



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

**Profit Over Conservation Claims:
Analysis of auctions and exhibitors at Dallas Safari
Club virtual convention**

February 2021

Introduction

Dallas Safari Club is a Texas-based trophy hunting industry organization established in 1982. Its membership size was 6,000 in 2016 and according to DSC's 2019 audited financial statement, it drew in \$502,748 in membership fees for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. DSC started as a Dallas chapter of its parent organization, Safari Club International. DSC holds an annual convention with tens of thousands of attendees from around the world. In recent years, the number of attendees at the convention surpassed that of the annual U.S.-based Safari Club International, making the DSC convention the biggest industry hunting event held in the U.S.

The annual DSC convention is the group's largest source of income. In 2019 the convention brought in close to \$8 million out of the organization's \$9.1 million in revenue. While the DSC's stated mission is to "ensure the conservation of wildlife through public engagement, education and advocacy for well-regulated hunting and sustainable use," in reality they lobby to weaken or challenge wildlife conservation measures. They even employed a Washington, DC, lobbying firm according to its 2017 tax filing.

Researchers from the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International analyzed the offerings of exhibitors and auctions available to individuals who are attending DSC's annual convention, which is a virtual event in 2020. This report documents those findings.

Dallas Safari Club

Dallas Safari Club has sought to weaken conservation of wildlife by [opposing a proposal](#) to upgrade the conservation status of the African leopard from "Threatened" to "Endangered" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and by filing a [legal challenge](#) against the Department of Interior on behalf of elephant trophy hunters who sought to import their elephant trophies into the U.S. DSC also argued that the Department of the Interior failed to act on its clients' elephant trophy import permit applications.

DSC gained prominent media attention when it [auctioned off hunts](#) of a critically endangered black rhino in Namibia in 2014 and 2016.

In 2015 the Dallas Safari Club established the Dallas Safari Club Foundation to serve the mission and vision of DSC. The club has given the foundation a grant of \$1 million to support trophy hunting and has [sponsored research](#) that is used by the trophy hunting industry to support lion trophy hunting. Other grants went to professional trophy hunting outfitters in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and to the National Rifle Association to promote guns and hunting to youth.

After the 2016 auction winner received his permit in 2018 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to import the black rhino trophy, the DSC Foundation issued a statement titled "Black Rhino Import Permit – YES!" in celebration of this trophy import.

In 2018, Ross Jackson, who at the time was the vice president of DSC's board of directors, [pled guilty](#) for violating the U.S. Endangered Species Act by exporting ivory from an elephant he illegally killed in a national park in Zimbabwe to South Africa, where he planned to sell the tusks for US\$300 per pound. Jackson [admitted to conspiring](#) with his South African outfitter, Hanno van Rensburg of Authentic African Adventures,

"It's all about bid-to-kill and pay-to-slay auction schemes that enable members to target threatened and endangered animals across the globe."

[Kitty Block](#), president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States and CEO of Humane Society International

who bribed Zimbabwean officials and falsified documentation. Authentic African Adventures is not a DSC exhibitor this year but donated a \$17,500 hunt to DSC's auction in 2017.

Hunting awards

Trophy hunting industry groups like Dallas Safari Club and Safari Club International set up competitions and award the most prolific hunters, which shatters their conservation claim.

- DSC's top trophy hunting award is the Outstanding Hunting Achievement Award for which recipients must have killed at least 106 animals including 31 types of North American mammals (five types of deer, five types of caribou, four types of bear, four types of sheep, three types of moose, three types of elk, plus a bison, a cougar/mountain lion, a jaguar, a muskox, a pronghorn antelope, a Rocky Mountain/American goat, and a walrus); nine types of spiral-horned animals of Africa (bongo, common nyala, lesser kudu, bushbuck, eland, mountain nyala, central African giant eland, greater kudu, sitatunga); 12 sheep of the world; 10 wild oxen and buffalo of the world; 12 wild goats of the world; and 32 other animals including elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros. This year is the 30th anniversary of OHAA.
- According to [DSC](#), the 2021 OHAA award recipient "qualified with the collection of 23 spiral horned animals of Africa, of which 21 are record class, and by completing the DSC African Grand Slam with 106 animals, of which 91 are record class." The recipient told DSC that he got a late start as a hunter and took his first hunting trip to Africa in 1999, stating, "Little did I know or even imagine at age 48 how significant that first big game adventure would be in changing my life." In the last 20 years, he took 39 international hunting trips.
- The "Member Trophy Awards" is popular among DSC members. In 2020, there were over 135 entries, spanning 30 countries and almost 100 different species. The winners undertook 28 hunts in Africa, 12 in the Americas, 14 in Asia, eight in Europe, and five in the category of "North America introduced." The awards are given for "Best of Species" and based on trophy "scores" and other factors, such as the type of weapon used or whether the animal is free ranging.
- The "African Big Game Award" requires successful hunts of the African elephant, buffalo, lion, rhino and leopard.
- The "Herbert W. Klein Memorial Award" is given to DSC members who hunted the North American wild sheep, dall sheep, stone sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and desert bighorn sheep.
- The "Outfitter of the Year" Award is given to outfitters who promote "ethical hunting" and has given exceptional support to DSC. Ironically, the [2010 recipient](#) of the award, the South Africa-based Thormählen & Cochran Safaris, was linked to rhino horn trafficking and controversial black rhino hunts including killing the only female black rhino in Mangetti National Park in Namibia.

