

## **Hunting Law (existing law)**

**Dated 5 may 1937**

**Law No. 3167**

### **GENERAL RULES**

#### **Section One**

#### **GAME ANIMALS AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION**

Article 1- Hunting of all kind of wild animals in Turkey is subject to the rules of this Law.

Article 2 - Game animals are classified under the following three classes:

- 1- Animal species that can be hunted during all seasons :
  - A) Mammals (wolf, jackal, wild pig, leopard, hyena, tiger);
  - B) Birds (crows);
  - C) Reptiles (snakes, frogs)
- 2- Animal species that can be hunted during certain determined periods:
  - A) Mammals ; wild cat, squirrel, rabbit, fox, wild goat, bear, otter, marten, polecat, badger, beaver, roe-deer, antelope;
  - B) Birds ; partridge, wild cock, partridge, pheasant, quail, peacock family, wild duck, wild goose, crane, raven, woodcock, greater bustard, waterfowl;
- 3- Animal species of which hunting is prohibited:
  - A) Mammals ; deer, wild sheep, young wild goat, young roe-deer, bat, hedgehog;
  - B) Birds : francolin, tamed dove, woodpecker, stork, swallow, owl, starling, female pheasant, wild hen, nightingale family, gold crest, vulture, common startling, goatsucker;

Article 3 - The commission mentioned under Article 16 has the authority for deciding whether hunting permitted or prohibited about the animal species that are not included the among the ones mentioned above.

#### **Section two**

#### **HUNTING SEASON, HUNTING GROUNDS AND HUNTING TOOLS**

Article 4 - Hunting of the animal species that can be hunted during certain periods is prohibited during April, May, June, July months. The commission mentioned under Article 16 has authority to decide banning hunting also in additional periods (in addition to April-July period). Such prohibition periods are announced beforehand by the commission.

Article 5 - Hunting of the species of decreased populations may locally be prohibited, upon proposal of Hunting commissions, by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article 6 - Hunting with scientific investigation purposes in prohibited areas and locations is subject to special permission of the Ministry of Agriculture.

However, such special permissions can not be given for conservation, breeding and improvement areas.

Article 7 - Except the animal species that can be hunted during all seasons, collection of eggs and babies of the animals and destruction of their nests are prohibited.

Article 8 - Hunting is prohibited in following places;

- A) In province, town and village settlement areas;
- B) On private lands fenced or surrounded by ditch or sown by a crop; private hunting grounds and animal breeding places; sown meadows (i.e. by Alpha alpha) meadows under protection, vineyards, orchards, nurseries;
- C) In forest lands without permission of the Forestry organization.

Article 9 - Hunting by poisoning of the animals that can be hunted during determined periods is forbidden.

Hunting by poisoning of the all seasons hunted animals can be done according the provisions of the Law no. 393 about the elimination of harmful animals.

### **Section Three**

#### **HUNTING PERMITS**

Article 10 - Hunting permission is provided by hunting licence. Hunting licence is provided by province and district governors or by sub-district directors. A licence obtained from one place is valid for hunting all over the country.

Hunting licence is not requested from the persons assisting drive shooting groups.

Article 11 - Deleted on 25.2.1952.

Article 12 - Hunting licences are given for five year period.

Article 13 - Hunting licence is valid for the person given. Name, citizenship, age, address, work and the date of issue information and photograph of the holder and the signature and seal of the issuing authority are provided on the licence. Hunter has to carry the licence during hunting and declare to the concerned government servant authorities when requested.

Article 14 - Persons who are not legally eligible to carry guns can not be provided with hunting licence.

Article 15 - Foreign diplomats are provided hunting licence free.

### **Section Four**

## **MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF HUNTING**

Article 16 - Forestry organization is in charge of management of hunting activities. A Central Hunting Commission is established under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture and is composed of director generals of forestry, veterinary, agriculture as well as two representatives of hunting associations selected by the minister of agriculture every year.

At province level, Province Hunting Commission is established under chairmanship of governor and is composed of directors of forestry, veterinary, agriculture and two hunter representatives to be selected by the governor every year.

If required by the minister of agriculture, similar hunting commission/s can also be established at the district level.

These commissions have to convene at least twice a year and take the relevant decisions in relation to hunting matters. These decisions are submitted to the higher commission as soon as possible and are valid until they are changed by the higher commission.

Article 17 - Commissions carry out in addition to above responsibilities also the following works;

- A) Taking necessary measures for protection and increasing of threatened hunting species;
- B) Elimination of harmful animals and organizing driving shootings with this purpose.
- C) Taking measures for breeding of hunting animals, encouraging hunting and establishment of hunting associations.

Article 18 - For contributing in development of hunting, hunting research stations and breeding centers will be established at selected locations by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article 19 - No custom charge will be taken for the living animals and eggs brought from abroad for purposes of breeding of game animals.

### **Section Five**

#### **PENALTIES**

Article 20 - Forest, village and country guards are responsible for capturing the hunting law breaking persons together with their rifles, bullets, other hunting material and hunted animals and take them to the nearest police station village alderman or village elders committee.

A written record of such case kept right away. Offense committing person is released from custody following completion of written record of case.

Article 21 - Persons hunting without obtaining a licence are charged 10 TL fine. A hunter who is not carrying his licence during hunting has also to pay 1 TL fine. Hunting guns of such hunters are not confiscated.

Article 22 - Hunters hunting prohibited animals or hunting during prohibited seasons are charged a fine changing between 5 - 100 TL., according to species and number of hunted animals.

Article 23 - Hunters breaking the rules of Article 7 are charged a fine of up to 25 TL. If the offense is committed in the areas specifically designated for breeding purposes, the charge will be doubled.

Article 24 - Persons hunting against the rules of the Article 8 are charged a fine changing between 5 - 50 TL.

Article 25 - Persons hunting against the rules of the Article 9, by using poison, are punished by charging a fine of up to 50 TL. They are also punished by prisoning up to a period of 3 months.

Article 26 - The persons trading hunted animals of which hunting is prohibited or they are hunted in prohibited places are punished by the same fines that are applicable for the persons hunting them.

Article 27 - The rules of the Law no. 393, about elimination of harmful animals are exception.

Article 28 - Rules and provisions of the previous laws concerning hunting matters are canceled by issue of this law.

Article 29 - This law is valid starting from its date of issue.

Article 30 - Implementation of the rules of this law will be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Customs and Monopolies.