



# Hunting in Austria



## SURFACE AREA

Total surface area	83.858 km <sup>2</sup>
Woodlands	38.780 km <sup>2</sup> (=46%)
Farming area	35.000 km <sup>2</sup> (=42%)
Huntable area	82.164 km <sup>2</sup> (=98%)
average huntable area	75 ha

## HUNTER/POPULATION

Population	8.160.000
Number of Hunters	115.600
% Hunters	1,4%
Inhabitants/ Hunters	70
Members affiliated to the <i>Zentralstelle</i>	112.000
Population density inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup>	97



## Socio-demographic profile of austrian hunters

- Employees/ workers	36,0 %
- Farmers/ foresters	30,0 %
- self-employed workers	25,0 %
- Employees of the hunting and forestry sectors	9,0 %

## Sex

Women represent 5% of the active hunters (in some Länder up to 8%)

## Economic importance of hunting

Hunting has a total annual turnover of about 475 million EUR. (Source: 2002)

Sectors	Expenditure (in mio EUR)
Shooting lease and bag fees	54
Hunting permit and hunting fees, insurance	26
Venison value, bag quantities	28
Wages, salary (professional hunter, game-keeping organization, employees in the hunting business)	199
Measures to improve biotopes	36
Expenditures for hunting-rifles and -shotguns, optical devices, ammunition, tradition related activities, garments, training	132 EUR
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>475</b>



## HUNTING SYSTEM

### Competent authorities

- ✉ **Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft**  
Stubenring 1, A – 1020 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.711 00
- ✉ **Bundesministerium für Soziale Sicherheit und Generationen**  
Radetzkystasse 2, A – 1030 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.711 72

### Hunters' associations

The Federal administration, *Zentralstelle österreichischer Landesjagdverbände*, regroups the 9 county federations of the austrian *Länder*. Every holder of a hunting permit is also member of at least one *Landesjagdverband*. Thus, the *Landesjagdverbände* represents 100% of the Austrian hunters.

Presidency of the *Zentralstelle*

Kärnten	Dipl.-Ing. Dr. F. Gorton, Presidency 2003
Niederösterreich	Ökr. Dr. Chr. Konrad, Presidency 2004
Oberösterreich	Ökr. Hans Reisetbauer, Presidency 2005
Salzburg	KommR. J. Eder, Presidency 2006
Steiermark	Dipl.-Ing. H. Gach, Presidency 2007
Tirol	Dr. R. Wieser, Presidency 2008
Vorarlberg	Tech.R. Dipl. Ing. M. Manhart, Presidency 2009
Wien	Dr. M. Lampelmayer, Presidency 2010

The Chairman (*Geschäftsführender Landesjägermeister*) of the *Zentralstelle* is replaced once a year and Dr. Peter Lebersorger is the Secretary-General. The office of the *Zentralstelle* is located at the head office of the *Landesjagdverband* of Niederösterreich (which is the biggest LJV).

The Federal administration has its own press service department (Editor: Hans-Friedemann Zedka). The press service department published in recent years brochures about different practical topics: game meat hygiene and game diseases, small game protection, identification of predator-marks on prey and produced two video-films, „*Grüne Brücken*“ and „*Jagd heute*“. Each year, the *Zentralstelle* offers two prizes, one for journalists of printed press and one for NTIC media.

☒ **Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände**  
Wickenburggasse 3/13, A-1080 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.405 16 36  
Fax: +43.1.405 16 36 28  
e-mail: [jagd@ljev.at](mailto:jagd@ljev.at)









☒ **Österreichische Delegation im Internationalen Jagdrat CIC**  
Delegationsleiter: Alfons Graf Mansdorff-Pouilly  
Wickenburggasse 3/13, A-1080 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.4051636

☒ **Bund Österreichischer Jagdvereinigungen**  
Weyringergasse 38/12 a, A-1040 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.5044244

☒ **Verein Grünes Kreuz**  
Eschenbachgasse 11, A-1010 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.5878518

Landesjagdverbände (Regional Hunters' Associations)

☒ **Burgenländischer Landesjagdverband**  
Bahnstraße 43/8, A-7000 Eisenstadt  
Tel.: +43.2682.66878  
e-mail: [jaeger@wellcom.at](mailto:jaeger@wellcom.at)

