



Jegerprøven
Landbruksdirektoratet

Welcome to session 8

Tracking wounded game

Wounding and blood tracking – Could it happen to me?

Society sets the terms on which hunting takes place

We know enough to avoid irresponsible shots

Nevertheless, wounding due to accidents and misjudgements will happen

- We must know how to respond effectively when the situation arises

Good attitudes to the game and hunting are the cornerstones!

Wounding and animal suffering – Possible to prevent?

Practice at observing game

Shooting practice

Know your skill level and the limits of your weapon

Have access to a blood tracking hound, but note the prohibition on the use of dogs with specific working functions

Be prepared for the fact that blood tracking may be necessary. Then you will be ready to handle the situation when you or one of your fellow hunters makes a mistake!

Some terms

The Norwegian Agricultural Agency ´s definition: *Blood tracking starts when the animal is not found during the immediate search at and around the shot site.*

Among hunters, a wounding shot is when the game is hit, but not in the ideal kill zone.

In other words, it is perfectly possible that you will need to perform blood tracking even if the animal has not been wounded. The point is that as a hunter, when you fire at an animal, you must assume that the animal has been hit. You have a duty to clarify what has happened.

Why do wounding shots occur?

Problems with the firearm or sights?

Problems with the ammunition?

Misjudgement by the hunter?

What do **you** think is the most common cause?

Some causes of wounding shots

Greater distance – greater risk

Moving game, faster speed, greater risk

Insufficient practice - inability to judge whether the shot is safe

If hunters only discharged shots when they were genuinely sure that they would hit based on their personal circumstances, wounding shots would hardly ever occur! Problems with the firearm, sights or ammunition are hardly ever the reason...

Consequences of wounding shots

Animal suffering caused by us hunters

It harms the reputation of hunting

Hunters lose the trust from society

Resources are wasted, because meat is destroyed

Unnecesary waste of time and loss of valuable leisure time

Your conscience...

Blood tracking game that has been shot at – What does the law say?

When you take a shot at wild game, you have to verify whether or not you hit

If you do not find the game at the shot site, or can verify a missed shot, you have a duty to perform blood tracking

Hunters carry a moral responsibility to avoid animal suffering

A correctly performed blood tracking is important for the reputation of hunting

Blood tracking game that has been shot at – What does the law say?

When blood tracking deer species, wild boar and mouflon, the hunter has to notify the municipality if the animal is not found by the end of the day the shot was taken

The hunter/hunting party are to perform blood tracking until the game is killed or found dead. The municipality has the right to decide whether the blood tracking can stop at an earlier time.

When blood tracking wounded lynx, the hunter must notify the county governor and the police immediately. The municipality is to be notified if the animal is not found by the end of the day it was shot at.

It is prohibited to hunt other animals whilst performing blood tracking

Blood tracking game that has been shot at – What does the law say?

If a wounded big game crosses the border to where someone else holds the hunting rights, the hunter has a right of pursuit and can harvest the wounded game. This right lasts until the end of the day that the game crossed the border.

The hunter bears the burden of proof that the pursuit is legal and is to notify the landowner and the municipality as soon as possible about the pursuit and the result.

Blood tracking wounded big game

Access to an approved blood tracking hound/team is required when hunting mosse, red deer or roe deer.

Duty to perform blood tracking and right of pursuit

Duty to notify the municipality

Visible light (headlamp, etc.) can be used for examining the shot site, **except** for lynx or when doing licenced killing of lynx, wolf, wolverine or bear

Blood tracking wounded big game

Visible light, light-amplifying scopes and thermal scopes may be used when blood tracking wounded deer species, wild boar and red fox. The hunter has the burden of proof that the shot was taken legally, and has to notify the landowner, the police and the municipality that they use such aids.

Blood tracking wounded big game

Whilst performing blood tracking of wounded big game with a legal hunting season as described in the Wildlife Resources Act §22, the hunter may use a drone. The hunter bears the burden of proof that the use is legal, and must as soon as possible notify the landowner, the police and the municipality that they use a drone.

