

Letter to the Editor

Lead-based ammunition and fishing tackle

Congratulations to the Association of Avian Veterinarians for advocating the replacement of lead-based fishing tackle and ammunition used for hunting with nontoxic alternatives.¹ Waterfowl are threatened with lead poisoning through ingestion of lead shot and sinkers, and raptors such as condors and eagles develop plumbism as a result of scavenging on carcasses of animals hit by bullets or shotgun pellets containing lead. Humans eating such game are also at risk. Lead-free equipment is available for sportsmen, so there is no threat to second amendment rights. The position taken by the Association of Avian Veterinarians is good for wildlife conservation and public health. I hope other veterinary

organizations such as the Alliance of Veterinarians for the Environment, the American Association of Public Health Veterinarians, the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, the American College of Zoological Medicine, and the

AVMA consider this issue and take a similar position.

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1. Protecting wild birds from lead poisoning. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2012;241:1550.

Instructions for Writing a Letter to the Editor

Readers are invited to submit letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 500 words and 6 references. Letters to the Editor must be original and cannot have been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Not all letters are published; all letters accepted for publication are subject to editing. Those pertaining to anything published in the *JAVMA* should be received within one month of the date of publication. Submission via e-mail (JournalLetters@avma.org) or fax (847-925-9329) is encouraged; authors should give their full contact information, including address, daytime telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

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