



Hound Hunting Code of Ethos

The following code of ethos reflects the values, responsibilities, and ethical principles that guide the intentions of responsible hound hunters. This code is intended to ensure respect for wildlife, land, and traditions while fostering an honorable and sustainable hunting culture. Outside of this code, hunters should always use their best judgement to make ethical decisions when issues aren't clearly defined by laws or regulations.

Respect for Wildlife

1. **Prioritize Fair Chase:** Respect the natural abilities and instincts of both the hounds and the pursued wildlife. Refrain from engaging in practices that diminish the integrity of the hunt. Avoid the abuse of modern technology.
2. **Selective Harvest:** Hound hunting can be one of the most effective and accurate tools in wildlife management but only if hunters use it as such. The decision to harvest an animal should be based on what is best for the species by considering factors such as age, sex, and breeding status.
3. **Practice Humane Harvesting:** Make every effort to ensure a clean and ethical harvest of game when the decision to take an animal is made. Hounds are only intended to trail, tree, and/or bay the game they are turned out on. Hounds should be recalled and restrained as soon as possible, and every attempt should be made to avoid close contact between hounds and the game they are pursuing.

Commitment to Hound Welfare

4. **Provide Proper Care:** Maintain the health, safety, and well-being of your hounds. This includes regular veterinary care, appropriate nutrition, and safe living conditions.
5. **Train Responsibly:** Train hounds with patience, respect and consistency, abuse and neglect are never acceptable.
6. **Protect from Harm:** Avoid situations that may endanger your hounds or game unnecessarily, such as extreme weather conditions or hazardous terrains. Hounds should also always be restrained during harvest.

Respect for the Land and Others

7. **Obtain Permission:** Always seek permission before hunting on private land. Abide by all property boundaries and respect the rights of landowners.
8. **Preserve Public Lands:** Follow all regulations for public land use and motor vehicle access. Leave lands better than they were found.
9. **Minimize Disruptions:** Be mindful of others enjoying the outdoors, including hikers, campers, hunters, and other game species.

Ethics in the Field

8. **Follow All Laws:** Abide by all hunting regulations, including season dates, bag limits, and legal methods of harvest.
9. **Know Your Quarry:** Understand the species you are pursuing, including their behavior and habitat, to ensure responsible decision-making during the hunt.
10. **Accept Responsibility:** Take full responsibility for your actions in the field, including those of your hounds.

Upholding Tradition and Community

11. **Mentor the Next Generation:** Share your knowledge, skills, and ethical principles with newcomers to hound hunting.
12. **Promote Positive Perceptions:** Represent hound hunting respectfully and responsibly to the public, understanding that your actions reflect on the entire hunting community.
13. **Foster Community:** Support fellow hunters, wildlife professionals, and conservation organizations to preserve the tradition and future of hound hunting.
14. **Social Media:** Be aware that social media shares our world with audiences that may not understand or participate in hunting. When posting content, be conscious of that audience and educate, inform, and promote the tradition of hunting with hounds.

By adhering to this code of ethos, hound hunters honor the land, wildlife, and the traditions that make this pursuit a meaningful and respected way of life.

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