Why use Lead-Free Ammunition?

BirdLife SOUTH AFRICA | Giving Conservation Wings

Lead-based bullet with lead core

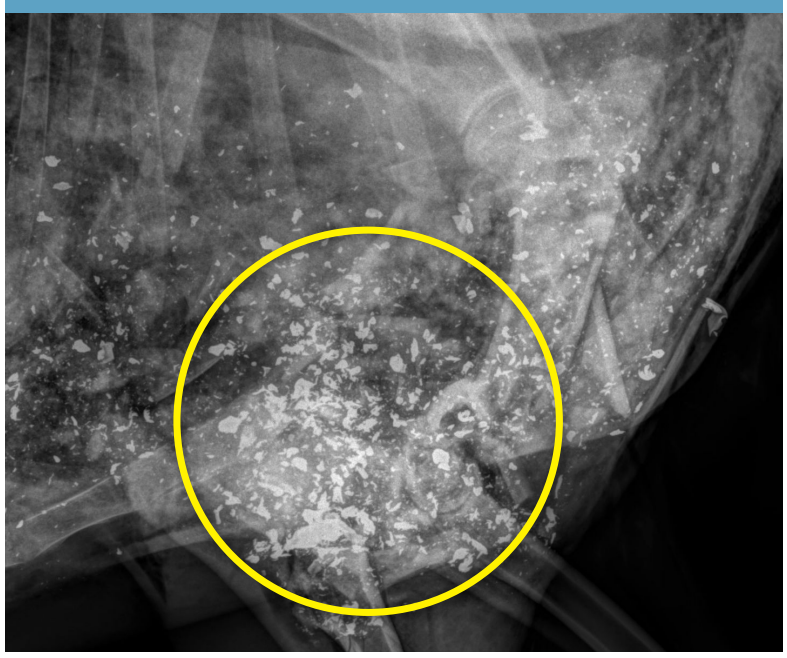
THE PROBLEM: Most South African vulture species are critically endangered and face multiple threats, such as **lead poisoning**.

Lead is a **toxic heavy** metal that poisons vultures when they feed on gut piles and waste from animals shot with lead-based ammunition.

Lead-based bullets mushroom on impact, leaving hundreds of tiny lead fragments behind →

Lead-based bullet fired into gelatin block

Lead fragments left in carcass →



Vultures ingest lead fragments whenfeeding on gut piles and carcass remains

X-ray image of raptor with lead fragments in digestive tract.

Lead-Based vs Lead-Free Ammunition

Lead-Based

- Expands rapidly
- Fragments extensively
- Reduced penetration
- 50–70% weight retention
- Extensive meat damage and contamination

Lead-Free

- Controlled expansion
- Some large fragments
- Deep penetration
- Greater than 95% weight retention
- Less meat damage, non-toxic

Lead-free bullets:

- Are made from copper and brass.
- Of the same weight will be longer than the lead-based bullets.
- Barrel twist rate will determine what bullet weight can be stabilised in your firearm.

1. Brass Solid
2. Copper Monolithic
3. Lead-based

Which ammunition is Lead-based?
Full/Complete Metal Jackets (FMJ/CMJ)
Soft points, hollow points, tipped points
Bonded, matchgrade, varminters

IF IT DOESN'T SAY LEAD-FREE, IT ISN'T

How to Shift to Lead-Free Ammunition

South African and internationally produced lead-free ammunition is available countrywide.

Both rounds and bullets are available in most calibres and diametres.

Shifting is as easy as:

- Reducing bullet weight
- Buying a box of lead-free rounds or reloading with lead-free bullets
- Zeroing your firearm at the shooting range

Shoot Responsibly. Protect our Wildlife Heritage. **Go Lead-Free.**

Non-Lead Ammunition Availability in South Africa

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SOUTH AFRICAN MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturer	Website	Contact
FACTORY ROUNDS		
Badger Ammunition	www.badgerammunition.co.za	sales@badgerammunition.co.za
NobleTeq	www.nobleteq.com	carel@nobleteq.com
BULLETS		
Axe Bullets	www.axebullets.com	info@axebullets.com 0842307817
Balistix Bullets	www.balistixbullets.com	amanda@balistixbullets.com
Dzombo Bullets	www.facebook.com/dzombo.bullets	dzombobullets@gmail.com
Frontier	www.frontierbullets.co.za	wilkoppies@frontierguns.co.za
Impala Bullets	www.impalabullets.co.za	sales@impalabullets.co.za 0824420219
Kriek Bullets	www.kriekbullets.com	www.kriekbullets.com/contact
Peregrine Bullets	www.peregrinebullets.com	admin@peramco.co.za 0715302684
Sus-Tac	www.sus-tac.co.za	info@sus-tac.co.za 0765633860
Takedown	www.takedown.co.za	sales@takedown.co.za
Titan	www.helber.co.za	bernard@helber.co.za 0722411439
Viper Bullets	www.viperbullets.com	www.viperbullets.com/contact/

INTERNATIONAL MANUFACTURERS

Barnes

TSX

TTSX

LRX

Vor-TX

Lapua

Naturalis

Hornady

GMX

CX

ECX

OUTFITTER

Sako

Powerhead

Sellier & Bellot

TXRG

For more information: www.birdlife.org.za/vultureproject Contact: Justin Henry - 061 438 2838