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Deer Hunting & Lead

Be Part of the Solution!

Lead poisoning is a serious problem for both wildlife and humans, but is easily prevented.

Historically, lead has reached us in a number of ways—through gasoline, paint, a variety of manufacturing processes, and in ammunition. As our awareness of the dangers of lead grows, we seek out better alternatives. Unfortunately, the toxic legacy of lead continues to harm wildlife.

Eagles eat deer carcasses and gut piles. Every hunting season, hundreds of thousands of gut piles are left in the field. When those remains contain lead bullet fragments, eagles may eat lead and can die.



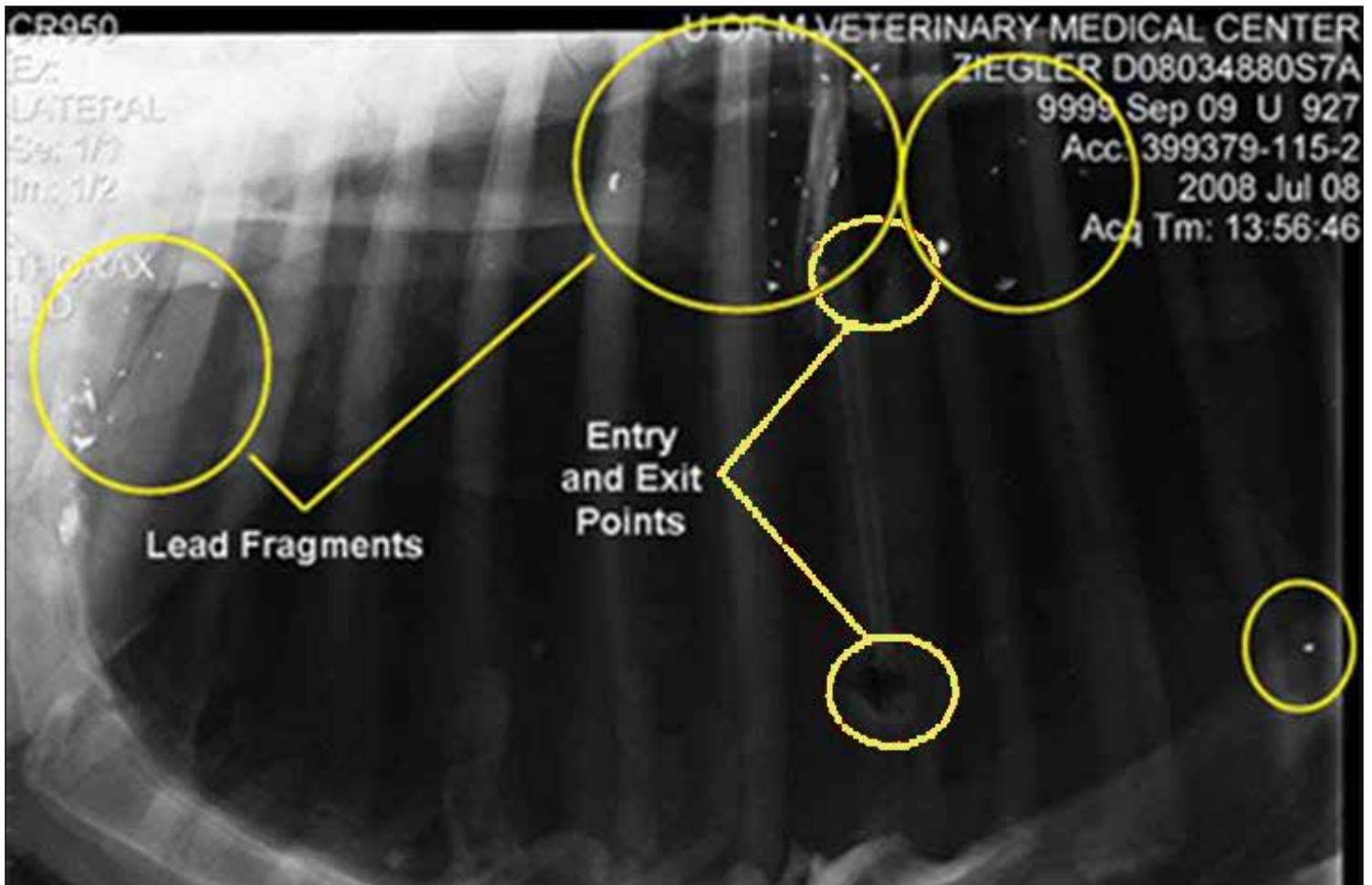


Photo showing lead fragmentation.



Why is lead a problem?

Recent scientific studies show a definitive link between spent lead ammunition and lead poisoning in scavenging birds. Eagles eat lead when they feed on animal carcasses or gut piles that contain toxic lead bullet fragments. Lead fragments the size of a couple of grains of rice can be lethal. Once lead enters the bloodstream, it damages a bird's nervous system and paralyzes its digestive tract. Without immediate medical assistance, poisoned birds can starve to death or become weak and easy prey.

This national wildlife refuge is one of several in the Midwest encouraging hunters to switch to non-toxic ammunition for deer hunting.

What can you do?

- Visit your local gun store and ask for non-toxic or non-lead ammunition. Knowing what brands and bullet types are available before going to your local store is always a good idea.
- Remember to sight in your gun and practice with the new ammunition before you use it in the field.
- Tell your friends and family that you've made the switch to non-toxic ammunition.
- Check this website for more information on finding specific ammunition. It has compiled information from several sources. <http://www.huntingwithnonlead.org/ammoMain2015.html>

“Setting a good example of conservation is important to me and our family. That’s why we’re choosing to use non-toxic ammunition on our deer hunts.”

Mike Warweg, Rochert, Minnesota,
Avid deer hunter on Tamarac
National Wildlife Refuge