



# **Why did the Norwegian Parliament repeal the ban on lead in shotgun ammunition?**

Short summary of the history in  
Norway.



# Milestones



- **1992 working group established by the authorities to «evaluetete» the problems with lead vs steel**
- **1998 lead shot where banned for hunting in wetlands**
- **2000 lead shot voluntarily banned on clay pigeon shooting ranges**
- **2015 The Norwegian Parliament repealed the lead shot ban with the exception for wetlands and shooting ranges**



# History – what did we do?

- **The processes that lead to the ban for all hunting in 2005 was not open and met little opposition from the establishment in the hunting and shooting organizations.**
- **A group of Norwegian veterinarians started in 2009 a campaign to ban lead from all ammunition.**
- **In 2012 the Norwegian Hunters Association (JH) is established with one of its main goals to have the ban repealed.**
- **There where forwarded a proposal to repeal the ban in the Parliament in 2014.**
- **The Ministry of Environment issued a request for data and facts concerning the health and environmental consequences from the use of lead**



# History – what did we do?

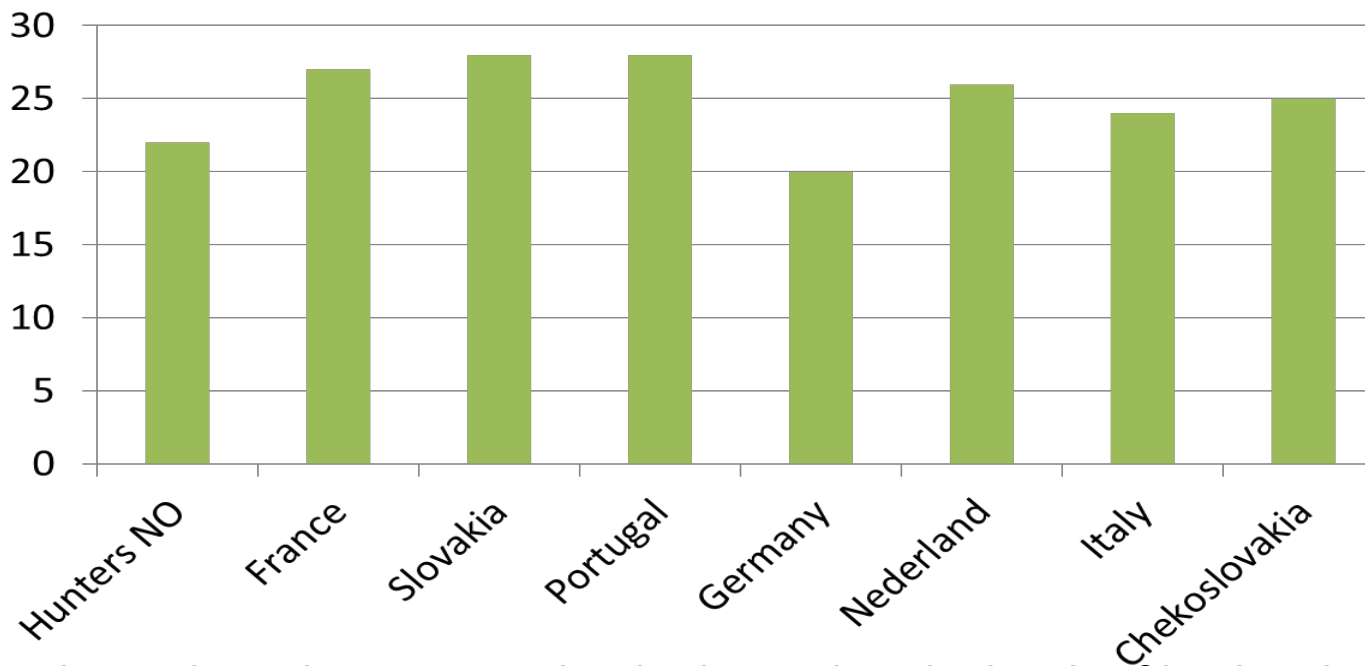
- **The group of veterinarians who for years had campaigned for a lead ban held positions in various public offices who delivered statements to the Parliament and Ministry of Environment about the health and environmental consequences from the use of lead shot**
- **Norwegian Hunters Association (JH) delivered an own report to the Parliament and the Ministry of Environment about the same theme who opposed the faulty science presented by the lead ban lobby.**
- **The Parliament voted in January 2015 over the issue of repealing the ban. The votes where 76 yes, 16 no and 5 representatives did not vote. For the hunting and shooting interests a clear victory. The Parliament found the extreme warnings from the lead ban lobby exaggerated and not trustworthy.**

