

# **Sweden – a country of endless hunting opportunities**



Svenska Jägarförbundet



# A RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The cultivated plains in the South, interrupted by woodlands of broad-leaf trees, the archipelagoes of the coastal areas and the vast forests and mires of central Sweden, end in the arctic tundra and mountains of the far North.

These different types of nature offer a rich flora and fauna, but also recreational activities such as hunting. It is our responsibility, to our self and to future generations, to ensure that these gifts of nature are used in a proper way.

For hunting, the “wise use” principle is paramount. Biological knowledge is guiding the establishment of hunting seasons in Sweden, the improvement of methods and trapping traditions.

Under such conditions, hunting is a part of a sound game management and wise use of renewable resources. In addition, hunting gives us large economic and social values and is a part of the Swedish hunter.

*His Majesty, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden*

1992

# HISTORICAL OUTLINE

- On the 21st of February 1789 "common people" were given the right to hunt by King Gustav III – a decision which still has an impact on hunting in Sweden.
- As a result the game was hunted almost to extinction

## FOUNDING OF THE SWEDISH ASSOCIATION FOR HUNTING AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- On the 3rd of April 1830 the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management was founded
- The basic purpose was to stop the extinction of our wildlife and form an ethical hunting tradition.

*The first chairman  
Jacob Wilhelm Sprengtporten*



# THE FIRST MODERN HUNTING LAW WAS ADOPTED IN 1938

- Main principles:
  - **4 §** game conservation is a shared responsibility for hunters and landowners
  - **27 §** The hunt shall be conducted in a way that ensure that the game is not subject to unnecessary suffering and that humans and property are not exposed to danger
- Hunting season shall be based on biological preconditions
- The Landowner owns the hunting rights
- Guiding principle “Freedom under responsibility” and the “wise use” principle is paramount.
- At this moment, an important overview of the hunting law and wildlife management in Sweden is under investigation .



# THE HUNTING ACT AND THE PUBLIC COMMISSION FROM 1938

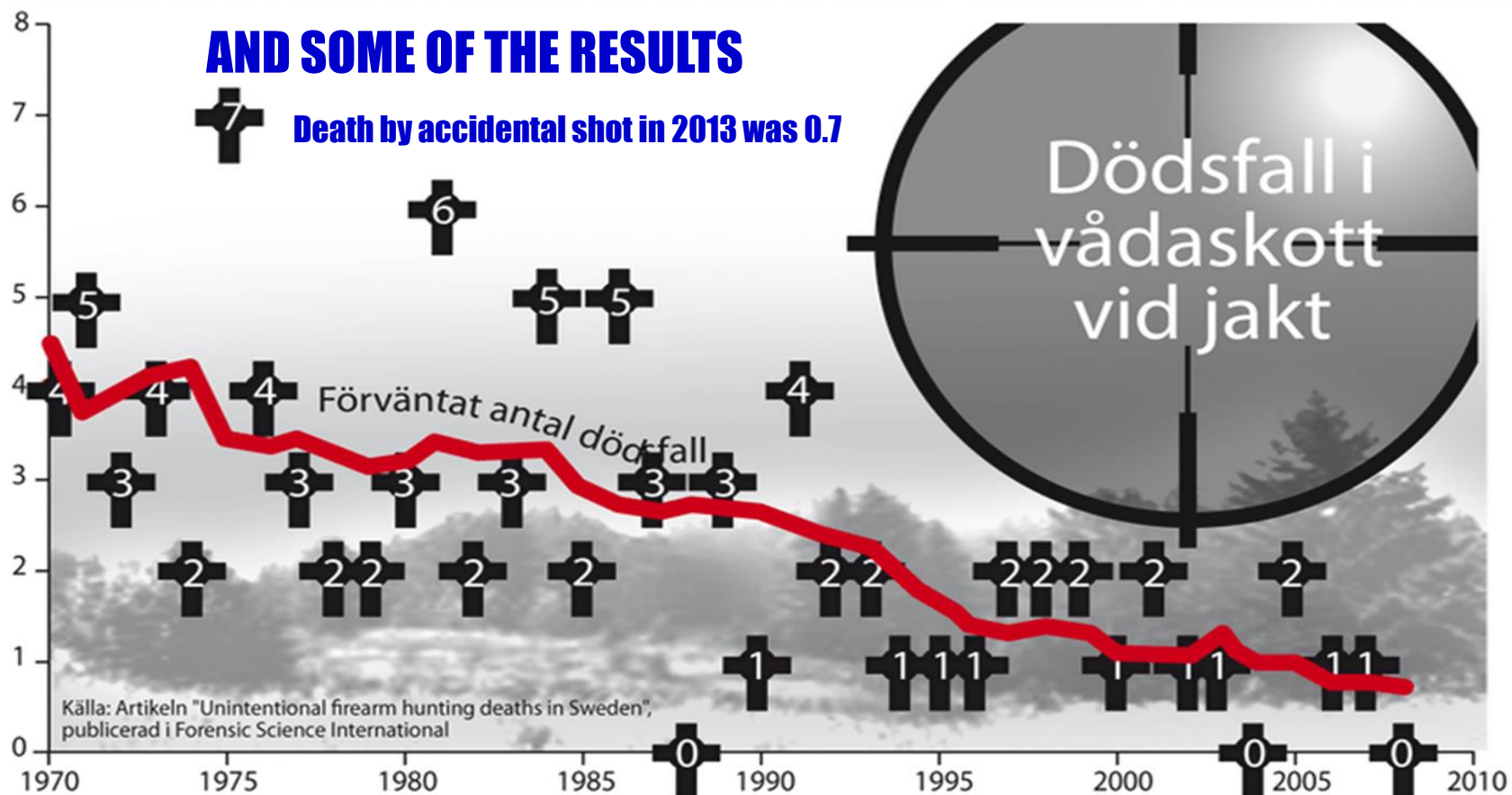
- Hunting is part of wildlife conservation
- The Swedish Association is commissioned to lead parts of the wildlife management – and still does. We have 76 years of game management in public service
- Every hunter needs to pay an annual game conservation fee in order to be able to hunt.
- The money is used for research and other activities connected to wildlife management. The fee is approx. 34 euros
- The association receives some 5,8 million Euro annually. The government decides on a detailed “to do list” related to game management.





