

Code of Ethics for Duck Hunters

This Code of Ethics has been prepared to provide guidance to duck hunters to ensure hunting is conducted in a manner that is sustainable, responsible, safe, lawful and meets broad community expectations.

The ethical duck hunter upholds the following principles:

1. Respect

- Shows respect for ducks, other wildlife, other people, the environment, and cultural assets
- Is considerate and courteous to all people they encounter while hunting
- Only takes what they plan to use

2. Responsible Conduct

- Understands that hunting is a privilege and comes with responsibilities
- Possesses the necessary skills and strives to maintain and/or improve through regular practice
- Understands the limits of their abilities and equipment and hunts within them
- Only takes a shot where a rapid death is highly probable
- Only fires at ducks on the water that are wounded, after ensuring it is safe to do so

3. Adherence to Laws

- Knows and obeys all relevant firearms and hunting legislation and regulations
- Doesn't tolerate illegal or irresponsible behaviour and promotes good behaviour

4. Commitment to Animal Welfare

- Understands and respects that every animal is a living creature and should not suffer unnecessarily as a result of hunting
- Understands the causes of and takes proactive steps to reduce wounding
- In cases where a duck is not fatally struck, the hunter makes every effort to promptly locate, retrieve, and humanely dispatch the wounded animal, ensuring it does not suffer needlessly

This Code of Ethics was developed by the Wounding Reduction Working Group in December 2024 as an action under Victoria's Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan.

The Code is endorsed by Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Vic) and Field and Game Australia.

For information on how to reduce wounding, visit: [Reduce Wounding - Game Management Authority](#)