



## • Conservation and Hunting •

### **Guiding Principles of Rowland Ward Ltd.**

There can be no doubt that the world's wilderness areas and its wild inhabitants are under unprecedented pressure from a modern world dominated by humans. Hunters play an absolutely vital and often completely misunderstood role in the preservation of habitat and species, whether they be game animals or otherwise.

As hunters, we must actively seek the best possible image for our sport, and we must always act in a manner that will further the principles of sound conservation. These include the protection of habitat and the promotion of an understanding between the local indigenous people and the animals and fauna that live in proximity to these people. We must also encourage our fellow hunters to behave in a similar manner.

Rowland Ward Ltd. encourages and promotes sound conservation practices and fair-chase hunting, especially in regards to the management of wildlife and their habitat. While fair-chase hunting may have different meanings in various regions of the world, Rowland Ward Ltd. believes that sound game management and fair-chase hunting are very closely interrelated, and Rowland Ward Ltd. will do its utmost to promote both equally wherever possible.

Rowland Ward Ltd. understands that modern game management often means game-proof fencing so that animals will not come into conflict with humans. Hunting within game-proof fences is acceptable if it promotes the general well-being and conservation of habitat and the species enclosed. Enclosures, however, must promote self-sustaining, breeding populations that can feed themselves from naturally occurring vegetation and prey without continual supplemental feeding by humans. They shall provide enough acreage and vegetation that animals can easily hide from humans and predators alike, and they must offer a hunting scenario whereby the outcome of obtaining a certain animal is by no means guaranteed. Animals that are released solely for the purpose of hunting them shortly thereafter will not be accepted for entry into the record book. Any animal shot in an enclosure that lacks adequate food and acreage is not eligible for entry into the record book.

Color variations of species in certain animal populations and particular regions have been naturally occurring probably since the dawn of time. Rowland Ward Ltd., in fact, has several categories that are, by and large, based on naturally occurring coloration-only differences, such as the Angola impala. However, Rowland Ward Ltd. will not accept animals that are specifically bred with the goal being to establish a separate color-based category for trophy hunting. Rowland Ward Ltd. will not create categories for such animals.



Rowland Ward Ltd. does not accept darted animals. While darting may in certain cases serve scientific purposes and aid in translocations, by and large it is very difficult to ascertain when this is so. It is generally considered ill-advised to dart an animal repeatedly over relatively short periods of time.

Rowland Ward Ltd. will not accept animals that have been chased by mechanical vehicles from which subsequently shots were taken. While in the modern world a vehicle is needed for most forms of transport, Rowland Ward Ltd. expects hunters to stalk animals on foot. The one and only exception is for those hunters who are handicapped and are physically prevented from stalking game on foot.

Rowland Ward Ltd. will only accept trophies that are shot legally and in accordance with the game laws and the fair-chase, ethical practices of the country and locale where they were obtained. Rowland Ward Ltd. fully accepts that hunting practices vary enormously from country to country and continent to continent: For example, using dogs to hunt predators is accepted widely in the Americas, yet it is often not legal in parts of Africa. In all cases, the local laws and practices must be adhered to in order for a trophy to be accepted for entry into *Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game*. There is a caveat, however. The editors of the record book will not accept animals shot from or with the aid of a helicopter or airplane, nor will they accept animals shot with the aid of a remote control airborne drone. Such behavior is prohibited in North America, and for the editors of the record book, these rules supersede any game laws that may exist in other parts of the world where, because of absence of laws, this practice could be legal.

Rowland Ward's record book honors the animal, and as such no distinction is made based on how the animal was obtained: on a sporting license, a picked-up head, a head shot by government hunters, or an animal taken by poachers. Heads taken from poachers will only be accepted in the record book if they are entered under the auspices of a proper authority, such as a wildlife/game department and if this authority was in legal possession of the animal. Names of poachers are, for obvious reasons, never listed.

No hybrid animals will be accepted unless such animals have a natural hybridization zone in a completely free range, such as the Armenian mouflon and the Transcaspian urial. In such cases the editors may choose to form a separate category for such animals, in this case the red sheep, or they may choose to enter the hybrids into the category of the larger scoring subspecies from which it was derived.