# THE HUNTER EXAM SINCE 1985

- Compulsory examination for everyone who wants to buy a hunting weapon.
- Theoretical as well as practical tests.
- Application to the police district before receiving licence.



# THE ASSOCIATION

- A non profit, member owned organisation
- 22 county organisations form the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management.
- President Björn Sprängare leads the board
- Secretary General Bo Sköld leads the staff
- Approx. 160 000 members
- Approx. 15 000 women
- About 100 employed and 5 000 voluntary workers within the organisation
- 14 offices from Luleå in the North to Kristianstad in the South
- High profile projects as raccoon dog and lesser white fronted goose



## HUNTING OF TODAY

- Never before have so many hunters had so much game and so many possibilities to hunt
- Many species are today steadily increasing in numbers and other species are currently establishing i.e. grey goose, wild boars, fallow deer, beaver and the "great four" large carnivores...
- Hunting are for all social classes
- Hunting are mainly done in hunting clubs
- Moose is still Nr. 1 but wild boars and deer are increasing in popularity
- Sustainable hunting (harvesting the revenue) is accepted by the hunters
- The hunting dog is essential

Especially hunting with free-roaming hunting dogs



**Moose hunting with free-roaming hunting dog**

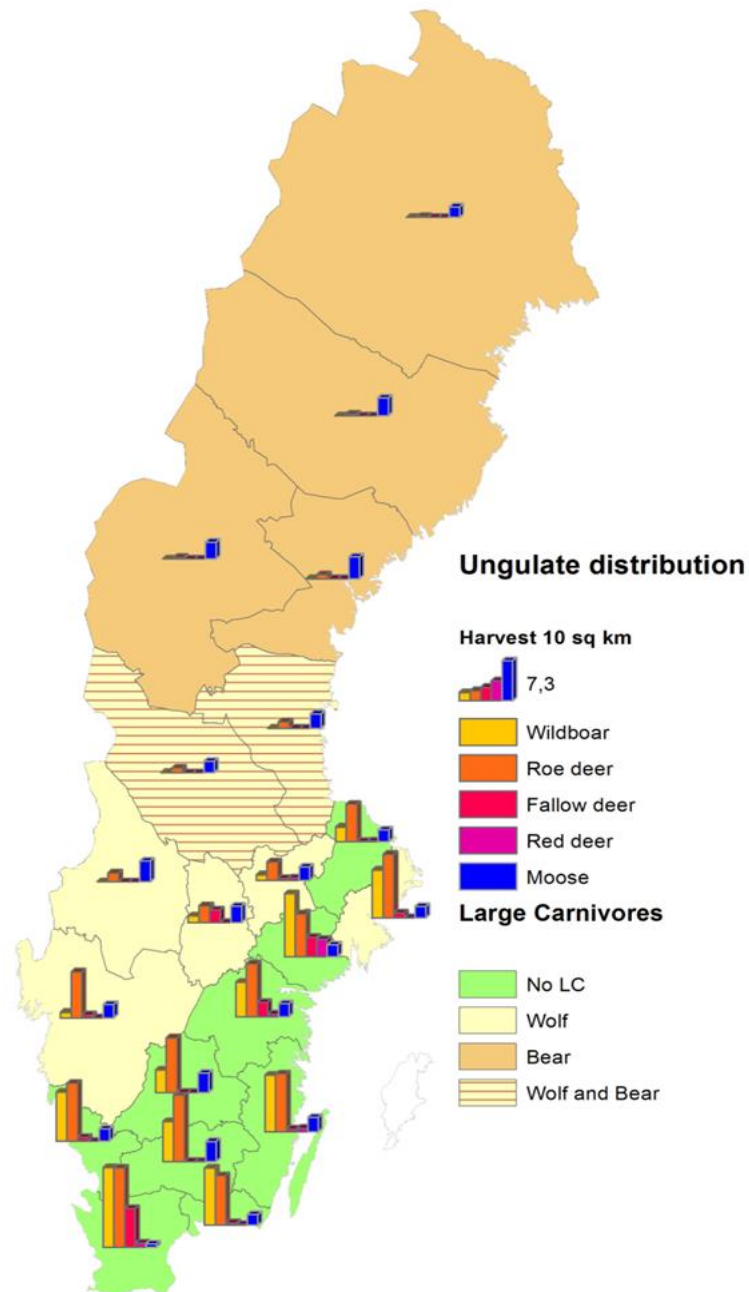




# BAG STATISTIC 2012/2013

- Moose 95 937
- Wild boar 97 300 (100% increase )
- Roe deer 96 400
- Red deer 6000
- Fallow deer 31 000
- Mouflon 500
- Brown Bear 302
- Red fox 72 400
- Badger 27 500
- Mountain hare 18 600
- European hare 30 100
- Mallard 113 200
- Pheasant 23 800
- Capercaillie 16 500

**All bag statistics is public data** (we have statistic data from 1850, in modern time from 1938)



# THE AVERAGE HUNTER

- The average Swedish hunter hunts for 28 days per year
- Has an average income and average education
- The Swedish hunters are organized in 30 000 hunting teams
- 200 000 dogs are kept in Sweden primarily for hunting
- 87% of the Swedes are positive to hunting, increasing...
- 70% of the Swedes know a hunter personally
- In total 300 000 hunters in Sweden
- Game research is funded by the hunters and they carry out most of game monitoring



