

Heart Of Texas Bowhunting

Unguided Deer Hunt Rules

1. **Obey all state game laws.**
2. This is a bow hunting only ranch. **Crossbows are prohibited.** No firearms are allowed on the property unless they are cleared by H.O.T. staff.
3. **NO** hunting within ½ mile of headquarters and other designated non hunting areas.
4. **Mandatory check-in with H.O.T. personnel when leaving hunting areas.**
5. Each hunter is allowed 1 mature buck, 2 does and all hogs and varmints per trip. Make sure of your does (shooting a button buck or an Axis doe will be a \$500.00 additional fee, unless Axis option paid prior to the hunt).
6. **Only mature bucks may be taken (9 point mainframe and under w/ minimum P&Y score of 125 inches OR 10 point mainframe and over w/ minimum P&Y score of 135 inches).** Management fees will be assessed for undersize deer. There will be a \$1,000.00 management fee for 9 points and under that do not make the minimum and a \$2,000.00 trophy fee for 10+ points that do not make the minimum. Broken mainframe tines will be measured as a minimum of 1".
7. We offer an Axis "option". This is \$150 up front when you check in. This allows you to take an Axis buck and Axis doe. Axis bucks must have at least a 22-inch beam on one side (3-year-old) and not in velvet. There will be a \$2500.00 management fee assessed for undersize or velvet Axis under 30" and \$3500 fee for velvet Axis over 30".
8. **All management fees will be paid immediately before resuming hunt.**
9. **Maximum shot distance on deer is 20 yards.** Keep your shots under 20 yards.
10. If you hit an animal text or call us. Don't begin tracking your deer into another person's area without our help. **WOUNDING: If you draw blood on an animal that is your animal.** A hit is a harvest so make your shots count!
11. We do not track does after dark; this can ruin your chances for a buck. We do not track or retrieve hogs.
12. No hunting within 200 yards of any feeder. No stands/blinds within 50 yards of boundary lines. No shooting across boundary lines.
13. Stay in your area while hunting. Do not cross any fences or boundaries. If you disturb another hunter in his area, you may be asked to pay for his entire hunt and vice versa.
14. No driving from 30 minutes before daylight until 10:00am and from 4:00pm until dark.
15. Use of ATV/UTVs is permitted going to and from your assigned area. **Do not get off roads and do not go past designated parking areas with any vehicle except for e-Bikes.** If you need to get an animal out, we will be glad to assist you. Driving is limited to getting to and from your area. **There is no sightseeing.** Scouting must be done on foot. The use of e-Bikes and deer carts is highly recommended.
16. **No flagging to and from your stand or blinds.** You must use natural materials such as limbs or rocks to mark your trails. A handheld GPS device is strongly recommended for marking your hunting locations and dead animals. Please do not put large sticks or rocks in roadways or two tracks, these are traveled by ranch and HOT personnel and may cause damage to vehicles.
17. There is no setup after dark on the day of arrival, you must set up before the mandatory meeting.
18. All arrows will have your name and phone# on the fletching (this will be checked).
19. **All blinds and equipment must be removed from hunting areas by Sunday night.**
20. Keep all gates as you found them. Closed if they are closed and open if they are open. Watch out for the cows. These are working cattle ranches.
21. **No alcohol permitted in hunting areas.** Keep it in the camp. No smoking in the camp house or hunting areas, keep it outside of the cabin areas.
22. **Do not litter. If you see litter, please pick it up. If you smoke, please pick up all cigarette butts.**
23. There is a cleaning station provided for your use to field dress or quarter your game but please put only animal remains in buckets. **No trash, gloves, blades etc.!** We will haul off remains and dispose of them.
24. A walk-in cooler is provided on the premises for your convenience but please keep this clean. No ice chests/coolers allowed in the walk-in cooler.
25. **Do not waste game meat. If you do not want it, talk to us and we'll find a place for it.**
26. Keep the camp house clean, there are other hunters when you leave. Room and additional cleaning fees may apply if damage or for extra dirty rooms (i.e., excessive mud, food, and trash) are found when you leave. Please place your trash in the dump trailer.
27. No dogs allowed unless cleared by H.O.T. staff.
28. H.O.T. reserves the right to take pictures and make a replica of any animal taken on H.O.T. property.

If you break any of these rules you may be asked to leave the ranch, forfeit all hunt money and you will not be allowed back. All rules are intended for the benefit of the hunting areas and the hunters to achieve maximum success.