



big game hunting

Hunting in Sweden

by Evelina Aslund



Hunting season for Elk:

Eurasian elk (Europe) or the moose (North America) (*Alces alces*) is the largest extant species in the deer family and the hunting seasons are:-

Mid-Sweden and north: From the first Monday in September-January 31. (Oestrus break for about 2 weeks in late September and early October).

South Sweden: From the second Monday in October, January 31. (Oestrus break for about 2 weeks in late September and early October).

Other Game.

Bear: From August 21 until the quota is filled. (Usually in mid-September).

Capercaillie and Black Grouse: From August 25 to January 31.

Grouse: From August 25 to February 28.
Beaver: From October 1 to May 15.
Wildboar: From July 1 to June 30.

Elk Hunting in Sweden

In Sweden we have an ancient tradition of hunting elk. The meat of the elk here in the North has been a very important staple food for many thousands of years. Before there were guns people were digging pit traps in the forest to catch the elk. In Sweden, more specifically right here in Jämtland where I live and work, there are thousands of these ancient trap holes left in the forests and are now regarded as ancient monuments. Even today, just the meat of the elk is the staple food for many Swedish hunters. Many here still hunt elk purely for that very reason. Most people who hunt moose in Sweden own the land or lease the land from forestry companies or private landowners. It usually is adjacent landowners and tenants who are organized into hunting parties who arrange the hunting of the elk. Each hunting area receives an annual quota from the State to

shoot a specific number of elk depending on the growth of the population. Each hunting team has a designated hunt leader.

Moosehunting with loose dogs

In Sweden the traditional way of hunting elk is with loose dogs that scent the elk and once located bring it to a stop. This means that we use dogs specially bred to get the moose to stop and stand still. This ensures that you, as a hunter, can manage to sneak up within shooting distance of the animal. If you have a good well trained dog that holds an animal in a good position you will inevitably get a lot of nice and exciting hunting experiences in the woods!

The most common breeds of dog to use for this type of hunting are the Gråhund, Jämthund and Laika. This form of hunting has many benefits when you have the ability to trap elk in your hunting area. Elk hunting is a satisfying but arduous hunt as the elk can travel many kilometres before the dogs bring it to ground. Traveling light is the best way



to keep up with the elk and you must ensure you catch it and shoot it before it travels into another's hunting area. When the dogs have the elk at bay you can get very close to it to take the shot whilst taking great care not to hit the dogs. But you also have a good option to choose if you want to shoot it a little

further out. But above all, you must always implement your professionalism as a hunter and shooter as this requires a lot of skill to ensure success with a clean and humane kill. The barking dogs distract the moose's attention and you therefore have a chance to get up close. The main thing to keep in mind is ensuring you are always downwind to prevent the animal catching your scent, otherwise the elk will take off and be lost to you. As a shooter, you must make your way towards the moose very, very quietly and therefore must have soft, "quiet" clothing that does not make a sound when they scratched against the branches, rocks or stumps. Before you shoot, you as a hunter and a shooter must also pay close attention to where the dog is in relation to the animal so that the dog does not get hit by stray bullets or ricochets.

Hunting examination

To hunt independently in Sweden you must have hunting license. It involves you having to attend a course where you will learn about the flora and fauna and all the legally huntable wildlife in Sweden. Degrees also include advanced shooting tests where you shoot at inanimate fixed and moving targets, with shotguns and rifle. Once you have your





big game hunting



hunting license, you can apply for a license appropriate to the weapon that you will be using on your hunt.

Elk may only be hunted with rifles, with what we call, Class I weapons

As a hunting guest in Sweden you can also go hunting in company with another hunter that has the hunting license. In that kind of hunting as a guest you'll not need to take the hunting exam or obtain a local license provided you have the appropriate license to own guns in your home country. However, you must hunt under the direct supervision of someone who has all the legally required documentation and licenses.

Guest Hunting in Sweden:

As a professional hunting organizer, Joy Event, aims to give guests a holistic experience and it is very important to provide the right information to the guest before they arrive, to ensure they get what they expect, and that the guest is always given the conditions

promised. However, we can not give any guarantees on how many wild animals guests can trap. We have high ethical and moral standards in Sweden and always consider the animal's welfare. No motor vehicles (cars, 4x4's or helicopters) are allowed to pursue or

intercept game during hunting.

Our hunting ethics also means that if we shoot a cow with a calf then we must always shoot the calf as well, otherwise it will die a lingering death without its mother. Any



animal shot must ideally be killed outright, but any wounded animal must be followed and dispatched humanly as soon as possible. This is where the tracking dogs play a vital role.

The best elk hunting you can have is when you buy a 1+1 hunting trip. Then there is only the guest and the professional hunter on the ground during the hunt. There will be no other hunters in the same area as you on your hunting days. You also have, as our guest, the opportunity to choose the elk you wish to shoot, when the opportunity arises. This 1+1 gives you the best chance to shoot an elk when the professional hunter is there exclusively for you. The cost of an elk hunt depends on your requirements, but if you

want a trophy animal, of which there are plenty in our concession, then these will be charged a little extra to normal dependant on the size of trophy you require.

You can also pay to participate in elk hunting in a hunting team. You can pay to be on the stand for a few days or a week. The guests usually participate with the same conditions as the local members of the hunting team. The hunting leader will decide who will be hunting that day and where the other hunters will have their stands. The number of hunters that are appropriate for the day is based on the wind and availability of the elk, etc. The procedure for this type of hunt is that one or more handlers will let their dogs run inside the concession and the chase undertaken

on foot. If the moose is in the area, inside the circle of hunters, then it's usually the dog handlers who will have the best chance to shoot the elk that the dogs find.

If an elk hears or gets the scent of man, it is very difficult for the dog to get the elk to stop. If the moose runs towards the chain of hunters, then the hunters in the chain have the best opportunity to shoot. The hunters in the chain also get a good opportunity to shoot other elk moving in land. They usually hunt from sunrise to sunset but will often take a break at lunchtime.

Evelina Åslund, CEO,
Joy Event Hunt and Health