



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES

USE OF LEAD FISHING TACKLE AND LEAD SHOT IN CANADA – POSITION STATEMENT

May 28, 2021

Position

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) strongly supports a ban on the use of lead fishing weights, jigs and lead shot because of the direct and indirect harm they may induce in humans, wildlife and the environment. The CVMA strongly supports the development and use of non-toxic materials for hunting and angling purposes.

Summary

- The use of lead shot and lead fishing tackle, such as weights and jigs, is a One Health concern.
- Lead toxicity has been well described in wildlife species, especially waterfowl and raptors.
- Repeated exposure to lead in ammunition and fishing gear causes harm to human health.
- Lead is stable in most soils and breaks down via oxidation very slowly, if at all.
- It is still legal to use lead shot for some upland game hunting, for target shooting and to use or possess lead fishing sinkers and jigs outside of national parks and wildlife areas.
- A complete ban is recommended as partial bans are not as effective due to difficulties with enforcement and reduced incentive to produce non-toxic alternatives.
- Non-toxic alternatives such as bismuth, steel, tin, or clay can be used for fishing weights and shot, and their use should be promoted.