When using a drone during blood tracking wounded lynx, the county governor must also be notified in advance.

Blood tracking wounded big game

What to do after firing at an animal

The shooter should remain still after discharging the shot

Completely still for 5-10 minutes, then cautiously approach the shot site to examine

Mark the position of the shot site and the shooter

Notify fellow hunters/hunting parties

No other animals shall be hunted and no shots shall be fired at other animals during blood tracking

Blood tracking wounded big game

What to do after firing at an animal

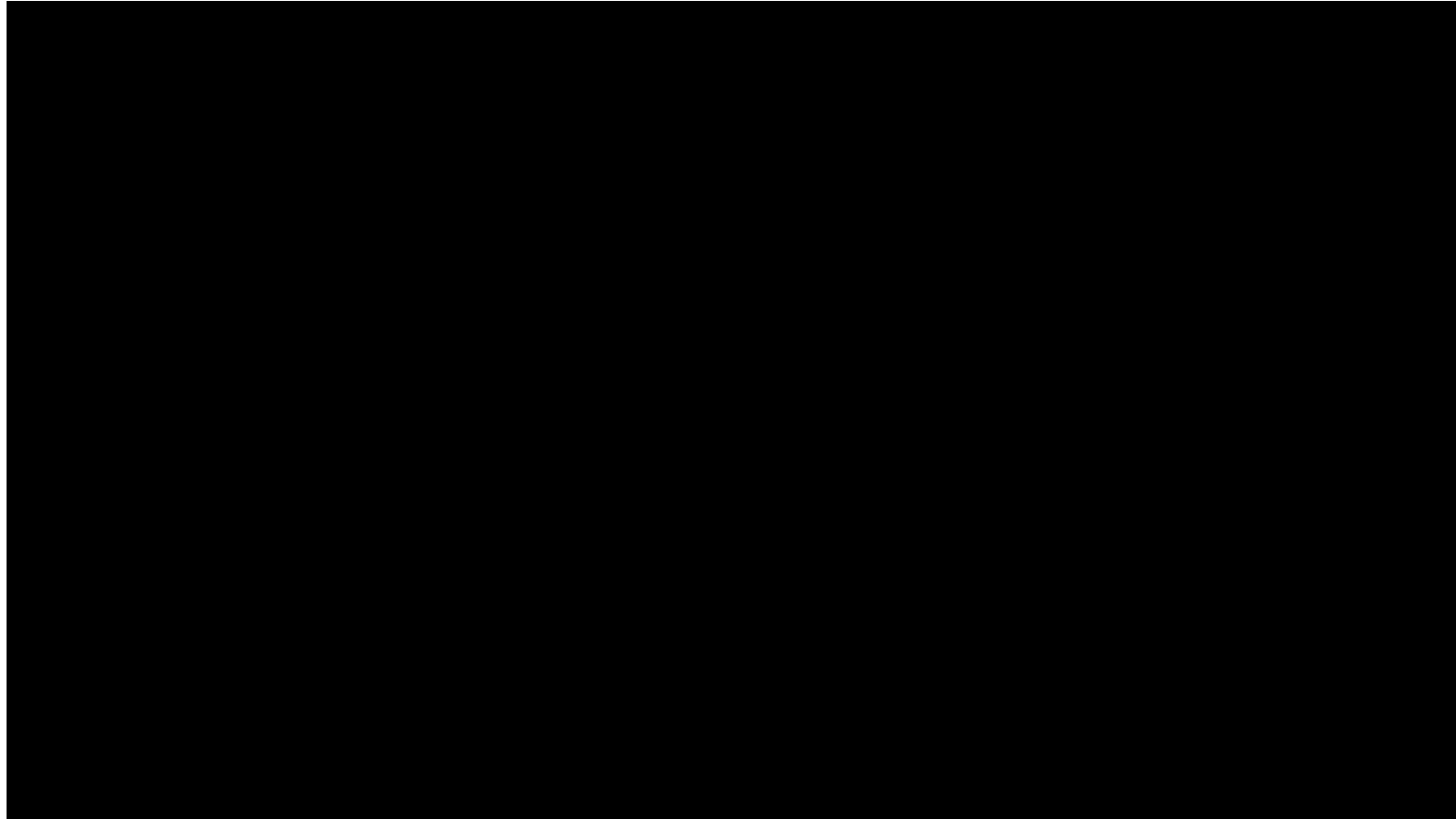
The hunter/hunting party is responsible for leading the work

