

**CODES OF CONDUCT & PRACTICE FOR THE HUNTING OF  
WILD RABBITS (ALSO BY MEANS OF AIR-RIFLES)**

**THESE CODES SHOULD BE OBSERVED IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
OTHER CODES THAT ARE PUBLISHED FROM TIME TO TIME  
BY THE FEDERATION FOR HUNTING & CONSERVATION –  
MALTA (FKNK), WHICH CODES ARE ALREADY ADOPTED IN  
THE STATUTE OF THE SAME FKNK**

**REGULATIONS FOR THE HUNTING OF WILD RABBITS  
(EXTRACTS):**

1. Rabbits may only be shot by registered farmers or land-owners over the land they cultivate, but these may also transfer such right to hunters licensed to shoot rabbits.
2. The open season for rabbit hunting is from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of each calendar year, both days inclusive.
3. Hunting of wild rabbits is permitted as from two hours before sunrise up to two hours after sunset.
4. The use of artificial light is prohibited.
5. Hunting is prohibited within a distance of 200 meters from an inhabited area or within 50 meters from a main road however a hunter may take his stand on the side of a secondary road. In every case a shooter may not shoot in the direction of any road, pathway, or building.
6. The weapon to be used can only be taken outside its cover and loaded when the hunter is upon the land where he is permitted to hunt.

**CODES...**

7. Always shoot within the killing range of your weapon. Only practice on inanimate targets. This will help you establish confidence in your weapon.
8. Check and zero your rifle and sights before starting any hunt.

9. Always remember to respect your quarry. For a quick clean kill shoot rabbits in the head, preferably when the animal is visible from the side.
10. It is your responsibility to recognize your quarry and know when and where you may shoot it. NEVER shoot unless you have positively identified it or are sure of a clean kill.
11. Ensure that your air rifle is powerful enough to achieve a clean kill, and do not attempt to shoot further than 30 meters (about 50 paces). Generally any air rifle with power over 11 ft. lbs is ideal for a clean kill up to 30 meters. The recommended distance also applies to the use of a shotgun.
12. Wounded rabbits should be dispatched immediately, either with a second shot or a sharp blow at the base of the skull. Do not shoot at rabbits just outside their burrows – a wounded rabbit could bolt into its burrow and die a lingering death. Any shot rabbits should be gutted immediately in order to avoid any contamination from a gut shot.
13. In air-guns, use pellets that are specially designed for hunting as opposed to pellets used for target shooting. Shotgun cartridges loaded with lead shot No.6 or larger are recommended to ensure a clean kill.
14. Remember that rabbits have an excellent sense of smell, and therefore wind direction should be taken into consideration whilst staking.
15. Always respect the owner's property, crops, and all wild fauna and flora present on the land.

#### SAFETY...

16. Always check your barrel for dirt or any obstruction treat a fire arm as though it is loaded and keep its muzzle pointing in a safe direction, never pointing it at any one, and always engaging the safety-catch until you are about to take a shot, especially when walking with a loaded firearm. Never lay a loaded firearm down or leave it unattended.
17. On picking up or being handed a firearm, always check that it is not loaded.

18. Ensure you know your shooting area well, and before you fire your weapon always consider where the pellet or shot could end up to make sure that if you miss your intended target no damage is done.

19. See that the pellet or shot does not travel beyond the territory in which you are allowed to shoot, always bearing in mind the possibility of a ricochet.

20. Remember that ALL hunters will be judged by your actions. So, ensure that your conduct is always above reproach, and encourage the same attitude in your shooting companions.

21. Above all be safe and sensible. Respect the environment, pick up any spent cartridges and dispose of them appropriately. If a farmer lives on the land, be sure to thank him for allowing you to hunt and offer him any quarry you may have caught.

22. Your gun is a precision weapon, so take care of it to prevent damage or mistreatment from seriously affecting its performance and safety.

23. After your shooting is over, ensure your weapon is unloaded make sure that your weapon is dry and free of any dirt and return it to its cover. Before putting it away, metalwork should be wiped with a lightly-oiled rag or silicone cloth. The barrel should be cleaned using only the correct cleaning kit and lubricant specified in the firearms manufacture manual. Before shooting, always wipe the bore dry-clean.

24. Conduct yourself in accordance with the law, and know exactly what it allows. If in doubt contact the hunting federation (FKNK) or the police.

**YOUR CONDUCT ENSURES THE FUTURE OF OUR PASSIONS**