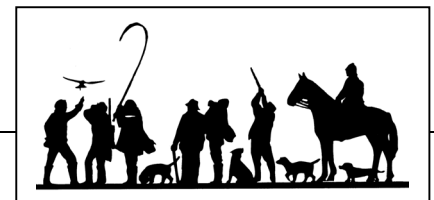


Hunting in the Netherlands



TERRITORY	
Area	41.526 km ²
Woodland	3.041 km ²
Unbuilt area	38.320 km ²
Farmland	23.833 km ²
Wetlands	5.952 km ²
Hunttable area	± 33.500 km ²
Hunttable area – average	± 21.000 km ²
HUNTER / INHABITANT	
Inhabitants	15.000.000
Number of hunters	30.000
% hunters	0,2% (1/500)
Density	385



Socio-demographic profile		
-	Employees/workers	14%
-	Farmers/foresters	10%
-	Pensioners	6%
-	farmers	21%
-	Executive managers	10%
-	workers	12%
-	teachers	3%
-	other	24%
	Age	Sex
40-59 years	51%	5 % of the hunters are women
21-39 years	25%	
60 years and more	23%	
21 years and less	1%	



HUNTING ADMINISTRATION

Responsible authorities

- ✉ **Ministry of Agriculture, Environment management and Fisheries**
20401 Postbus, NL-2500 EK DEN HAAG
Tel.: +31. (0) 70.379.39.11 – Fax +31. (0) 70.381.51.53

HUNTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

- ✉ **Royal Association of Dutch Hunters (KNJV)**
1165 Postbus, NL-3800 BD AMERSFOORT
Tel +31. (0) 33.461.98.41 – Fax +31.(0)33.465.13.55
E-mail: info@knjv.nl
<http://www.knjv.nl>

The history of the *Koninklijke Nederlandse Jagers Vereniging* (KNJV) starts on the first of January 1874 with the foundation of the *Nederlandse Jachtvereniging Nimrod* (Netherlands Shooting Association "Nimrod"). On the 9th of February 1949 the *Nederlandse Jagersvereniging* received the "Royal" title.

In 1904 the main objective was: "to promote the interests of the Dutch hunters" This objective can still be found in the regulations of the KNJV, but articles "to promote hunting as a part of wildlife management" and "the promotion of the interests of a justified game management" have been added.

Within the framework of an active nature, wildlife and game management, the Association is very active in improving the quality of hunting. In the 1960s the education of hunters was started on a voluntary basis. With the changes in the Game Act of 1977 the hunting examination, an initiative of KNJV, became obligatory. Through the Hunting Education Foundation (SJV) KNJV still educates new hunters for the examination. KNJV also initiates, supports and helps the Game Management Units (WBE), in which local hunters, farmers and other property owners work together in systematic wildlife management based on game management plans.



LEGISLATION

Hunting system

The *Flora and Fauna Act* is the main hunting legislation for in the Netherlands since april 1, 2002. According to this Act only 6 species are designated as 'game' (1 protected and 5 huntable). These species are hare, mallard, pheasant, pigeon and rabbit. The new Act makes a difference between hunting (= wise use of the 5 game species), management (i.e. ungulates) and crop damage control. For management and crop damage control, separate licenses, issued by the provincial government are necessary.

Permitted hunting methods

All netting, trapping etc. is prohibited, except for the live-trapping of crows, using cages and reared decoys. Registered duck decoys may catch mallard during the open season.

Hunting territories

The hunting rights belong to the landowner, who can let these rights for a period of 6 to 12 years. As far as territorial waters and State land are concerned, the hunting right also belongs to the owner (Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries), who can let out these rights (lease). Hunting territories must satisfy the following criteria's:

Hunting grounds must consist of an adjoining area of at least 40 ha., have a width of at least 300 meter and it must be possible to describe a circle with a radius of at least 150 meter in this area.

There are no areas in which hunting is freely available to everyone. Commercial hunting is prohibited in the Netherlands.

HUNTING EXAMINATION & PERMIT

Examination & Hunting License

The licence is mandatory and has to be renewed annually. Each year approximately 30.000 licences are issued. This licence will be granted if the applicant:

- is 18 years of age
- has an insurance voucher (covering third party risk for a minimum of 907.560,43 euro)
- has passed an approved hunting examination (approved are the exams of the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Luxemburg)
- is able to prove that he has an opportunity to hunt in the Netherlands. Hunting grounds must consist of an adjoining area of at least 40 ha., have a width of at least 300 meter and it must be possible to describe a circle with a radius of at least 150 meter in this area.

