

NATSOP-CAM002 NATIONAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: AERIAL SHOOTING OF CAMELS

Other equipment

- Flight helmet (with intercom)
- Fire resistant flight suit
- Safety harness
- Other personal protective equipment including laceup boots, gloves and appropriate eye and hearing protection.
- Survival kit (including a first aid kit)
- Emergency locating beacon
- Lockable firearm box
- Lockable ammunition box

PROCEDURES

- Target camels should be mustered away from watercourses and areas of dense vegetation before being shot as wounded animals will be difficult to locate if they go down in these locations.
- If camels need to be mustered away from 'no-go areas' eg communities and homesteads, the animals should not be moved further than detailed in CAM 003 Mustering of Feral Camels.
- Once a target is sighted and has been positively identified as a feral camel, the pilot should position the helicopter as close as is safe to the target animal to permit the shooter the best opportunities for a humane kill.
- The pilot should aim to provide a shooting platform that is as stable as possible. Shooting from an unsteady platform can significantly detract from the shooter's accuracy.
- A feral camel should only be shot at when:
 - It can be clearly seen and recognised;
 - It is within the effective range of the firearm and ammunition being used, and
 - A humane kill is probable. If in doubt, do NOT shoot.
- When shooting feral camels, all animals must receive multiple shots to the vital areas to ensure a rapid death. This is because animals may appear to be dead but may only be temporarily unconscious after a single shot.
- The initial shot to the head is preferred since it can render an animal instantaneously insensible. It is also achievable since the head of a camel is relatively stable during running. However the judgement of the shooter is paramount in determining the optimum initial shot placement for each target animal. In some situations (ie when conditions are ideal) an initial head shot will achieve a quick humane death, in other situations, an initial chest shot will be more appropriate.
- Immediately after delivering the initial shot, the shooter must perform a second chest shot. This is to destroy the heart, lungs and major blood vessels ensuring a humane death.
- In a line of running animals, shoot the animals at the tail end first and then move forward until all animals in the line have been shot. Any wounded animals must be destroyed immediately before returning to the remainder of the herd.
- The fly-back procedure must then be undertaken to ensure death and apply follow-up shots to vital areas if necessary. Any wounded animal in a group should be killed immediately before any further groups are targeted and shot.
- Records should be kept of number, type and location of animals killed, hours flown, ammunition used and details of established fly-back procedures. Aiming points Aiming points for head and chest shots are as follows (see diagrams on the next page):

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Head shots (This is the preferred point of aim)

Poll position (rear view)

The firearm should be aimed at the back of the head at the intersection of the skull and the neck and directed towards the mouth (ie perpendicular to the neck line).

Temporal position (side view)

The camel is shot from the side so that the bullet enters the skull midway between the eye and the base of the ear. The bullet should be directed horizontally.

Chest shot (side view)

- The firearm is aimed horizontally at the centre of a line encircling the minimum girth of the animal's chest, immediately behind the forelegs. The shot should be taken slightly behind and below the shoulder at the point immediately behind the elbow. This shot needs to be angled forward at 40-45° to the camel's body to hit the heart.
- The target animal should be checked to ensure it is dead before moving on to the next animal. Always approach the animal from the dorsal (or spinal) side to prevent injury from kicking legs. Death of shot animals can be confirmed by observing the following:
 - Absence of eye protection reflex (corneal reflex) or 'blink'
 - A fixed, glazed expression in the eyes, and
 - Loss of colour in mucous membranes (become mottled and pale without refill after pressure is applied).
 - If death cannot be verified, a second shot to the head should be taken immediately.

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Diagram 1 Recommended shot placements for camels. Note that frontal brain shots are not recommended during ground shooting of camels since the shape of the skull can cause bullet deflection

