



Glen Dene Safety brief when hunting

Safety

Before any hunting you will be invited to practice at the rifle range. This is important as often you may be using a strange rifle and or your rifle could have been knocked in transit. We will give you instruction on breathing and get you well prepared for the big occasion.

A safety briefing will be given covering key firearms safety items as well as matters unique to the Glen Dene environment.

Other issues that are important before you enter the field are to ensure that there is solid backstops behind the deer before taking the shot and that you have an uninterrupted view of the background.

Never assume that thicket woodland will stop a bullet or that a thicket is unoccupied.

Always check that the line of shot is unobstructed.

Always check the bore of your rifle before loading and especially if there is the slightest danger of the bore having been fouled with mud or snow.

Always apply the safety catch after loading and do not release it until about to take the shot.

Always unload your rifle and check before entering a house or vehicle.

Always remove the round from the breech before crossing an obstacle.

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If for any reason it is necessary to leave a rifle in a (locked) vehicle, ensure that it is out of sight, remove the bolt and ammunition and where practicable carry them with you.

Taking a Shot

Safety is paramount – never take a shot if there is the slightest doubt about safety.

Always identify your deer and ensure that no other deer are behind it that may be wounded by your shot passing through the target.

Never fire at a deer unless you are absolutely sure that it is well within your effective killing range.

Always ensure that, except at very close ranges, your deer is broadside on. **Never take a head shot as this often results in a shattered jaw or nose-bone.**

A broadside shot through heart or lungs is strongly recommended.

Never take a shot at a running deer – sooner or later this will result in a wounded deer (the exception being a second shot at a wounded deer). **If in any doubt over any shot don't fire.**

Before the shot mark the position of the deer by some adjacent feature – brush, tree or rock for example and then if the deer runs off into cover **always assume that you have hit it.**

Immediately feed another round into the breech and then wait. You should learn to recognise the behaviour of deer shot in different parts of the body as this will dictate how long you should wait before following up. Whatever the circumstances wait at least five minutes.

You should then approach the spot where the deer was standing and search for signs such as hair or blood. If you cannot find the carcass, do not give up. Follow the blood trail slowly, if possible with the aid of a trained dog. At all times be prepared to shoot again if necessary, but remember that at a range of a few metres the bullet will strike below the point of aim.

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