# Facts and figures we used



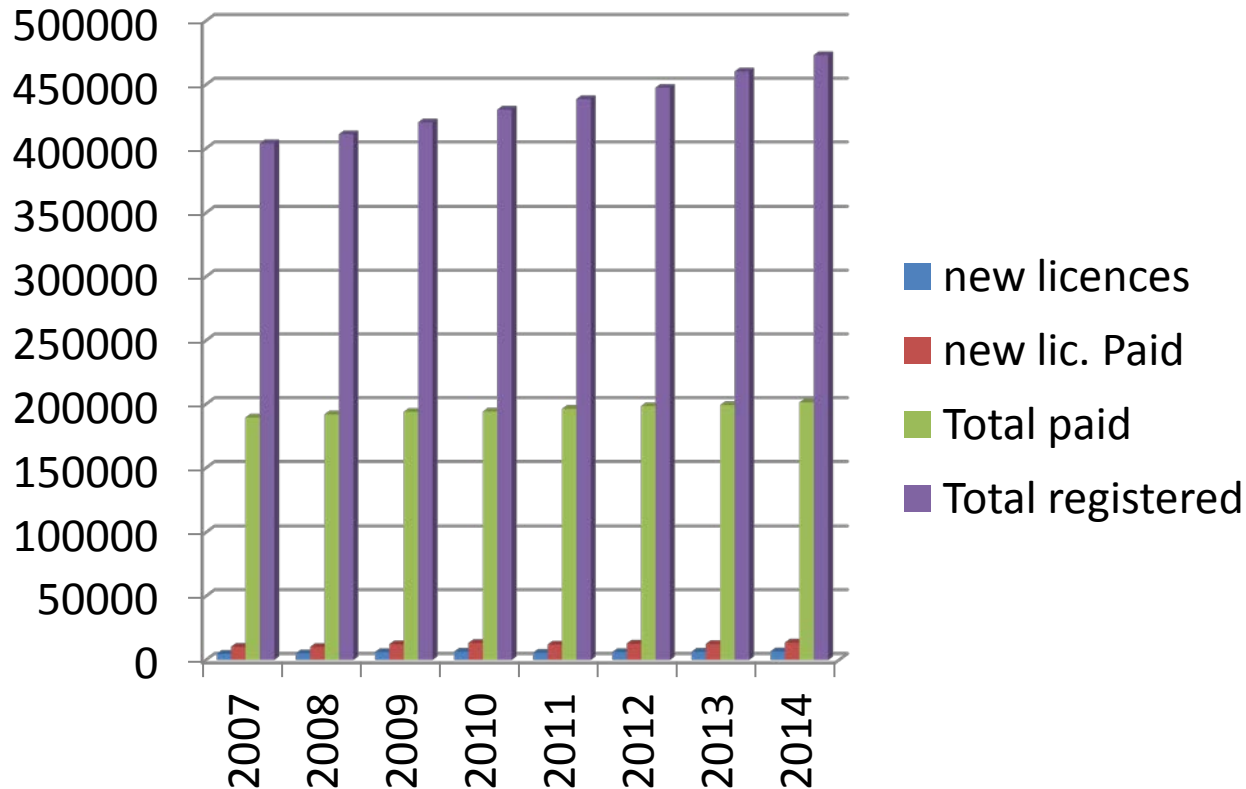
*The lead ban lobby argued that consuming meat from game harvested with lead ammunition could severely affect the human health.*

