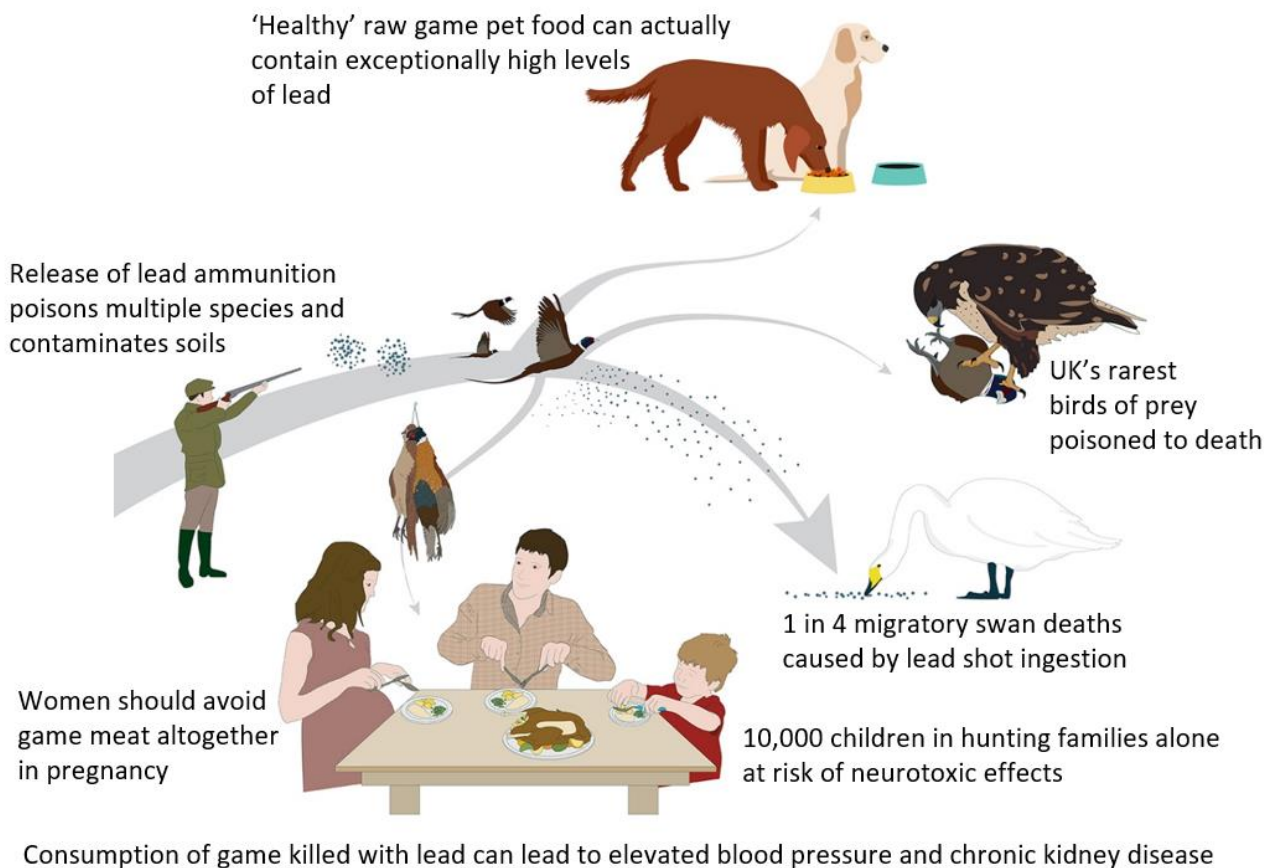


# Lead Ammunition: High time for a ban

## Key points:

1. Lead is a highly toxic heavy metal which is why it has been banned from petrol, paint and pipes.
2. Every single year [7000 tonnes](#) of lead ammunition is shot into our food and/or left in the wider environment where it [poisons](#) wildlife, pets and people and contaminates soils for generations to come.
3. Non-toxic alternatives to shot and bullets exist – shooters don't need to stop shooting, they just need to change their ammunition but regulation is needed to ensure full transition to use of non-toxic ammunition.
4. Tradition, politics and vested interests have repeatedly caused legislative delays and are allowing continued poisoning to people, wildlife, pets and the wider environment.
5. In 2021 the previous Government asked UK REACH to prepare recommendations for a ban on lead ammunition. This process was repeatedly [delayed](#), but in September 2024 UK REACH are due to present recommendations to Defra for a decision.
6. We are at a crucial point in the toxic history of lead ammunition: it is time for the anachronistic use of lead is, at last, rightly ended for the benefit of all.

## Pathways to poisoning:



## *A ban can and should be agreed this year*

- UK policy is lagging significantly behind the practices and organisational policies of many ammunition users. Supermarkets and game dealers are [suspending](#) sales of lead-shot game meat, the Palace of Westminster catering outlets won't sell you food containing this poison. Yet up and down the country people's health, in particular that of children, is being put at risk wherever lead-shot game meat is consumed.
- When the new Defra Secretary of State receives the UK REACH recommendations in September, they must swiftly act to remove this threat to public and environmental health and agree an ambitious ban on lead ammunition, covering [both shot and bullets](#).
- We ask MPs to make the case for such ambition in the run up to the decision, building on the work of the [Lead Ammunition APPG](#) in the last Parliament.
- A comprehensive ban would benefit:
  - the health of people;
  - the intellectual development of children;
  - the health of wild and domestic animals including pet dogs and cats;
  - food safety in restaurants and retail outlets;
  - the creation of new markets for game meat in the UK and maintain those overseas;
  - the hunting community – by removing human health risks and ensuring more sustainable hunting;
  - government, through facilitating enforcement and the opportunity costs associated with an end to an ongoing costly problem;
  - society in general, currently bearing the economic costs associated with lead poisoning from lead ammunition.

For further information on how you can help remove the remaining source of lead poisoning in the UK, through written questions and further parliamentary work, please contact [matt@wcl.org.uk](mailto:matt@wcl.org.uk)

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