
What is fair Chase????

Posted by mogster - 2007/06/04 21:17

I get asked often what is fair chase hunting and that is the question I ask you. What do you think? Is hunting with Hounds fair chase? Is hunting on a 5,000 high fence ranch fair chase? Let's here it...

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by a.j. - 2007/06/05 02:49

I owned a high fenced farm a few years ago with my hunting partner as a hobby to see how big whitetails could get if allowed to mature. While it was fun, it was a lot harder than you think. I can promise you with zero reservation, deer inside a fence are five times harder to kill than in the wild. The shows you see with all of the big deer being taken are pen raised and released. But if you high fence an area and just let them get old, you better bring your lunch. Again, it is fun, but you are doing most of your hunting with trail cams and finding sheds. It is not what you think.

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by 300 Rem. - 2007/06/05 16:20

Well, i went on my first lion hunt this year in New Mexico. We hunted off horse back and ran approximately ten dogs. This had to be one of the hardest most physically demanding hunts, i have ever done. We rode approximately 15 to 20 miles a day. I use to be of the mindset that this was unethical hunting... Boy was i wrong. If you want to test your physical abilities and your ability to handle being saddle sore try one of these hunts out. You will have a blast.

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by a.j. - 2007/06/05 17:20

My long time guide that I always hunt out west with was raised handling dogs and cat hunting. It is a religion. He said the same thing; it ain't no cake walk. Thats just how you hunt them. I've walked thousands of miles behind bird dogs quail hunting. Thats what we do here in the south. I think anybody with any sense of honor knows when a hunting situation exits the relm of "fair chase". I hate to just draw that line because to each his own. But everyone knows.

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by live2hunt - 2007/06/05 18:59

If an exceptional trophy quality animal is found. Then surrounded by scores of people, whether working together or not, and put under constant surveillance for days or even weeks at a time then being harvested. Is any different than ambushing the same specimen at a water hole after using a trail camera during drought conditions. Or are both of these considered not fair chase. Or is it only fair chase if the animal can chase you back.;

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by 300 Rem. - 2007/06/05 23:16

I truly believe that when it comes to hunting its each individuals own decision to decide what is fair and what is not. I personally choose not to hunt baited plots nor high fence ranches, but i will run lions with dogs. Some would say that is a double standard, but i feel thats my choice. And i wouldnt want to be critical of another persons decision, if thats what they wanted to do.

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by a.j. - 2007/06/06 14:24

Well put, and I don't think that is a double standard.

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by wbygunner - 2007/06/08 15:11

I enjoyed reading everyones thoughts on this issue. I agree it's up to each individual to determine what is fair chase and ethical. We are all on the same side of the battle against the "antis", as hunters, and I do not want to divide our forces because others views on hunting styles differ from mine.

=====

Re:What is fair Chase????

Posted by mogster - 2007/06/12 17:07

I think the question of fair chase is different for many people. I know we aired a black bear hunt on one of our TV shows a couple of weeks ago and a hunter called me and said, "aren't you giving the anti's more ammo when you air a show like that". My response was, "no". To me this is a fair chase hunt that is legal. I have a few friends that have hound dogs and believe me, it takes hundreds if not thousands of hours to train a dog to get to the point it can track and tree a lion or bear. I think hunting with hounds is a very exciting hunt. I have seen many dogs tore up from a mean Mtn. Lion and know of several being killed from the chase. I went on a trip to Northern Canada and hunted Whitetail over bait and yes, I have hunted in South Texas both High & low fence over bait. To me hunting over bait is not the most fair thing but do I think it is wrong? No, I just think it is not my preferred method of hunting. In my short hunting career I have seen many forms of hunting but to me the good old spot and stalk here in the west is my preferred method. I am sure it is, because that is how I was raised to hunt. I get calls and complaints when we hunt on TV from pick ups in 20 below temps in Colorado. Hey it is the most effective way to hunt in the conditions. So the debate will go on but I would agree with you guys for the most part that it is an individual thing. I would say this also, I don't think any form of ethical and legal hunting is giving any fuel to the anti's. We hunters need to realize we are on the same team with just different methods of playing the game. Some like to stall (tree stands) and others like myself like the full court press (get in the trees and hike and make things happen, I have little patience). Thanks for your comments!!

=====