Contact the blood tracking team

Wait 1-2 hours before starting blood tracking; spend the time planning

Contact the municipality and neighboring hunting area if relevant

Marking and examining the shot site



Blood tracking wounded big game

Planning and conducting blood tracking

When all facts are on the table, the blood tracking can be planned

Unless it is a likely leg wound, you should wait at least an hour so that the game will lie down to rest. Use the waiting time to plan.

The dog handler walks with another hunter that can take the killing shot if necessary. The rest of the hunters wait at locations the wounded game is likely to pass.

How wounded game behave varies with where it has been hit, but they often move towards wetlands.

What should I do after discharging the shot?



Can you use your own dog?



Information to dog handlers II



Examining the shot site



Blood tracking dog at work



Blood tracking wounded small game

Game birds

Note the reaction to the shot

Observe the bird 's direction of flight

Retrievers

Search in the direction of flight/landing area

A bird that has been killed may «sail» a long way

Blood tracking wounded small game

Other small game

Note the reaction to the shot

Investigate the shot site

If a dog is available, use it for further blood tracking

Blood tracking wounded small game

Other small game

When blood tracking beavers, look for air bubbles or murky water

Remember that you need the landowner ´s permission to pursue wounded small game into a property other than the one where you have hunting rights

Blood tracking wounded small game

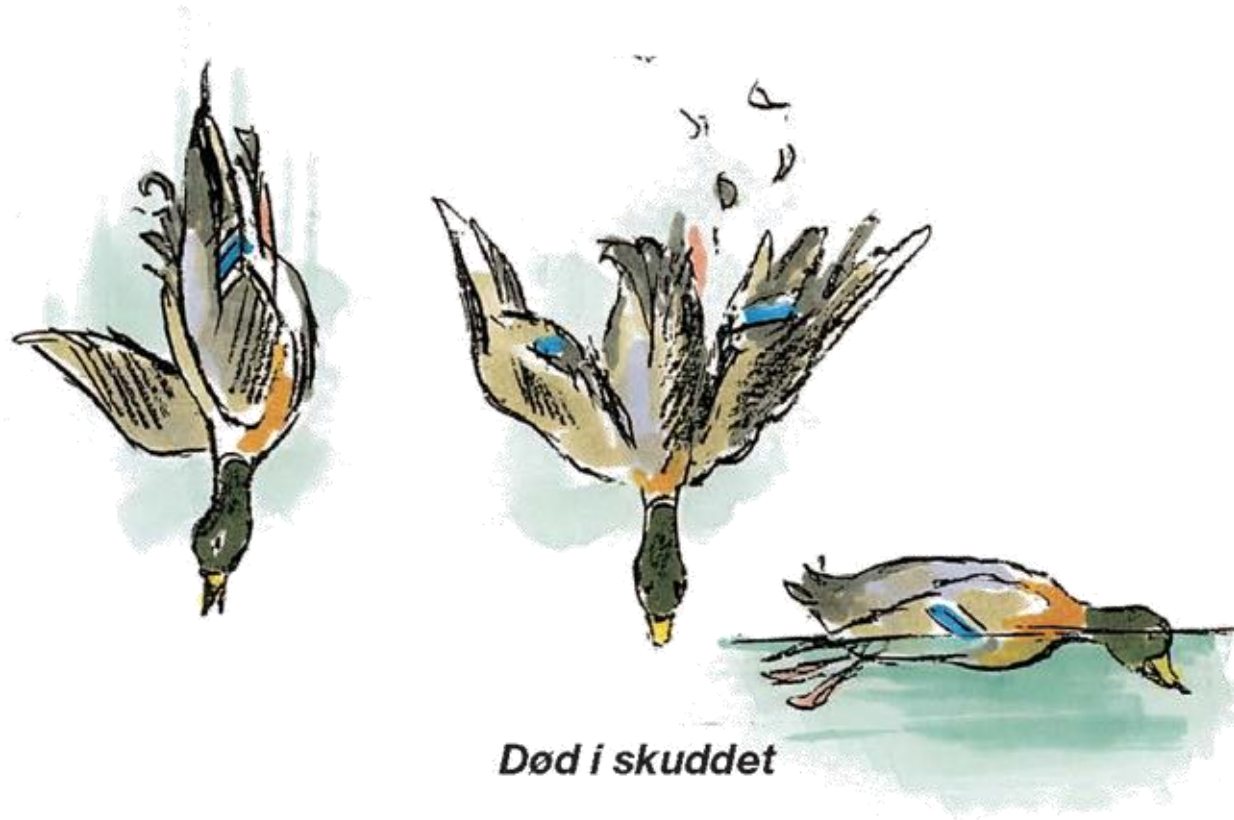
For a good hunter, no exertion is too great when searching for wounded game