# ACCEPTANCE FOR HUNTING

- Steady increase in acceptance for hunting:

1971: 70%	1980: 72%
2001: 81%	2008: 82%
2009: 79%	2010: 84%
2012: 86%	<b>2013: 87%</b>
- If you "use" the nature you will accept hunting, fishing, forestry...
- Acceptance is driven by mainly two things: If you know a hunter and if you have eaten game meat.
- Using and taking care of the game is therefore necessary to obtain high acceptance in Sweden.
- Research from SLU shows that game meat is the most environmentally friendly meat.



# Hunting's position in society

- Common interest for Swedes are outdoor activities as well as sustainable use and climate change effects.
- Hunting is considered, by an increasing number, as a wildlife management tool and as a sustainable use of nature
- Consumers are showing an increasing interest in game meat as a healthy alternative to red meat
- A lot of Swedish celebrities hunt, this is one of our members in a commercial
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2GCINBmGIc>



# MAIN ISSUES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

- Investigation and overview of the hunting law and wildlife management in Sweden. – A High priority activity
- Hunting Ethics
- Management of large carnivores, wild boars and moose management and the cooperation with forestry



## FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Europe's fastest urbanisation – how do we deal with it
- Will the society move toward more vegetarianism?
- Possible changes in political leadership
- The impact of EU



# TO SUMMARIZE SWEDISH HUNTING TRADITION AND CULTURE

## The hunting law

- **4 §** game conservation is a shared responsibility for hunters and landowners
- **27 §** The hunt shall be conducted in a way that the game is not subject to unnecessary suffering.
- Guiding principle “Freedom under responsibility” and the “wise use” principle is paramount
- Every man´s right and the landowners right
- **The high acceptance for hunting 87%, 6% are against**
- **The public commission from 1938**
  - To lead and organize parts of the wildlife management in Sweden
  - Fact-based management
  - A non profit organization with professional staff and voluntary workers all over the country
- **The moose hunt with free-roaming dogs**
- **Long and good cooperation with the parliament, departments and branch organisations**