Dallas Safari Club 2021 carnage for auction and for sale

This Humane Society International/Humane Society of the United States report analyzes the 2021 Dallas Safari Club convention, which is scheduled to occur from February 10 to 14, by examining its attending exhibitors and auction items available for on-line bidding. After planning to hold the convention in person, DSC announced in December 2020 that the convention would be a virtual only event.

Exhibitors by the numbers

A total of 849 exhibitors from 32 countries have registered to participate in the virtual convention. Most of the exhibitors offering trophy hunts outside of the U.S. are South Africa (29% of the total), followed by Canada (16%) and the U.S. (10%).

The hunting outfitter exhibitors together offer to organize hunting trips to kill at least 319 types of mammals in 70 countries, revealing an extensive carnage on rare and iconic animals across the globe.

While the African Big Five (African elephants, lions, leopards, rhinos and Cape buffalos) are popular among trophy hunters, hunts of the “Tiny Ten”- referring to smallest African antelope species (common duiker, steenbok, blue duiker, red duiker, suni, Damara dik-dik, Sharpes grysbok, Cape grysbok, kilpspringer and oribi) - are sought after by hunters and [promoted by outfitters](#).



WILD KLIPSPRINGER IN KALAHARI GEMSBOK NATIONAL PARK, NAMIBIA . FOCUS_ON_NATURE/ISTOCK.COM

Auctions by the numbers

[Auctions of hunts](#) and non-hunts are expected to generate more than \$3.5 million for DSC. The funds are used by DSC to promote trophy hunting.

A total 183 hunts (29 of those in the U.S.) in 24 countries are being auctioned off to kill at least 205 animals (36 in the U.S.). These hunts will generate more than \$2.5 million. Non-hunting auctions are expected to generate an additional \$1 million.

Animal hunts being offered for auction include: brown bears in Alaska, non-native nilgai antelope in Texas; pronghorn antelope in Wyoming, African elephants in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia, a leopard in Namibia, giraffe in South Africa, Asian black bear in Russia, Sindh ibex in Pakistan, Beceite ibex, Iberian mouflon, or deer in Europe.

Captive or canned hunts

Most people associate trophy hunting with the pursuit to kill wild animals in the wilderness. However, another sinister activity is the intensive breeding of species, including genetically manipulated color variants, and canned or captive hunts available around the world. At least 11 of the U.S. outfitters who are exhibitors at the virtual Dallas Safari Club convention are canned hunting ranches.

Canned hunts are trophy hunting of a captive-bred animal in a fenced enclosure from which the animal cannot escape. Canned hunts are widely available in the U.S., especially in Texas, where eight DSC hunts are being auctioned.

In Argentina, pumas are captive bred for trophy hunting and their trophies are traded [internationally](#). Seven DSC outfitters out of 14 from Argentina advertise puma hunts on their websites. In South Africa, captive breeding of lions and the associated canned lion hunts have [blemished](#) the country’s conservation reputation. DSC and Safari Club International have even renounced captive-bred lion hunts. However, during undercover investigations conducted by the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International at the SCI [2019](#) and [2020](#) conventions in Reno, Nevada, a number of vendors openly offered to broker captive-lion hunts to our investigators. Several of these vendors will be among the exhibitors at DSC.

Indeed, 39 South African exhibitors are offering lion hunts in South Africa and most, if not all of these are likely captive-bred lions.