Blood tracking small game



How game birds react to a shot (Shot dead)



How game birds react to a shot (wounded)



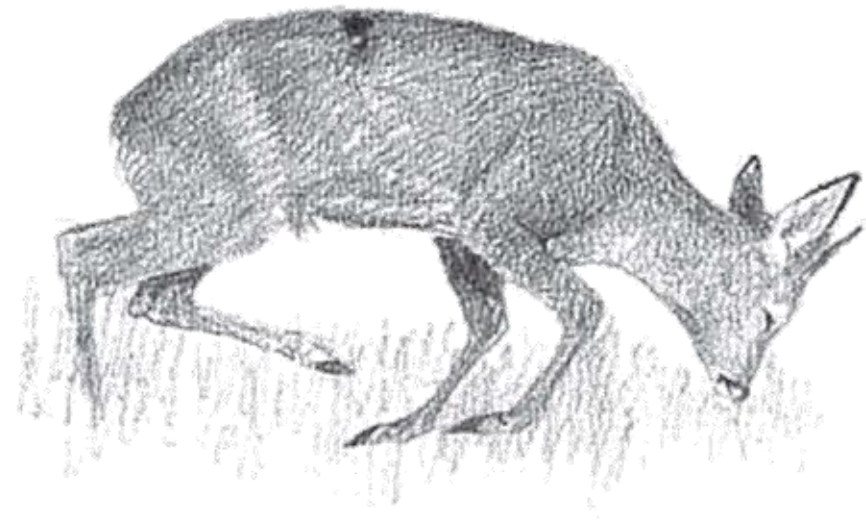