-  **Kärntner Jägerschaft**  
Magereggerstraße 175, A-9020 Klagenfurt  
Tel.: +43.463.511469  
e-mail: [jaegerschaft@utanet.at](mailto:jaegerschaft@utanet.at)
  
-  **Niederösterreichischer Landesjagdverband**  
Wickenburggasse 3/13, A-1080 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.4051636  
e-mail: [jagd@noeljv.at](mailto:jagd@noeljv.at)
  
-  **Oberösterreichischer Landesjagdverband**  
Hohenbrunn 1, A-4490 St. Florian  
Tel.: +43.7224.20083  
e-mail: [office@jagdverb-ooe.at](mailto:office@jagdverb-ooe.at)
  
-  **Salzburger Jägerschaft**  
Vogelweiderstraße 55/2, A-5020 Salzburg  
Tel.: +43.662.877119  
e-mail: [info.sjs@aon.at](mailto:info.sjs@aon.at)
  
-  **Steirische Landesjägerschaft**  
Schwimmschulkai 88, A-8010 Graz  
Tel.: +43.316-673790  
e-mail: [lja@jagd-stmk.at](mailto:lja@jagd-stmk.at)
  
-  **Tiroler Jägerverband**  
Adamgasse 7 a/II, A-6020 Innsbruck  
Tel.: +43.512.571093  
e-mail: [tjv@tirol.com](mailto:tjv@tirol.com)
  
-  **Vorarlberger Jägerschaft-Landesjagdschutzverein**  
Mühlgasse 21, A-6700 Bludenz  
Tel.: +43.5552.66038
  
-  **Wiener Landesjagdverband**  
Gartengasse 26, 1050 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.5484999



## LEGAL PROVISIONS

### Hunting system

Feudal hunting rights were abolished by the *Josephinisches Patent* of 28.2.1768. Thus, hunting right became a Federal right. Only in 1818, ordinary citizens and farmers were granted the right to own or rent hunting rights. Later, the *Jagdpatent* of 7.3.1849 suppressed hunting rights on other peoples land and tied those rights to landownership. Autonomy aspirations were the reason for the Austrian *Länder* becoming responsible for hunting laws.

During Austria's occupation, hunting law came under State authority – the hunting law of the Empire had to be applied in the *Länder of Ostmark*. With independence, hunting law was handed back to the *Länder* – each *Land* received its own hunting law.

The basis of the Austrian hunting system is Austria's Constitution (B-VG 1920). In this Constitution, the *Länder* are responsible for hunting laws and this is why each of the 9 federal *Länder* has its own hunting law. There is no framework law at federal level for hunting in Austria. In this way, the Austrian hunting system is based on 9 Hunting Acts of the *Länder* and on their 9 Enforcement Regulations.

In Austria the *Reviersystem* applies, whereby hunting and related activities are restricted to the person entitled to hunt in each *Revier* (hunting area).

The following legal provisions also regulate the hunting practice

- Hunting Acts of the *Länder* Burgenland, Kärnten, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg and Wien, including the corresponding Enforcement Regulations.
- *Land* Nature Conservation Acts and Regulations listing protected fauna and flora species
- *Land* Animal Protection Acts
- *Land* Environment Protection Acts, Countryside Protection Acts, Cave Protection Acts, Tourism Acts;
- Federal Forestry Act of 1975;
- Federal Meat Control Act of 1982;
- Federal Animal Diseases Act of 1909;
- Federal Weapons Act of 1996;
- several Federal Meat Hygiene Regulations and the Federal Regulation for Game Meat of 1994.

### Authorised hunting methods

- Hunting with a rifle/ shotgun
- Trapping
- Falconry
- Hunting with terriers underground
- Shooting with an Eagle-owl decoy

## Hunting territory

In Austria, the hunting right belongs to the landowner, without exception, but does not automatically entitle the owner to exercise it: he can only do so if he has „private hunting entitlement“ – **Eigenjagdberechtigung**, which is generally granted to landowners with more than 115 ha of unbroken area (300 ha in some *Länder*). If the landowner has a hunting permit, he can himself hunt in the area for which he has a private hunting entitlement, if not, he must have the land hunted over and managed by another authorized person. Properties not subject to private hunting right are pooled together in so called „associative hunting territories“ – **Genossenschaftsjagdgebiete**. Such *Genossenschaftsjagdgebiete* must be leased out – under these circumstances the renters take over all their rights and obligations stemming from hunting right. The landowners receive a rent – **Jagdpachtschilling** – for the hunting rights they rented out.

