

# HOW DO WE EXPOSE WILDLIFE TO LEAD?

HUNTING & SPORT SHOOTING

BEFORE LAWS WERE INTRODUCED IN NORTH AMERICA TO RESTRICT THE USE OF LEAD IN AMMUNITION, **3 MILLION** DUCKS AND GEESE **DIED** FROM LEAD POISONING EVERY YEAR!

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS (BIRDS OF PREY) AND GROUND HORNBILLS ARE AT GREATER RISK OF LEAD EXPOSURE THAN OTHER BIRDS.

## WATERBIRDS

have very **muscular stomachs** which grind and erode metallic lead. The lead is then quickly spread to other parts of the body via the blood stream.

The stomachs of **RAPTORS** are less muscular but they are **very acidic**.

**GROUND HORNBILLS** are at even higher risk as they have both very **muscular stomachs** and **high stomach acidity**.

*Lead shot that falls in wetlands or on the ground may be **ingested** by ducks, gamebirds & cranes.*

## IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH!!

Ground Hornbills have been poisoned by lead fragments as small as a **THIRD** OF A GRAIN OF RICE.

Lead bullet fragments can travel **long distances** from the entry wound and may be too small to see except on x-rays. When hunting with lead ammunition, the **bullets and all tissues in a 30 cm radius** around the wound channel should be **removed** if the carcass is to be left in the veld.

30 cm  
(750ml wine bottle)

## ...AND WHAT ABOUT US?

Lead is most easily absorbed by the body when it is **inhaled**. This can happen lead is melted down to make sinkers or ammunition at home.



Users of indoor shooting ranges that are poorly ventilated and employ powder discharges are exposed to **MUCH** higher levels of lead.

Lead dust from fishing sinkers contaminates tackle boxes, tables and other surfaces in the home, leading to **skin absorption** or inhalation.



Large concentrations of accumulated lead in a waterbody can **contaminate drinking and irrigation water**, posing a severe threat to humans.

## BE LEAD-WISE



**DO NOT** let children handle lead sinkers or ammunition.



Use gloves, masks and well-ventilated rooms when re-loading ammunition.



Use outdoor shooting ranges or well-ventilated indoor ranges.



Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water if you've handled anything made of lead, especially before eating.