Dallas Safari Club 2021 exhibitors

Nearly 850 exhibitors from 32 countries will participate in the virtual convention in 2021. Last year at the in-person convention there were 965 exhibitors with 35,523 attendants, making Dallas Safari Club's event the largest trophy hunting fair in the U.S., surpassing that of Safari Club International.

Among the 849 exhibitors, 306 are hunting outfitters offering hunts in non-U.S. countries. At least 45 of the 849 exhibitors are American hunting outfitters offering hunts in the U.S.

Types of non-hunting outfitters vendors and the services or products they sell include taxidermies, fur coats and other fashion accessories made of [mink](#), beaver or coyote, firearms and ammunition, knives made of animal bones such as [giraffe bones](#), and companies selling furniture made of animal [skins](#) such as ostrich. Products available also include zebra hides; [jewelry](#) made from elephant, giraffe or Cape buffalo hides; footwear made of shark skins and elephant leather and other fashion accessories.

Based on our research, these hunting outfitter exhibitors together offer hunting trips to kill at least 319 types of mammals in 70 countries. South Africa makes up the biggest portion of exhibitors offering hunts (29%) followed by Canada (16%) and the U.S. (10%).

Several DSC exhibitors were highlighted in our SCI undercover investigations in [2019](#) and [2020](#) for selling or offering to sell wildlife products that likely violated the state wildlife trafficking law of Nevada where SCI's conventions took place. There are no laws or regulations in Texas in wildlife trafficking similar to the measure in Nevada. These products included:

- [J.B. Hill Boots](#) was selling or offering to sell elephant leather boots and shoes, stingray leather boots and shoes, hippo leather boots and shoes and shark leather belts.
- [Tag Safari Clothing](#) offered hippo leather belts.
- [Clint Orms Engravers & Silversmiths](#) offered elephant and stingray leather belts.
- [Legends Taxidermy & Outfitter](#) offered to sell hippo skull table and elephant leather belts.
- [Carlton R. Evans Handmade Knives](#) offered to sell mammoth tusk carvings.

Outfitters who were previously exposed by HSUS/HSI [undercover investigators](#) for offering captive-bred lion hunts in South Africa at past SCI conventions are among the exhibitors at the DSC convention. In November 2020, DSC formally renewed its opposition to captive-bred lion hunts in a [joint statement](#) with its European counterpart, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation. Thirty-nine South African exhibitors are offering lion hunts in South Africa and most, if not all of these are likely captive-bred lions.

Exhibitors from around the world participated in the virtual event:

- Turkey-based Shikar Safaris, who organized [Donald Trump Jr.'s controversial trophy hunt](#) of a rare and threatened argali sheep in Mongolia in 2019, is an exhibitor.
- Aru Game Lodge based in Namibia is known for arranging hunts of critically endangered black rhinos and is an exhibitor.
- [Canada North Outfitting](#) organizes trophy hunts of polar bears.
- South Africa-based Thormählen & Cochran Safaris, which was linked to [rhino horn trafficking](#) and controversial black rhino hunts including killing the [only](#) female black rhino in Mangetti National Park in Namibia, is an exhibitor this year. Thormählen & Cochran Safaris was the recipient of DSC's 2010 Outfitter of the Year award.

Despite DSC opposition to canned lion hunts, these outfitters from the SCI undercover investigations are exhibiting at the 2021 DSC convention:

- Bush Africa Safaris (booth 3754)
- De Klerk Safaris (booth 3248)
- Madubula Safaris (booth 2703)
- Mabula Pro Safaris (booth 2107)
- Buffalo Kloof Safaris (booth 236)
- Intrepid Safaris (booth 3021)
- Quagga Safaris (booth 2548)
- AAA Serapa Safaris (booth 2512)
- Lategan Safaris (booth 3042), offered to organize captive-bred lion hunts at DSC's 2018 convention, telling our undercover investigators that their property has "lion cubs running around. Kids and ladies love them."

Dallas Safari Club 2021 auctions

Hunting outfitters and other wildlife industry businesses regularly donate hunting packages, wildlife products, firearms, optic equipment and other products for auction to generate revenue for Dallas Safari Club. Last year the DSC auction raised \$3 million.