The owner of hunting rights is the bearer of all the authorizations and obligations concerning hunting in areas of „private hunting entitlement“ or „associative hunting territories“ (*Jagdrevier*). Hunting territories can be rented by hunters acting as individuals. Several hunters can join to form a common law association („hunting association“ – *Jagdgesellschaft*), with the objective to rent a hunting territory. The renters must own a valid annual hunting permit and have held a valid austrian hunting permit for the last 3 years.

The game management – **Hege** – aims at:

- maintaining a varied and healthy game population, taking account of farming and forestry interests. Hunting and game management must be exercised in a way that provides for the conservation of woodland and its functions. *Hege* is both, an entitlement and an obligation.

In Austria game is *res nullius*: it belongs to nobody, being part of the land on which it occurs. Only the person entitled to hunt there can own it from a legal point of view. Released game is part of the real estate but as soon as it is taken or captured, it becomes a movable and the personal property of the authorized hunter.

## SHOOTING EXAMINATION, HUNTING PERMIT

### Examination

Anyone wishing to hunt in Austria must hold a hunting permit (*Jagdkarte*). In order to obtain such a permit for the first time, the candidate must pass the „young hunters examination“ – **Jungjägerprüfung**. As every *Land* has its own hunting permit, it is advisable to pass the hunting examination in the *Land* in which one would like to hunt. The *Jungjägerprüfung* is composed of a theoretical and a practical examination (Shooting examination for rifle and shotgun). For all *Länder*, the successful candidate must prove his knowledge in the following fields:

- relevant legislation for hunting, including nature and animal conservation and environment and forestry regulations
- handling and functioning of hunting firearms and ammunition; gun safety
- biology, physiology, ethology and characteristics of native game species
- Hunting management (*Jagdbetrieb*)
- game management; interactions between game and environment
- basic hunters' language and traditions
- gundog training and breeding
- handling of game meat for human consumption
- basic ecology
- basic agriculture and forestry
- first aid in hunting accidents

Holders of a yearly permit in one Land can obtain visitors' permits in all others (except Tyrol, that delivers only annual hunting permits). Yearly permits in other *Länder* are easily obtainable for persons having held such a permit in one *Land* for several years. For Carinthia a supplementary test on hunting law is foreseen.

## Hunting permits

Yearly permit 1 hunting year	50 – 170 EUR
Visitors' permit for 1 day (2 days, 7 days, 14 days, 4 weeks)	6 – 60 EUR
Foreigner's permit	50 – 190 EUR

### Delivery of Visitors hunting permits

Foreigners (by nationality, not by residence) can, upon production of a valid hunting permit from their country, obtain visitors or yearly hunting permits (depending on the *Land*). Membership in the county federation of the *Land* is obligatory for visitors' hunters, the same way it goes for Austrian hunters. A foreign hunter can not prove its hunting qualification with a valid permit of another country if this country is not his country of origin.

## Insurance

Every member of a county federation benefits automatically from a civil liability insurance (726.0000 Euro - ± 1,816.000 Euro for every damage claim, valid for physical injury and material damage). Every holder of a hunting permit benefits also from a hunting accident insurance.

## FIREARMS, CALIBRE & AMMUNITION

**Shot:** No calibre restrictions. 12, 16 and 20-bore are the most commonly used calibers.

At present, there is no obligation to use **non-toxic shot**, but its use is recommended for wildfowl hunting.

**Bullet:** For ungulates, a minimum calibre of 5,5 mm and cartridge case length of 40 mm, no rimfire ammunition, shot, buckshot or lead fragments.

Minimum impact energy at 100m:

For animals weighing up to 30 kg (gutted) 1000 J

Up to 80 kg 2000 J

over 80 kg 2500 J



Hunting with semi-automatic rifles or shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 2 cartridges is not permitted.

