

Hunting Ethics Scenarios

Use these situations to test your ethical and responsible decision making skills while hunting. This activity can be done with any size group. Cut each scenario into a strip and fold each one. Each person then draws a scenario or people can pair up and draw one. Take a few minutes to read your scenario and decide and discuss what you would do. Each person, or team, will then go around and share their scenario with the group and what they decided to do.

These are just a few examples of situations you may encounter while on a hunt. What would you do?

1. You just shot at a nice bull elk. You thought you saw him flinch and kick just before he disappeared over the ridge. You are not too sure you actually hit him.
2. You have an antlered elk license and are hunting in the Gila National Forest. While walking through a patch of thick timber you find a cow elk that appears has been wounded by another hunter and can't get up.
3. It is five days after elk season ended and you are collecting firewood with your family when you hear a rifle shot. You all look up and across the ridge, you see a man loading a cow elk into his red truck.
4. You are blood-trailing a wounded deer that you shot a few hours earlier. You look ahead and see the blood trail goes into posted property on which you do not have permission to hunt. It is threatening rain and you feel that if you do not follow the trail immediately you will probably lose it.
5. Your grandfather takes you to his favorite "secret" quail hunting spot. You have a great day and take home your limit. A few friends are jealous you did so well and want you to tell them how to get to "the spot". After all, your grandfather didn't say you couldn't come back and hunt it.
6. You make a poor shot on an antelope buck. You and your hunting buddy have been blood trailing about three hours and it's getting hot outside. The trail is getting harder to follow and you feel that you may never see the antelope again. Finally, near the end of the day, you find your buck is dead, but lying in the sun. Your buddy takes one look and says, "It's no good to keep" and tells you to cut off the head and go home.
7. It is the last day of your oryx hunt and you see one enter a thick mesquite stand and bed down for an afternoon rest. You can just barely see the oryx's head and might have a clear shot through some limbs. Your cousin urges you to take the shot. This may be your last chance at an oryx.
8. You and a friend are having a great day squirrel hunting. Your friend has already limited out and you are one away from taking your limit. Your friend notices a squirrel on a limb in a tree just above her and asks if she can shoot it and use your remaining bag-limit number.