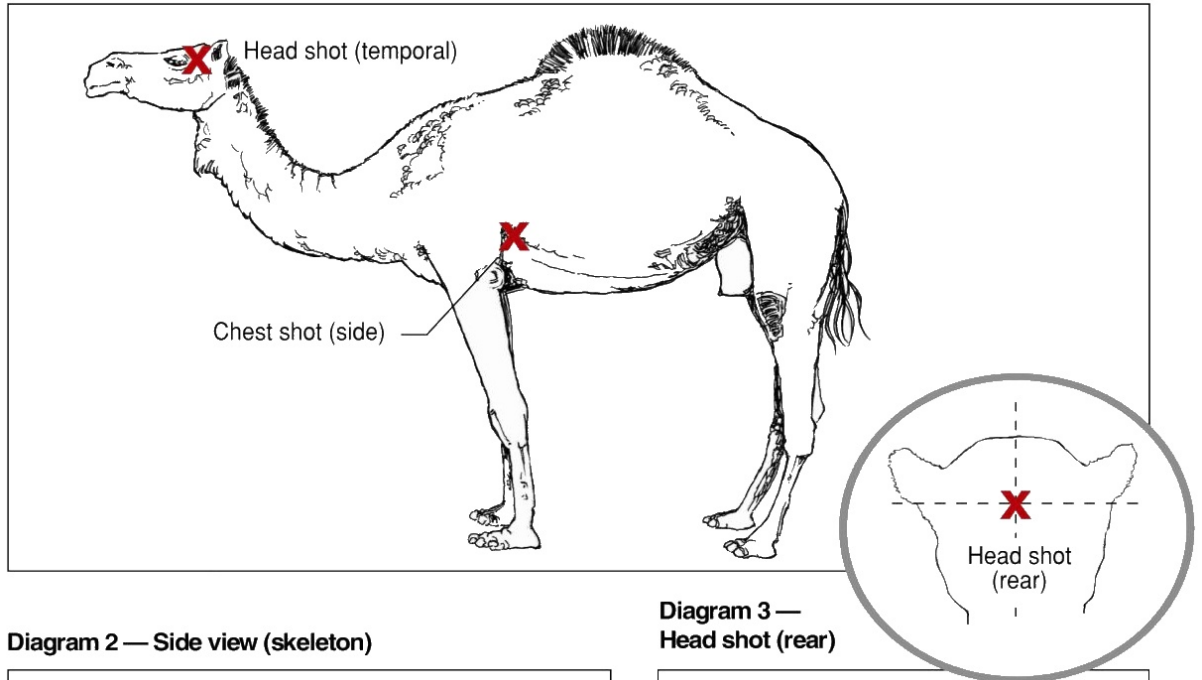


Diagram 2 — Side view (skeleton)

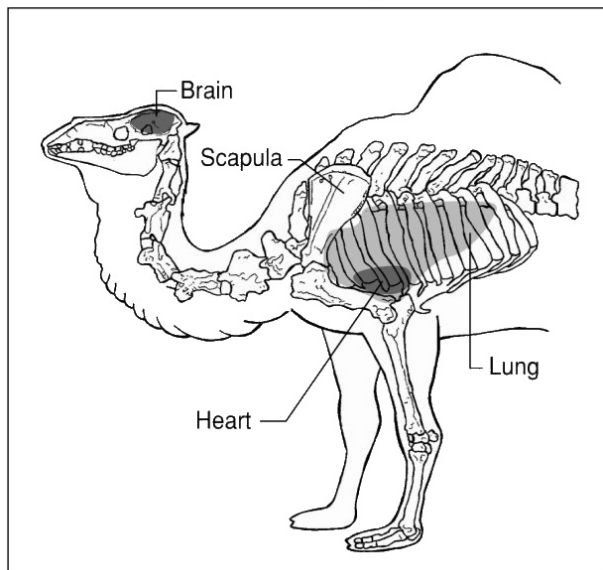
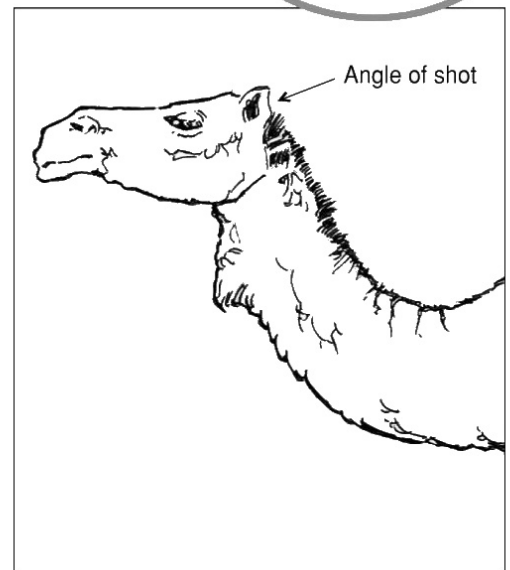


Diagram 3 — Head shot (rear)



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