>	
<b>Contact phone number</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>PO Box</b>	
<b>Property name</b>	
<b>Property location</b>	
<b>Property size (ha)</b>	
<b>Principle use</b>	
<b>Has a DOC permit been obtained/held (if neighboring DOC land):</b>	

## Permitted members

\*\*STRICTLY ONLY THOSE PERSONS NAMED ON THIS FORM AND AGREED TO BY THE FARM OWNER ARE PERMITTED ON THE PROPERTY DURING THE STATED DATES/TIMES. NO EXCEPTIONS. (Failure with regards to any of these terms will result in instant dismissal from the programme and the property.)  
A copy of the signed permit must be held by the primary hunter and the landowner.

	<b>Member's name ( full Branch member)</b>	<b>Contact phone number</b>	<b>NZDA membership number</b>
<b>Primary hunter</b>			

**Desired outcome from the hunting for the landowner**

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**Landholder's objectives and responsibilities**

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**Member's objectives and responsibilities**

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**Existing animals to control and location on property** *(Briefly describe)*

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**Any other details or requirements to be stated here**

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## Animals requiring management

Species	Current population status (high, medium or low density)	Current impact status (high, medium or low impacts)	Management strategy (methods of control required)	Preferred outcome (population or impact level)
Goats				
Pigs				
Deer				
Other				

## Current and approved management activities *(Please tick if approved)*

Night-time hunting – spotlighting, night vision/thermal equipment (spotting and sights)	
Day-time hunting (various methods)	
Indicator dogs	
Use of quads/ATVs	
4-wheel drive vehicle	
Other (please specify)	

## Approved firearm types *(tick or strike out not applicable)*

Centrefire rifle – suppressors (optional/required)	
Rimfire only for small game if approved	
Bow	

## Property rules *(carcass disposal, baits, etc., allowed?)*

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## Vehicle access

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## Protocol and process for entering/leaving a property – communication method/s

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## Property Hazards and No-Go Areas Notified by Landowner

List any notable hazards to vehicle or foot traffic, hunting activities.

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## Activity planning and scheduling

To increase the efficiency of animal control on your property consider the best times to conduct activities the required frequency of activities (regular, one off) and other activities can increase the effectiveness of control? Use the space below to develop a plan of control activities. You can use a seasonal approach, i.e. what actions you can do seasonally or concentrate activities at specific key times.

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## License and permit requirements

All members who undertake culling or hunting activities must hold the appropriate firearm licenses and hunting permits (if applicable). These may be asked to be viewed prior to the commencement of any activities. For any hunting being undertaken on private property that has DOC land as a direct 'neighbour', the hunter(s) must all hold and carry a current DOC hunting permit for that area.

## Acknowledgement of NZDA member insurance cover

The NZDA provides its full branch members with insurance cover as outlined above in this document to give property owners peace of mind and to protect members while hunting on both public and private property anywhere in New Zealand.

## Property manager and member signatures

The following section enables all parties to accept the conditions of this plan as it stands.

*I have read the above **NZDA Landowner Assist Animal Control & Access Plan** and approve all listed activities and conditions within the plan. I understand I have the right to cancel, change or alter any part of the plan when needed, at any time and without explanation. I also understand I can remove permission to access my land regarding any or all members named, at any time and without explanation. I only approve access to those members of the NZDA who have been listed and any others subject to prior notification of entry and approval. I understand NZDA full branch members are covered by the association's \$10 million liability insurance policy outlined as above while undertaking activities on my property.*

<b>Landowner's or authorised representative's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

*I/we have read the above **NZDA Hunter Assist Branch Property Based Animal Management Plan** and agree to abide by all conditions and property rules set out in the above plan. I/we will continue to support and promote the NZDA's role in ethical animal management and sustainable utilisation.*

<b>Primary member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Additional NZDA members (note full branch member not associate)</b>			
<b>Member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Member's</b>			
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<b>name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

<b>Member's name:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

## Kill Tally monitoring

During and after each hunting activity, the *field data collection sheet* must be filled out. This data sheet will enable any changes in animal populations to be recorded.

# NZDA Hunter Assist Branch Field Data Collection Sheet



Primary Members name		Membership number	
Property name		Location	

Date							
Hours spent hunting							
Number of individual species seen and taken during activities	Goats	Seen					
		<b>Taken</b>					
	Pigs	Seen					
		<b>Taken</b>					
	Deer	Seen					
		<b>Taken</b>					
	Wallaby	Seen					
		<b>Taken</b>					
	Hares	Seen					
		<b>Taken</b>					
	Rabbits	Seen					
		<b>Taken</b>					
	Other	Seen					
		<b>Taken</b>					
Comments and observations							