This year, 153 international hunting packages were donated to the auction, expected to generate more than \$2.2 million in revenue for DSC. These donated hunts offer the opportunity to kill at least 169 animals in 23 countries. Twenty-nine auctions of U.S. hunting packages are valued at more than \$300,000. For example:



STUART ABRAHAM/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

- The most expensive U.S. hunting auction item is a 10-day hunt for a brown bear in Alaska, valued at \$52,850. A 10-day mountain goat and black bear hunt in Alaska is valued at \$26,500.
- The most expensive international auctioned hunt is a \$70,000, 10-day hunt of desert bighorn sheep in Chihuahua province, Mexico.
- The second and third highest price auction items are a \$50,150 leopard hunt in Namibia and a \$42,500 ibex hunt in Spain.
- Among the 153 international auction items, African hunting packages make up the most with 75. Hunts are offered in South Africa (47), Namibia (15), Mozambique (four), Zimbabwe (four), Cameroon (three) and Zambia (two). In the U.S., Texas offered the most hunting trips (nine), followed by Alaska (five).

Non-hunt donations are expected to generate [an additional \\$1 million in revenue](#) (\$1,036,704).¹ The most expensive auction item, hunts and non-hunts donations included, is a \$80,000 diamond necklace donated by Utah-based Baranof Jewelers.

Other non-hunt auction items include:

¹ Excluding fishing auction items.

- A package of Swarovski Optik riflescope, binocular and angled spotting scope valued at \$7,500 value.
- A package of rifles, handguns and pistols, valued at \$7,500.
- A package that includes a beaver skin blanket, a lynx fur jacket and a set of his and hers knitted mink lap throws, valued at \$9,800.

Animals in the crosshairs

Even walrus, [honey badgers](#), porcupine, genets and otters are targeted by trophy hunters and available for hunting through the Dallas Safari Club convention.

And from megafauna like polar bears, wolves, African elephants, African leopards and polar bears to smaller animals such as baboons and antelopes, no animals are too big or too small to escape the trophy hunters' bull's-eye.

While the African Big Five (elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards and Cape buffalos) are sought after by trophy hunters, lesser known is the hunting of "Tiny Ten" which involves killing small African antelope species. Some of the "Tiny Ten" species are the blue duiker, the smallest duiker species and weighing less than 8 pounds, the dik-dik which is between 12 to 16 inches at the shoulders and weighs between six and 13 pounds, or the suni, a petite antelope which stands only 13 inches at the shoulder and weighs 11 pounds.



Among the 153 international auctioned hunts are elephant hunts in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia, a leopard hunt in Namibia and giraffe hunt in South Africa. Other animals offered in the auctions include, but are not limited to, hippos, Cape buffalos, crocodiles, moose, ibex and numerous deer and antelope species.

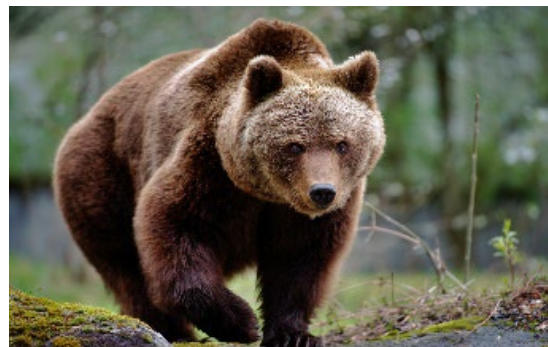
In South America, Argentinean auctions offer hunting packages to kill non-native red stag and blackbuck. Several auctions offer "Big Game hunt" without specifying the species. Seven hunting outfitters offer puma hunts on their websites. [Pumas are captured](#)

[from the wild](#) as well as captive bred for hunting. They are [kept in cages](#), drugged, and transported to the hunting reserve before being released and killed by the trophy hunting customer.

Among some 319 types of mammal species offered by exhibitors, many species are captive bred or introduced, non-native species to supply the trophy hunting industry. For instance, the Himalayan tahr, native to the Himalaya in Nepal, India and China, is a popular trophy hunted animal in New Zealand offered by DSC outfitters. They were introduced to the wild for the purposes of hunting and are now established in the wild, where they compete with native wildlife and destroy habitat.

Argentina is another example of a country where non-indigenous species were introduced to satisfy trophy hunters' desires, and now cause conservation harm to native wildlife and their habitats. Blackbuck, the most common species of which trophies are exported from Argentina, is an introduced species from India and Nepal and is widely offered by DSD exhibitors.

Other notable auctions include Asian black bear and brown bear hunts in Russia.



FREDER/ISTOCK.COM

In South Africa, intensive and selective breeding of game species for trophy hunting and related purposes is a hallmark of the country's trophy hunting industry. Scientists have warned against the captive breeding of lions and other popularly hunted species, such as sable, buffalos, and the genetically manipulated color variants of species including impala, wildebeest and gemsbok. More detail is found on Page 9.

