

Attention Hunters!

Lead can be a deadly substance to wildlife even in very small quantities. Bullet fragments and residue contained in game gut piles and discarded meat is a major source of lead poisoning for scavenging wildlife. Endangered California condors, golden eagles, bald eagles, and many other bird species are extremely vulnerable. Mammal scavengers like coyotes, foxes, badgers, and smaller species may also be at risk.

Did you know...as a bullet travels through a game animal's body--even if it exits the body--it leaves behind lead residue? If the bullet hits bone, it may fragment even further. Bullet residue and fragments remain in the guts or unusable meat, or in wounded and lost game that serves as food for many types of wildlife. When contaminated meat is eaten by a scavenger, stomach acids break down the fragments into lead salts which are then absorbed into the bloodstream and carried to various parts of the body. The digestive tract becomes paralyzed and starvation results.

You Can Help

You can help protect our wildlife from unintended lead poisoning by taking these simple steps:

1) Bury gut piles and trimmed portions of your game to a depth and in a location that will discourage scavengers.

2) Use bullets that do not leave lead residue when penetrating through the game. Products currently available include PMC-El Dorado Ammunition copper X-Bullets, and the Winchester Supreme Fail Safe bullet.*

Check with your ammunition supplier for the latest products.

For more information on this topic, contact your local office of the USDA Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, or the California Department of Fish and Game. Also, visit the Ventana Wilderness Society's website at www.VentanaWS.org, or see the Summer 2000 issue of the California Hog Hunter newsletter for an in depth story (www.outdoorpressroom.com).

Thanks for doing your part to protect our wildlife



* (Note: This product information is provided solely as a public service and does not imply endorsement by the USDA Forest Service.)