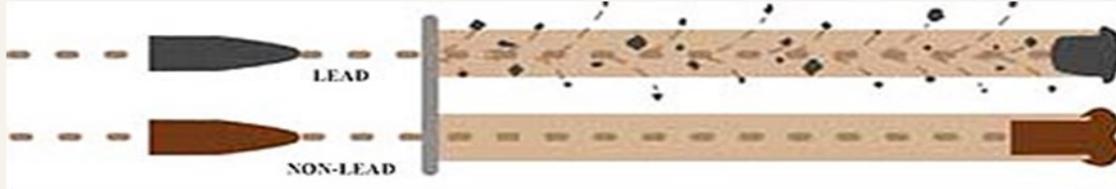


# Why Switch to Non-Lead?



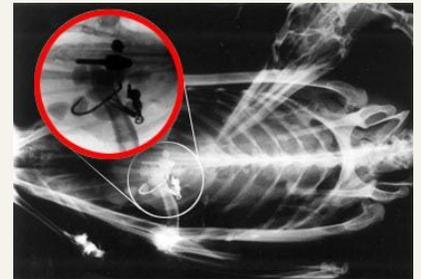
Lead is a soft, toxic metal that fragments easily and can spread up to 20 inches when striking an object. This means that many cuts of meat intended for human consumption can also contain tiny fragments when lead ammunition is used, posing a health risk to humans as well as wildlife.

Using lead to hunt waterfowl has been banned since the mid 90's, yet the same dangerous material is still widely used for upland game birds, target/vermin, and large game.



Lead fishing tackle can also pose risks to wildlife when ingested, as shown in the x-ray to the right.

Many major ammunition and fishing tackle companies do offer non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle. The alternatives have been widely tested and are proven to make a similar impact.



Wildlife become lead poisoned when they ingest fragments of lead found in entrails and carcasses left in the field by people who use lead ammunition. Waterfowl, such as swans, geese, and ducks, are known to dabble up lead fishing weights or historic lead, which they mistake as pebbles. Loons, osprey, and other fish-eating predators can ingest it from fish they consume. In turn, this poisons them and any predators who may eat them.



**Bald Eagle suffering from lead poison.**

## Can it be treated?

Lead poisoning can be treated if the animal is found and sent to a wildlife rehabilitation facility as soon as possible. However, lead can leave permanent damage and some cases unfortunately never recover, but there is always a chance of recovery. At OWL, we treat raptors from all over British Columbia.

Symptoms of lead poisoning can vary: some cases present as weak, they are more likely to collide with cars, or they may be paralyzed, blind, acting too calm, or may not fly away.

Please consider making the switch to non-lead.

For more information, please go to:

[www.huntingwithnonlead.org](http://www.huntingwithnonlead.org)

[www.leadfreehunting.com](http://www.leadfreehunting.com)

[www.bosstin.com](http://www.bosstin.com)



Tel: 604-946-3171 Email: [info@owlrehab.ca](mailto:info@owlrehab.ca)

[www.owlrehab.org/dangers/lead-poison/](http://www.owlrehab.org/dangers/lead-poison/)