

## Hunting in Sweden

### Key figures

#### Area

449 964 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Protected areas

10.6 % - Hunting may occur in regulated forms

#### Population

9 316 256

#### Number of hunters

264,000 (2009/10)

#### Main game species

##### Big game:

Moose (*Alces alces*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) Red deer (*Cervus Elaphus*) ; Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)

##### Small game:

European brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) Mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*), Willow grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*), Rock Ptarmigan (*L. muta*), Black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), Capercaillie (*T. urogallus*). Many waders, ducks and gees are also hunted.

## Hunting in Sweden

Hunting in Sweden is an important activity, providing recreation as well as meat. The wide variety of natural habitats with good opportunities for hunting means that hunting takes place to a greater or lesser extent on most land in Sweden where it is legally permitted.

### Hunting rights

Any person owning land has the exclusive right to hunt on his/her own land. If landowners do not want to exercise these rights, they can lease them out in whole or in part.

The Sami, the indigenous population in Sweden, have the right to hunt and fish on the traditional land of the Sami, Sapmi, which is situated in the Northern parts of Sweden. This also include the right to hunt on privately owned land. In large parts of Northern Sweden there are thus parallel rights to hunt tied to the land.

### Prerequisites for hunting

All hunters (including foreign hunters) must pay a permit license fee valid from 1 July to 30 June. The fee is 30 €. To be allowed to hunt and eligible for a firearms licence, the hunters must also have passed the Swedish hunting examination. Foreign hunters need special permits to bring their weapons to Sweden. Many hunters are landowners and may thus hunt on their own property. More than half of the hunters however lease shooting rights or belong to co-operative associations.

### The hunter

During the hunting season 2009/2010 there were roughly 264 000 hunters granted a hunting permit. Most of these are men, but more and more women are taking up hunting, this season about 14 500.

### Recruitment

The number of hunters ,counted as those who pay the compulsory hunting fee, has decreased significantly during the last decades. Since hunting still has a strong support among the public in Sweden, it can be explained by changing demographic s, in particular urbanisation and an aging population.

**HUNT** is an interdisciplinary international research project, financed by the EU's 7th Framework Programme, looking into the wider meaning of hunting in the 21st century.



## The game

Most game species, both mammals and birds, have increased during the last fifty years. Moose and roe deer are the most common game animals in Sweden. Annually about 90 000 moose and 200 000 roe deer's are harvested. Small game hunting is also a widespread hunting activity, primarily for hare, grouse and ducks. Around 40 species of birds can also be hunted.

## Management

The hunting rights entail an obligation to manage wildlife. The government has entrusted the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management to provide objective and accessible expertise on other wildlife than large predators, hunting and wildlife management issues, and some wildlife research. The "general assignment " includes an overall responsibility for managing and developing the professional training of hunters, providing advice on protective and other injury prevention, coordination of moose management, documentation of game access and firing statistics.

## The rules of the game

From 1967 and onwards the general principle for all hunting is that all animals (wild mammals and birds including eggs and nests) are protected unless there is an official hunting period for a certain animal (Art. 3). The government decides which species can be hunted and when. There are different hunting seasons for various species and they vary between different parts of the country. Which species can be hunted and the hunting seasons that apply are specified in the Hunting Ordinance.

## Controversies

The support for hunting among the public in Sweden is strong. There is thus a wide acceptance for hunting, in terms of wildlife management but also as a way of providing food. The support for 'pure' recreational hunting is however lower. Controversies surrounding hunting is linked to hunting rights in the mountains, the traditional area for the indigenous population in Sweden, the Sami, browsing damages made by in particular moose but also other herbivores, and to what extent the large carnivores in Sweden can or should be hunted. Another problem related to in particular the large number of herbivores but also the increasing number of wild boars is the number of traffic accidents that occur every year all over the country.

## More on hunting in Sweden

<http://www.jagareforbundet.se/>

<http://www.jagarnasriksforbund.se/>

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/sv/>

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