



# WILD GAME FOODBANK DONATION PROGRAM

## Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest

1. In the Alberta tradition of caring for those less fortunate, the Alberta Hunters Who Care Wild Game Foodbank Program was established in 1996 to provide quality, high-protein food to people in need. The program is administered by the Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest Association, with funding assistance from the Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society — Legacy Fund & Safari Club International Alberta Chapter.
2. Hunters are encouraged to participate in the program by sharing their harvest of whitetail, mule deer, elk or moose. The program provides meat to the Edmonton and Calgary Foodbanks, which distributes it to those in need.
3. Over 280,000 pounds of meat has been donated to the Alberta Foodbanks since the program began. The overall goal is to donate 20,000 pounds annually of wild game (elk, moose or deer).
4. The Hunters Who Care Foodbank Donation Program is modeled after similar programs in two other provinces and in several States in the US. Volunteers, in cooperation with the Alberta government, run the Alberta program. Currently the program is conducted only in selected areas, and expansion to other areas is subject to approval by the local health authority.
5. According to the Edmonton Foodbank, meat is not donated as readily as other items, which creates a shortage of protein for Foodbank recipients. Through the voluntary donations of wild game from caring hunters, this shortfall can be eliminated. Deer, elk and moose meat is considered to be a high quality and nutritious source of protein. (See Fact Sheet #15)
6. Certain requirements must be met to participate in this program.
  - Deer, elk or moose are the only game eligible to be donated.
  - Animals must be field dressed immediately after harvest. The HEART, LUNGS, and LIVER should be brought in with the carcass in an appropriate container with the hunters tag number. Any abnormal tissues found must also be noted and brought in to the meat processor for examination.
  - If the animal is skinned it must be wrapped in a clean, porous covering during transportation to a meat processing facility.
  - The carcass **MUST** be transported to a participating meat processing plant within 24 hours of harvest, if the temperature is above 0°C, and within 72 hours if the temperature is below 0°C.
7. Deer, elk, antelope and moose are only eligible for this program if they were harvested between October 15 and December 15.

# FACT SHEET # 11

- Hunters can donate halves or quarters of deer, elk or moose only if the entire carcass is brought in to the participating meat processor. The **Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest** program will pay the processors only for the portion of meat that is donated.
- Harvested animals can only be processed if brought to one of the participating meat processing facilities. To get a complete list of participating meat processors, please call the 24 hour information line at 780-443-6006.
- Primary financial sponsors of the program are Alberta Chapters of Safari Club International, Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and Alberta Professional Outfitters Association (APOS).

## KEY CONTACTS

24 Hour Information Line	780-443-6006
Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest	<i>Jim Thomson</i> Phone: 780-691-8907 <i>Ryan Grajczyk</i> Phone: 587-983-6687

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