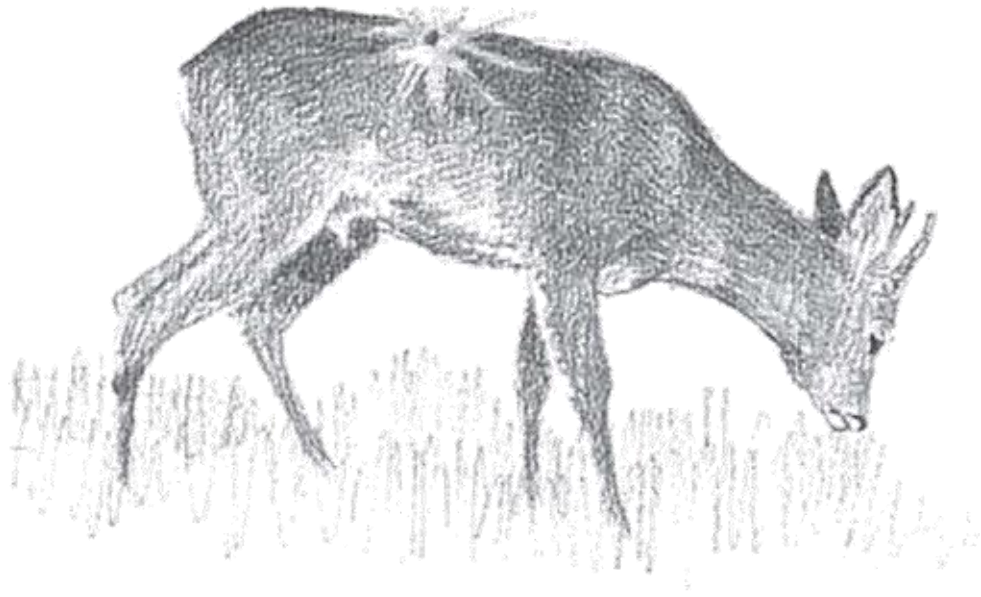
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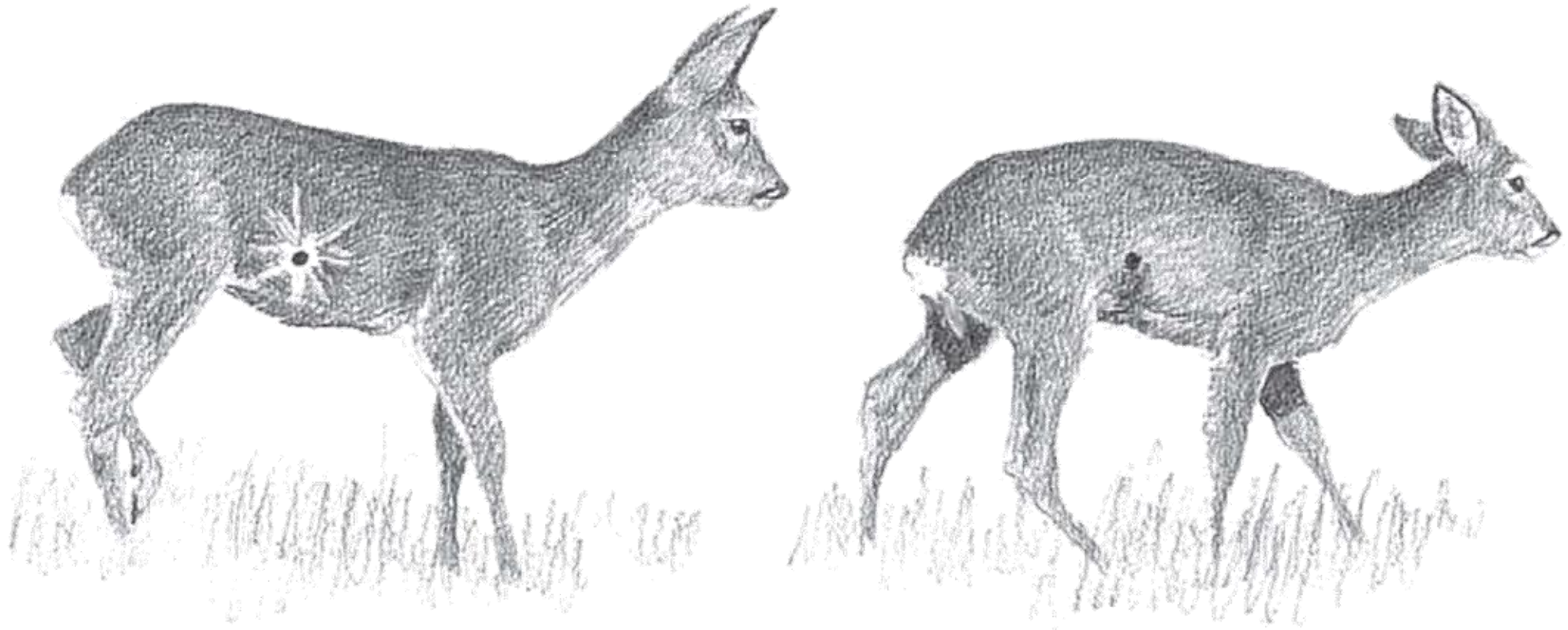
How deer react to a shot