In case of improper conduct it is possible to revoke the licence by judicial judgement. The right to hunt is automatically lost if the hunting licence has expired. In the Netherlands, hunters have a general obligation to maintain or create a reasonable stock of game. There are no bag limits.

✉ **Stichting Jachtopleidingen Nederland**
Amsterdamseweg 16
NL- 3812 WS AMERSFOORT
Tél +31 (0) 33 463. 16. 14

Visitors' license

Hunters from abroad can get a Dutch hunting licence under the same conditions as Dutch hunters, i.e. they must have passed an approved hunting examination. Visitors on a personal invitation from a Dutch hunter can also get a special licence for six consecutive days. They can only use this licence when accompanied by a resident hunter with a normal licence. Residents of the European Union will need a European Firearms Pass to bring their weapons into the country. The costs for a normal licence is approx. euro 85. Of this amount a substantial part will go to the "Faunafonds". This fund is financed by hunters and the government and can - under circumstances - pay crop damage by game and other wild animals.

WEAPONS, CALIBRES & AMMUNITIONS

Legal calibres

Small game, waterfowl and other game can be shot with smooth barrelled guns of a calibre not smaller than .24 and not larger than .12. Single barrelled shotguns have a magazine that can hold a maximum of 2 cartridges. The maximum shot size for hare, pheasant, rabbit, woodpigeon and mallard is 3,5 mm. Rabbit and woodpigeon may also be shot with bullets of .22 inch (5,58 mm) calibre.

Big game may only be shot with rifles with the following ammunition:

-red deer, fallow deer, wild boar and moufflon: bullets of a calibre not smaller than 6,5 mm of which the impact energy at 100 meters of the barrel end (E100) is at least 2.200 joules

-roe deer: bullets of which the impact energy at 100 meters of the barrel end (E100) is at least 980 joules.



The use of military ammunition (full metal jacket) and bullets that do not deform on impact is prohibited. The use of leadshot is also prohibited as is the use of silencers and artificial lights on the weapon. Automatic or semi-automatic guns of which the magazine can hold more than 2 cartridges may not be used.

Travelling with Firearms

Residents of the European Union will need a European Firearms Pass to bring their weapons into the country.

GAME & HUNTING SEASONS

In the Netherlands, hunters are obliged to maintain or create a reasonable stock of game, but there are no bags limits.

Species	Open seasons
Hare (<i>lepus capensis</i>)	15/10 – 31/12
Pheasant (<i>phasianus colchicus</i>) (female)	15/10 – 31/12
Pheasant (male)	15/10 – 31/01
Mallard (<i>anas platyrhynchos</i>)	15/08 – 31/01
Wood pigeon (<i>columba palumbus</i>)	15/10 – 31/01
Rabbit (<i>oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	15/08 – 31/01

There are no regional differences in open seasons. In general, night hunting is forbidden. No shooting is allowed on Sundays, New Year's day, Easter, Whit Monday, Christmas, Boxing Day and Ascension Day. Moreover, there are restrictions for hunting under unfavourable weather conditions and other circumstances.

Game Management Units (*Wildbeheereenheden* ou *WBE*)

A Game Management Unit (GMU) is an area of at least 5.000 hectares in which the local hunters participate. The GMUs issue a Game Management Plan according to which all hunting should be conducted. The GMUs are generally recognized by the government and receive the necessary permits i.e. for shooting big game, or for shooting in the closed season to prevent crop damage. The GMU is responsible for re-issuing these permits to the hunters involved. Not shooting according to the Game Management Plan may result in a procedure for the Disciplinary Council, who can advise the head of police not to renew the hunting licence.

Import – export of hunting trophies

Imports are subject to veterinary controls.
For trophies of species listed in the Washington Convention (CITES), an import permit is required.

