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# The Handbook for Investigation of Poaching

If you find the carcass of a wild animal that you suspect  
may have been poached, call 113.

## 1. CALL THE POLICE EMERGENCY NUMBER (113)

If you find the carcass of a wild animal (mammal or bird) that you suspect may have been poached, call the police emergency number (113) and provide the following information:

- Who is calling;
- What happened (e.g. a suspected criminal offence);
- The location, i.e. where you found the carcass of the wild animal (place, type of road, visible structures nearby, GPS location if possible, etc.);
- When it happened (whether you accidentally found the carcass or were involved in the event);
- Other useful information.

**After receiving the report, the police will take appropriate action and dispatch a patrol to the scene. Do your best to help the police patrol find the scene and cooperate in all subsequent procedures.**

## 2. DO NOT TOUCH THE CARCASS

**Do not touch the carcass until the police arrive. Under no circumstance should you:**

- Tamper with the crime scene (relocate or transport the carcass to a different location);
- Damage the carcass or tamper with it in any way (e.g. by opening the abdominal cavity or gunshot wounds, removing bullets, sampling muscle tissue, pulling out hair or teeth, conducting measurements).

Such actions change the original state of the carcass, impede the investigation, and render it difficult or impossible to find the perpetrator.

## 3. COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE CRIME SCENE REPORT AND OFFICIAL PRELIMINARY RECORD OF THE EVENT

**A representative of the hunting ground manager, Slovenia Forest Service or a hunting inspector cooperates with the police in the preparation of the report on the crime scene investigation and the official preliminary record of the event. To the best of his or her abilities, the representative should:**

- Provide opinions;
- Answer any questions the police may have;
- Assist in preparing a description of the animal carcass;
- Assist in describing the circumstances in which the carcass was found (temperature, weather conditions; whether the carcass was exposed to the sun, found in the shade, covered with soil, snow, water, or vegetation, exposed to the elements, etc.);
- Assist in determining the species, sex, and age of the animal;
- Assist in identifying animal tracks;
- Assist in estimating the time and cause of death;
- Assist in describing other factors.

## 4. PARTICIPATION OF A TRACKING DOG HANDLER

**The police may ask the representative of the hunting ground manager to call a tracking dog handler to the scene to assist in the investigation of the criminal offence.**

## 5. RECORDING LOSSES

In cases involving the suspicion that a wild animal has been poached, a police document suffices to record the loss, while for protected species a Veterinary Faculty investigation report is required.

If the poaching of a large carnivore is suspected or confirmed, the Veterinary Faculty takes biometric measurements and samples tissue and teeth for genetic analysis and the determination of age. The results are sent to the Slovenia Forest Service.

Wild animal species		Competent legal person	Document or official record for the purposes of recording losses
Wild game		Hunting ground manager	Police document
Protected wild animal species	Large carnivores	Slovenia Forest Service	Veterinary Faculty investigation report
		Slovenian Environment Agency	Veterinary Faculty investigation report
	Other protected wild animal species	Slovenian Environment Agency	Veterinary Faculty investigation report

Competent legal persons and documents required for recording the loss of a wild animal.

Wild animal species		Competent legal person	Notified immediately	Present at the scene	Notified after the completion of the case
Wild game		Hunting ground manager	✓	✓	✓
		VHS	✓	✓	
		VF	If a necropsy is ordered		
Protected wild animal species	Large carnivores	ZGS	✓	As needed	✓
		Hunting ground manager	✓	✓	✓
		VHS	✓	✓	
		VF	If a necropsy is ordered		
	Other protected wild animal species	Hunting ground manager	✓	✓	✓
		ARSO			✓
		VHS	✓	✓	
		VF	If a necropsy is ordered		

*The competent legal persons that the police may contact as needed when poaching is suspected, assuming they have not been notified or were not present at the scene. (Abbreviations used below: ARSO – Slovenian Environment Agency, VHS – Veterinary Hygiene Service, VF – Veterinary Faculty, ZGS – Slovenia Forest Service.)*



## WHAT WILL THE POLICE DO AT THE SCENE?

**Upon arriving at the scene of the crime, the police will:**

- Collect preliminary information (it is necessary to determine who found the animal, what, where, and when the incident happened, who the perpetrator may be, and any other useful information);
- Examine the crime scene and secure any tracks and evidence;
- Confiscate evidence (including vehicles if necessary);
- Arrest the suspect if one can be identified and other conditions required by law are satisfied;
- Notify the appropriate authorities;
- Deliver seized animals to the competent authority for safekeeping or subsequent actions;
- Once the investigation has been completed, inform the public thereof as this will contribute to raising the awareness of the entire society.

## WHAT MEASURES WILL THE VETERINARY HYGIENE SERVICE CARRY OUT?

**In cases involving the suspicion that a wild animal has been poached, the Veterinary Hygiene Service:**

- Collects and secures the carcass, arranges transportation, and stores the carcass in an appropriate facility (a refrigerator) until it is transported to the Veterinary Faculty, where a necropsy is performed;
- Keeps the carcass of an animal suspected of having been poached separately from other carcasses and appropriately labelled;
- Transports the carcass of an animal suspected of having been poached to the Veterinary Faculty in the shortest possible time.

## OTHER INSTITUTIONS THAT PARTICIPATE IN POACHING INVESTIGATIONS

- The Veterinary Faculty
- The Slovenian Environment Agency
- The Slovenia Forest Service
- The Institute for Nature Conservation
- The Biotechnical Faculty