### Travel to Austria with firearms

Hunting firearms of categories C and D (shotguns & rifles) can be held without restriction by persons over 18 years of age. Foreign hunters and sportshooters may therefore enter and leave Austria with their firearms that are intended for private use, if they carry a „*European Firearms Pass*“, if the weapons are registered in this Firearms Pass and under the condition that they can justify the objective of their journey (hunting invitation, shooting competition). Ammunition for the personal weapons may also be carried. A weapon may only be „carried“, that is to say transported in a loaded condition, with a valid permit of an Austrian *Land* or with a weapons pass („*Waffenpass*“).

Handguns (pistols, revolvers) and semi-automatic weapons (category B) may only be held and transported together with their respective firearms certificates (Waffenbesitzkarte, Waffenpaß). Military weapons are prohibited (also, possession of such weapons).

✉ **Bundesministerium für Inneres**  
Herrengasse 7, A – 1014 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.53126



## GAME & HUNTING SEASON

Species	Hunting season*	Yearly bag 1998
Red deer	01.08. - 31.12. 01.07 - 31.12.	45.000
Roe deer	01.05. - 15.10. 01.08. - 31.12.	260.000
Chamois	01.08. - 31.12.	25.000
Mouflon	01.08. - 31.12.	1.800
Wild boar	01.01. - 31.12.	25.000
Brown hare	01.10. - 31.12.	200.000
Partridge	01.09. - 31.10.	10.000
Pheasant	01.10. - 31.12.	200.000
Wild ducks	01.09. - 31.12.	90.000
Red fox	01.01. - 31.12.	60.000
Marten	01.01. - 31.12.	25.000
Badger	01.07. - 15.01.	8.000

The hunting laws of the *Länder* and the implementation regulations establish for each *Land* the hunting season for the different species. Game species are only those species, that are referred to in the hunting laws of the *Länder* and in the regulations that establish the hunting season. Some species are game-species in one *Land* and, only for legal reasons, not a „game species“ in another *Land* – for example the Golden jackal, Nutria and Elk.

Individual district-administrations have also the possibility to modify (to prolong or to shorten) the hunting season for a given district, taking into account regional specificities and particularities.

Certain game species are subject to shooting plans. They can only be shot with official authorization, and the specified plans must be carried out.

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002

Shooting plans apply to all large game (except Wild boar), Tetraonids and, in some *Länder*, Marmot. For every hunting area, the entitled hunter or his game keeper must keep track of the hunted animals in form of a list. This list has to be presented once a year to the competent authority to verify the number of animals taken. The numbers of hunted game are also verified at an annual game management fair (*Trophäenschau*). All trophy-animals (game with antlers and horns) must be presented by the hunters who took the game. The game taken is evaluated according to sex and age categories and the numbers are compared with the shooting plans.

### Research institutes

- ☒ **Forschungsinstitut für Wildtierkunde und Ökologie der Vet.Med.Universität Wien**  
Savoyenstraße 1, A – 1160 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.4890915
- ☒ **Institut für Wildbiologie und Jagdwirtschaft der Universität für Bodenkultur Wien**  
Peter Jordan-Straße 76, A – 1190 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.47654.4450
- ☒ **Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien**  
Josef Baumann Gasse 1, A – 1210 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.25916870
- ☒ **Bundesanstalt für Tierseuchenbekämpfung**  
Robert Koch-Gasse 17, A – 2340 Mödling  
Tel.: +43.2236.22411
- ☒ **Forstliche Bundesversuchsanstalt**  
Seckendorff-Gudent-Weg 8, A – 1131 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.87838
- ☒ **Bundesanstalt für vet.med. Untersuchungen**  
Kudlichstraße 27, A – 4020 Linz  
Tel.: +43.732.657309
- ☒ **FUST- Projekt Achenkirch**  
A – 6215 Achenkirch 320  
Tel.: +43.5246.6611

## Travel in/out with trophies

The veterinary regulations need to be respected. For bringing trophies to Austria, the requirement of a veterinary control remains valid. If the trophy is cleanly packed and accompanied by an export certificate/declaration (from a veterinarian, hunting authority or agent, inspection centre) the import-procedure is simplified. If these documents are presented, the veterinarian at the border control post decides if the import can take place. Trophies from countries with a risk of epidemics or suspected to be affected by epidemics may not be imported.