**Lead blood hunters NO VS EU non hunters mg/l**



**A study conducted in Norway clearly shows that the levels of lead in the blood of consumers of cervid meat harvested with lead ammunition are lower than the average EU-citizen.**

# Hunting licenses



New licenses registered in 2014	13.573
New licenses paid in 2014	6.675
Hunting licenses paid in 2014	201.400
Total number of registered licenses in 2014	473.092

## Some key figures regarding shotshells

- Hunters with shotgun 128.000
- No. of game hunted with shotgun 230.000
- Average no of shots/bird 2,7
- Kg of lead used 21.000
- Kg of lead per km<sup>2</sup> 0,054



# Environmental impacts:

- *The lead ban lobby argued that the repealing of the lead ban would lead to an annual spread of 260 tons of lead which would lead to severe environmental impacts.*
- **Our facts show something else:**
  - **More actual assessments conclude with an annual use of 70 tons.**
  - **The Norwegian Army has regularly studied the amount of lead in soil and creeks at their shooting ranges. They have not found any increased levels of lead showing that lead leaks out in soil or waterways. One of the ranges has over 240 tons of lead from ammunition in the soil.**
  - **A Swedish study states that 100 years of hunting with lead shotgun ammunition will leave only one lead pellet pr. 25m<sup>2</sup> in woodlands and pr. 100m<sup>2</sup> in mountains.**





## ***Lead ban lawyers argues that lead ammunition are a major source for lead in predatory birds***

- **The Norwegian Veterinarian Institute examined 268 predatory birds for signs of lead isotopes from ammunition.**
- **Oue**
- **We found that only 2-3%, in total six eagles might have traces of lead from ammunition in the liver.**
- **There was compared only two isotopes of lead in the survey.**
- **A fact that could mean that even the small number of eagles with lead isotopes who could match ammunition could have got this from other sources.**
- **The survey clearly shows that lead ammunition are not a major source of lead in predatory birds.**

***Lead ban lobbyists claims there are other materials available who are as good as or better than lead for pellets in shotgun ammunition***

- **Shotgun pellets made from steel, zinc and tin are materials with low density and weight and might not penetrate the small game in a sufficient matter to make a quick kill.**
- **Tungsten/Wolfram might be causing cancer and Bismuth might burst in Norwegian conditions with hunting in cold temperatures.**



