



# WILD GAME FOODBANK DONATION PROGRAM

## Hunters Who Care

1. In the Alberta tradition of caring for those less fortunate, the Alberta Hunters Who Care Wild Game Foodbank Program was established in 1996 to provide quality, high-protein food to people in need. The program is administered by the Alberta Hunters Who Care Association, with funding assistance from the Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society - Legacy Fund, Safari Club International Northern Alberta Chapter and the Ministers Special License Program.
2. Hunters are encouraged to participate in the program by sharing their harvest of whitetail, mule Deer, elk or moose. The program provides meat to the Edmonton Foodbank, which distributes it to those in need.
3. Over 105,000 pounds of meat has been donated to the Edmonton Foodbank since the program began. The overall goal is to donate 20,000 pounds annually of wild game (elk, moose or deer).
4. The Hunters Who Care Foodbank Donation Program is modeled after similar programs in two other provinces and in all 50 States of the U.S.A. Volunteers in cooperation with the Alberta government run the Alberta program. Currently the program is conducted only in selected areas, and expansion to other areas is subject to approval by the local health authority.
5. According to the Edmonton Foodbank, meat is not donated as readily as other items, which creates a shortage of protein for Foodbank recipients. Through the voluntary donations of wild game from caring hunters this shortfall can be eliminated. Deer, elk and moose meat is considered to be a high quality and a nutritious source of protein.  
(See Fact Sheet #15)
6. Certain requirements must be met to participate in this program.
  - Deer, elk or moose are the only game eligible to be donated.
  - Animals must be field dressed immediately after harvest. The HEART, LUNGS, and LIVER must be brought in with the carcass in an appropriate container with the hunters tag number. Any abnormal tissues found must also be noted and brought in to the meat processor for examination.
  - If the animal is skinned it must be wrapped in a clean, porous covering during transportation to a meat processing facility.
  - The carcass **MUST** be transported to a participating meat processing plant within 24 hours of harvest. No completely frozen carcasses will be accepted.
7. Deer, elk and moose are only eligible for this program if they were harvested between October 25<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>.

8. Hunters can donate halves or quarters of deer, elk or moose only if the entire carcass is brought in to the participating meat processor. The Hunters Who Care program will pay the processors only for the portion of meat that is donated.
9. Harvested animals can only be processed if brought to one of the participating meat processing facilities listed below. Please contact the facility prior to bringing in the animal to ensure all requirements are met.
  - Country Meat Market - Wainwright 780.842.2095
  - Vermillion Packers - Vermillion 780.853.4622
  - Sandy View Farms - Spruce Grove 780.962.0067
  - Kastelen Sausage - Ardrossan 780.922.5322
10. All 2007 meat processing costs were paid for by a generous grant from:
  - Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS) Legacy Fund
  - Northern Alberta Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI)
  - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
  - Hunting For Tomorrow (HFT)
  - Alberta Conservation Association (ACA)
  - Ministers Special License Program

## KEY CONTACTS

<b>Hunters Who Care Foodbank Donation Program</b>	<b>24 Hour Hotline:</b> 780.962.1460
<b>Alberta Hunters Who Care Supervisors</b>	<i>Jim Thomson</i> <b>Phone:</b> 780.962.9452 <i>Gordon Corcoran</i> <b>Phone:</b> 780.842.3774

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