

Notes On

Lead & Wildlife

Main sources for wildlife lead poisoning are from hunting, recreational shooting and fishing sinkers such as spent lead shot, bullet fragments and fishing sinkers. Lead particles are ingested and gradually erode in the digestive system.

FCP tribal member, Clarence Daniels, found this eagle in Winter 2009 suffering from lead poisoning (below photo). Fortunately, this eagle was successfully released (left and final photos) after receiving treatment from Raptor Education Group Inc. (REGI) of Antigo, WI.

Results of Lead Ingestion

- Enters bloodstream
- Causes lead poisoning
- Lowered food intake
- Weakness
- Weight loss
- Drooping wings
- Inability to fly
- Green watery diarrhea
- More susceptible to disease or predation



It's difficult to treat lead poisoning once the case is advanced, and it's hard to remove lead from the body of an animal.

Bans

- 1991 lead shot banned for waterfowl hunting nationwide. This decreased wildlife deaths from lead.

Other Info

Use of lead in fuel, paint, pesticides and solder in food cans has been eliminated.

- Lead is **STILL** used in upland game and rifles as well as fishing sinkers. There is discussion of banning these uses of lead as well. **It is important to properly dispose of old sources of lead in the home through disposal as hazardous waste (during hazardous waste pick-ups).**
- Sources include: solder, putty, welding, batteries, leaded glass, ink, old paint, lead weights, old ceramic glaze, hunting gear, and fishing tackle.
- Household potential sources of lead contamination can be treated as hazardous waste and dropped off separately at the FCP Solid Waste Building or your local Solid Waste Building during a drop-off day, or any time.

What You Can Do



GET THE WORD OUT! WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES! THIS ISSUE COULD BE ADDRESSED AT THE STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL.

- One difficulty is that although the objection is to the environmental effects of lead, the gun lobby sometimes sees this attempt to ban lead ammunition as an attack on gun rights. So, one should be clear that **IT IS A CONCERN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.**
- **UNTIL THERE IS NOT A LEAD OPTION, THERE WILL BE THE COST DIFFERENTIAL IN THE PRODUCTS.**

Forest County Potawatomi
Keeper of the Fire



As few as five ingested pellets can kill a duck or goose