

Training scent-marking dogs for wildlife management

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To track and execute accidentally damaged game using scent-marking dogs is an important responsibility for Swedish hunters. Currently, however, the numbers of failures are unacceptable from an ethical perspective. In addition, increasing populations of group-forming game species such as deer and wild boar create new challenges for dogs that are mainly trained on solitary species (e.g. moose and roe deer). This project aim to improve the success rate for dog/hunter teams in finding damaged game. We will do this in three steps:

1. Train scent-marking dogs with military/police methods
2. Compare dog ability to track deer's with GPS collars
3. Compare dog ability to resolve sharp incidents

The overall ambition is to provide improved routines for training scent-marking dogs in Sweden. **We are interested in contacts with other research groups that work scientifically with dogs in conservation and management!**

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