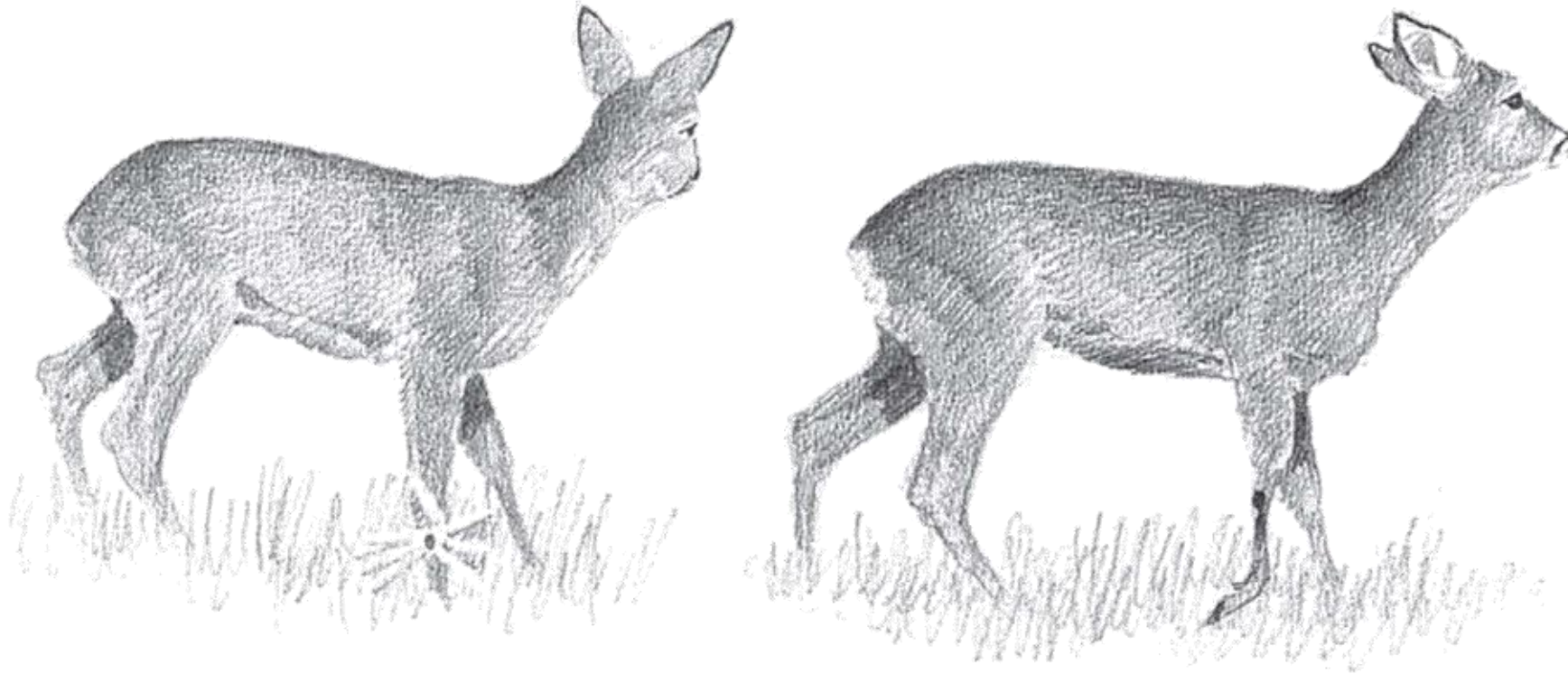
How deer react to a shot



How deer react to a shot



How deer react to a shot



Reaction to a shot





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