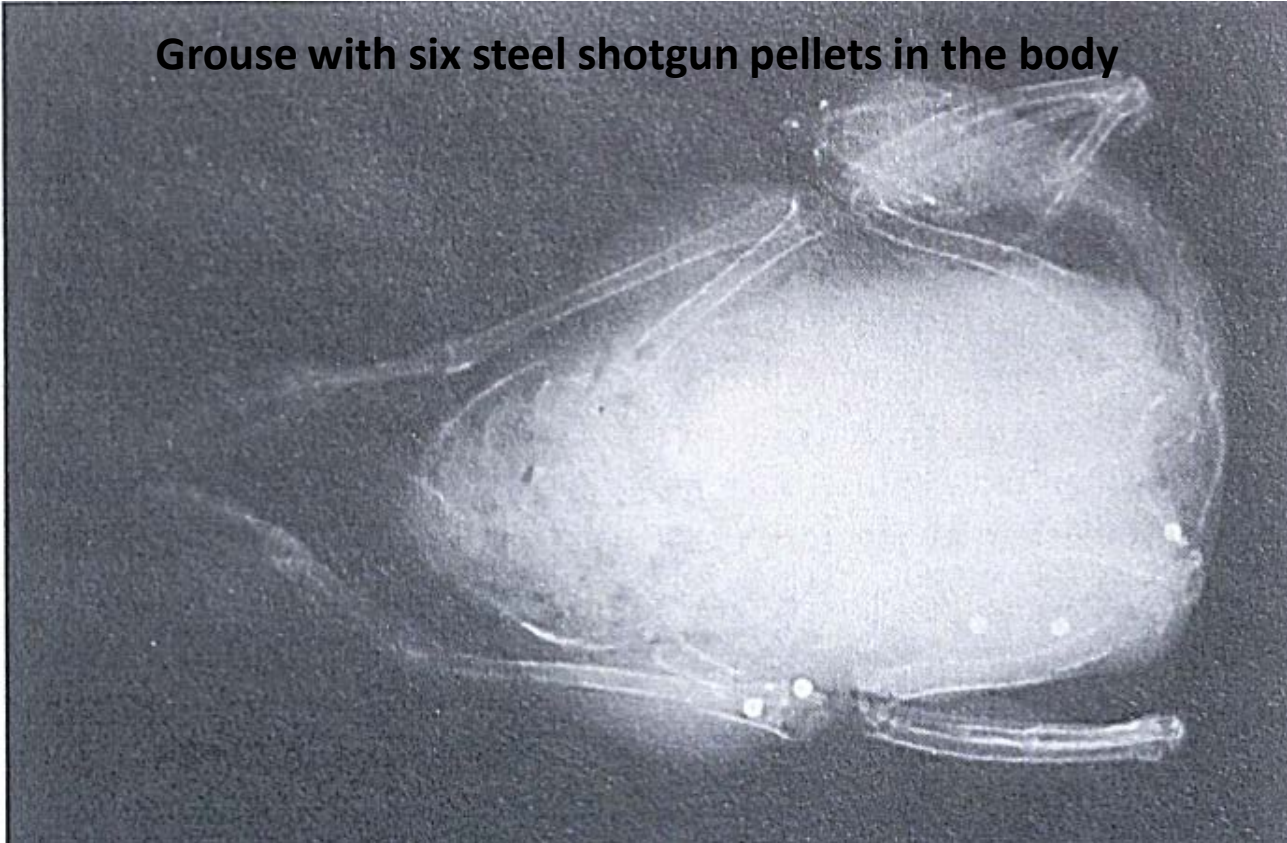
# Facts that we used

- **A Norwegian survey conducted on grouse where they x-rayed a large number of birds, found grouses with 4-6 steel pellets in the body.**
- **The pellets had only penetrated the feathers and where found in the flesh without reaching vital organs.**
- **4-6 pellets in a grouse size gamebird indicates a good hit at normal hunting distances.**

# Some facts that we used



**Grouse with six steel shotgun pellets in the body**



**Comparing the number of game harvested with shotgun pellets in one study before the ban where imposed and one study conducted after the and was in effect could indicate an increase in injured small game during hunting with 50-75%.**

## **How we got access to reports and the necessary information from the lead ban lobby and governmental institutions and offices:**

- The Norwegian Hunters Organization (JI) got access to reports and surveys by asking the Environmental Ministry to forward requests to have them released. The victory would not have been possible without the opportunity to meet the exaggerated claims from the lead ban lobby with clear facts from this material the Norwegian Government made available for us.**

## **How we presented the facts to the politicians who at the end decided to repeal the ban:**

- **A document with facts were sent to the Environmental Ministry, the Committee for Environmental issues in the Parliament and to all political parties.**
- **For each report presented by the lead ban lobby, we presented our own report to meet the exaggerated arguments with facts from the same reports or other studies. All forwarded to the Government and Parliament.**



# What we have learned



- **The opponents use often figures and science based on what they would like to achieve**
- **Important to have good contacts within the authorities**
- **Important to have an active, independent and serious organization among hunters so the number of «votes» will be noticeable for the politicians at the next election**
- **Use correct figures and facts based on authorized sourced means we will be taken seriously**





# Future



- **We have won one battle – but not the war**
- **Our opponents are still very active and are fighting back with all their resources**
- **Next issue are lead in rifle bullets**
- **This battle will be just as rough as we had with the shotshells with misuse of facts and figures**
- **We'll stay alert and keep on fighting with real figures and facts – so far this has been our success and we'll continue on this road in the future**





- **The result of this work was only made possible by the dedicated cooperation and participation by The Norwegian Arms Council, Christer Holmgren, AFEMS and the Norwegian Government who secured an transparent process and provided us with the neccessary surveys to meet the arguments made by the anti lead lobby**
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.**



### **Reference list:**

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