For trophies of species listed in the Washington Convention (CITES), an import permit must be obtained beforehand.

- ☒ **Bundesministerium für Soziale Sicherheit und Generationen**  
Radetzkystraße 2, A-1031 Wien  
Tel.: +43.1.71172

✉ **Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft**  
( CITES )  
Stubenbastei 5, A-1010 Wien  
Tel.: 43.1.51522-0

## GUNDOGS

All persons entitled to hunt must ensure a dog of appropriate ability is available for use on the territory; there must be at least one dog available for each territory. Gundog breeding and training is organized by two federations:

✉ **Österreichischer Jagdgebrauchshunde-Verband (ÖJGV)**  
Schlag 6, A - 4280 Königswiesen  
Generalsekretärin: Brigitte Fröschl  
Tel.: +43.1.7955-6395

✉ **Österreichischer Kynologenverband (ÖKV)**  
Johann Teufelgasse 8, A - 1238 Wien  
General Secretary: Mag. Heliane Maissen-Jarisch and President Dr. Michael Kreiner  
Tel.: +43.1.8887092 or 8887093

During the training of the dogs for hunting purposes, they must pass several trials. The standards for the approval of the dogs as hunting dogs are the result of practical hunting considerations, taking into account the actual requirements about animal welfare, sportsmanship and game meat hygiene. Unnecessary suffering of game must be systematically avoided by the intervention of qualified dogs.

## TOURISM

**Generaldirektion der Österreichischen Bundesforste AG**  
Pummerngasse 10 –12 A – 3002 Purkersdorf  
Tel.: + 43.2231.600.0  
e-mail : [bundesforste@bundesforste.at](mailto:bundesforste@bundesforste.at)

## CULTURE

### Hunting Museums

**Jagdmuseum Schloß Marchegg**

2293 Schloß Marchegg

Tel.: +43.2285.224

**Verein Oberösterreichisches Jagdmuseum Schloss Hohenbrunn**

4020 Linz, Humboldtstraße 49

Tel.: +43.732.663445

**Vorarlberger Naturschau**

6850 Dornbirn, Marktstraße 33

### Hunting Press

**Österreichs Weidwerk**

1080 Wien, Wickenburggasse 3/13

Tel.: +43.1.405163630

e-mail: [redaktion@weidwerk.at](mailto:redaktion@weidwerk.at)

**Der Anblick**

8010 Graz, Heinrichstraße 125/IV

Tel.: +43/316/321248

**St. Hubertus**

1120 Wien, Schöglgasse 36

Tel.: +43/1/8042760

**Der Oberösterreichische Jäger**

C/o Oberösterreichischer Landesjagdverband

**Jagd in Tirol**

c/o Tiroler Landesjägerschaft

**Der Kärntner Jäger**

C/o Kärntner Jägerschaft

**Vorarlberger Jagd und Fischerei**

6800 Feldkirch, Wolf Huber-Straße 12

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Every county hunting federation administers different assistance projects on biotops' management:

- plants: land purchasing actions for browsing plantations to provide for cover and feeding areas
- wild fruit trees bearing fruit
- seed blending actions for fallow land and food patches
- tree protection columns as a browsing and fraying protection for wind protection strips and forest edge habitats
- additionally, every county hunting federation promotes projects in favour of individual species: Partridge (*Perdix perdix*), Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), Black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), Hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Great bustard (*Otis tarda*), Lynx (*Lynx lynx*), Eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*) and other game species.

The county hunting federations are grouped together in the national *Zentralstelle* and in this way, they are members of the Austrian conservation society - *Österreichische Gesellschaft für Natur- und Umweltschutz* (ÖGNU). Furthermore, all hunters are members of the Austrian conservation federation, *Österreichischer Naturschutzbund*.

The county federations contribute annually to 2,2 EUR per hunter to game research. Contracts to provide assistance have been signed with the Vienna University for Veterinary Medicine (Game research and Ecology Institute) - *Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien (Forschungsinstitut für Wildtierkunde und Ökologie)* - and Vienna University of Land Use (Game biology and Hunting Science Institute) - *Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (Institut für Wildbiologie und Jagdwirtschaft)*. Their total value amount to 255.000 EUR per year.