GUNDOGS

General information

- ☒ **Brakkenclub, Nederlandse** : Tel +31 (0) 23 565.14.00
- ☒ **Continental Staande Honden Vereniging**
Alde Singel 5, NL – 8401 BG Gorredijk
- ☒ **Drentsche Patrijshond, Ver.:** Tel +31 (0) 514 57 11 59
- ☒ **Duits Draadhaar, Vereniging Vrienden:**
Tel +31 (0) 495 54 54 91 – Fax +31 (0) 495 54 99 36
- ☒ **Duitse Staande Korthaar, Ned. Ver**
Tel/fax +31 (0) 75 615 77 01 **or** +31 (0) 20 697 89 44
- ☒ **Epagneul Breton Club Nederland**
Tel +31 (0) 76 593 20 09
- ☒ **Engelse Springer Spaniel Club Nederland** Tel +31 (0) 228 51 29 14
or (0) 78 610 42 95 **or** (0) 341 45 15 56 **or** (0) 224 55 22 71
- ☒ **Epagneul Français, Nederlandse Club** Tel +31 (0) 15 369 73 39
- ☒ **Flatcoated Retriever Club:** Tel/fax +31 (0) 313 61 97 11
- ☒ **Golden Retriever Club Nederland:** Tel +31 (0) 543 56 45 96 **or**
(0) 33 472 98 17
- ☒ **Gordon Setter Club:** Tel +31 (0) 343 49 14 29 **or** (0) 222 31 84 04
- ☒ **Nederlandse Griffon Club:** Tel +31 (0) 168 46 33 47 **or** (0) 345 64 26 96
- ☒ **Grote Münsterlander, Ver. Ned,** Tel: 0031 (0) 33 455 98 45 **or**
+31 (0) 485 55 19 80 **or** +31 (0) 571 27 34 31

- ☒ **Heidewachtelliefhebbers, Ned. Vereniging:** Tel: +31 (0) 79 342 17 37
or (0) 172 21 77 95

- ☒ **Hongaarse Staande Honden "Vizla" Vereniging van,**
Tel: +31(0) 529 46 01 07 or (0) 172 571 32 88

- ☒ **Ierse Setter Club,** Tel: +31 (0) 10 435 73 86

- ☒ **Ierse Waterspanielvereniging, Nederland** Tel: +31 (0) 544 481 16 66
or (0) 10 413 71 30

- ☒ **Jack Russel Terrier Club Nederland :** Tél/fax : +31 (0) 344 64 22 41 or
+31 (0) 181 41 73 96 or +31 (0) 497 57 19 78

- ☒ **Labrador Vereniging, Nederlandse :** Tel +31 (0) 35 692 21 03

- ☒ **Langhaar, Nederlandse Vereniging :** Tel +31 (0) 166 61 25 18

- ☒ **Pointer Club, Nederlandse :** Tel +31 (0) 72 574 19 39 or
(0) 492 34 38 92

- ☒ **Retriever Club, Nederlandse :** Tel +31 (0) 64 98 62 99

- ☒ **Spaniel Club, Nederlandse :** Tel +31 (0) 475 48 47 41

- ☒ **Stabij-en Wetterhounen, Ned. Ver. voor :** Tel +31 (0) 070 402 17 25

- ☒ **Teckelclub, Nederlandse :** Tel +31 (0) 76 520 51 55

- ☒ **De Weimarse Staande Hond :** Tel +31 (0) 524-55 36 04
or (0) 35 621 34 85

- ☒ **Welsh Springer Spaniel Club Ned :** Tel +31 (0) 297 21 24 78

TOURISM

In the Netherlands commercial hunting is prohibited. EU and non-EU visitors wishing to hunt in the Netherlands can only do it on personal invitation.

CULTURE

Hunting Magazines

Monthly publications on Nature, wild game management and gundogs and official press body of the national association of Dutch hunters (KNJV) :

- ✉ **De Nederlandse Jager**
1165 Postbus, NL-3800 BD Amersfoort
Tel +31.(0)33.461.98.41 / Fax +31.(0)33.465.13.55
E-mail: redactie@knjv.nl
<http://www.knjv.nl>

Museums

- ✉ **Museum for wild game management (Het Nederlands jachtmuseum)**
11 Postbus, NL - 6865 ZG DOORWERTH
Tel: +31.(0)85.33.53.75

Music

- ✉ **Nederlandse Vereniging van Jachthoornblazers**
Hilverbek 22, NL - 3334 GH Zwijndrecht
Tel +31 (0) 78 610 48 51