Canned hunts are widely acceptable at DSC conventions and other trophy hunting fairs around the world. Canned – or captive - hunts refer to a hunt that takes place in a fenced enclosure so that animals cannot escape from being killed. There are an estimated 1,000 canned hunts in the U.S., and about half of them are likely in Texas, where many species, ranging from an African antelope to an exotic sheep, can be shot. There are 16 canned hunts being auctioned off at DSC, half of which are in Texas. In canned hunts, the animals are often accustomed to eating at feeding stations at regular intervals and the trophy hunter will be there waiting in a hunting blind set up near the feeder.

Country summaries

Argentina

Unbeknownst to most, Argentina is a prominent player in the global trophy hunting industry. According to our analysis on the trade database of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, between 2014 and 2018, Argentina was the sixth largest global trophy exporter. During this period, Argentina exported a total of 83 puma trophies. Out of those, 73 were captive-bred and 10 were wild sourced.

Fourteen exhibitors are based in Argentina, far surpassing the two exhibitors that participated from Uruguay, which is the only other South American country represented in this convention. Seven of the exhibitors state on their websites that they organize hunting of pumas. Trophy hunting of pumas is unethical and controversial. Pumas are captured from the wild as well as bred in captivity. Exposés by local advocates shows that pumas are [kept in cages](#), drugged and transported to the hunting reserve before they are released and [killed by trophy hunters](#).

Argentinian hunting outfitters have donated 13 hunting packages to the auction, which are expected to generate a total value of \$204,250 for DSC. The most expensive auction item is a \$45,400 value, five-day red stag hunt. Red stags are not indigenous to Argentina and were introduced for the purpose of hunting.

On Jan. 6, 2021, the Ministry of Environment carried out a [raid](#) on wildlife trafficking in a property in Balcarce, a city in the Buenos Aires province. Officers found 300 live animals, including 10 pumas and two tigers, 27 hunting trophies and other wildlife products such as a puma hides and deer trophies. Local sources indicated that the property was a breeding establishment that supplied animals to hunting reserves.

European Union

Among the convention exhibitors, 24 outfitters are from 10 European Union member states—Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Spain makes up the highest percentage with 15 outfitter exhibitors.

As trophy hunting is a global enterprise, hunting packages that some of the European outfitters offer go beyond hunting native species in their home country or even beyond Europe. For example, Cazatur Spain & Europe, a Spanish hunting company that offers hunting packages in Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Romania, as well as in Africa, Russia, Canada and South America. Club Faune, a French outfitter, arranges hunts in Benin, Cameroon and Chad in addition to France and Switzerland.

Alpine ibex, Iberian ibex, Barbary sheep, wolves, chamois, brown bears, fallow deer, mouflon and wild boar are among the species offered by European exhibitors.

The European outfitters donated 37 hunts to kill at least 41 animals, such as Iberian mouflon sheep, Beceite ibex and Macedonian wolf. The total value of these auction hunts is close to half a million dollars (\$479,990). Spanish outfitters donated the majority of the European auctions with 25 hunts.

South Africa

This most popular international tourist destination country in the African continent, while attracting millions of wildlife watching visitors every year, is consistently among the world's top exporter of hunting trophies. South African hunting outfitters regularly participate in trophy hunting fairs around the world and also often make up the largest contingent of international exhibitors at these events.

The prominent role of South Africa in the global trophy hunting industry deserves closer scrutiny, especially considering the recent revelation of plummeting rhino populations at [Kruger National Park](#), from 10,521 white rhinos in 2011 to 3,529 animals today, and from 415 black rhinos in 2013 to 268 animals today. The reduction of rhino populations in Kruger is concerning given that the South African National Parks, which oversees Kruger National Park, auctions off black rhino trophy bulls to hunting concessions, including DSC exhibitors, where they are hunted. The [last of such auctions](#) for the critically endangered black rhino occurred in October 2020.

Out of the 306 international exhibitors at the DSC virtual convention, 104 of them offer hunts in South Africa. This number includes consultants, booking agents and other exhibitors that are not based in South Africa. The exhibitors have donated 47 auctions for South African hunts to kill at least 51 animals. These auctions together are expected to generate \$698,179 in revenue for DSC. The most expensive auction is a 10-day crocodile and plains game hunt for \$36,000. Also among the auction items is a giraffe hunt for \$19,400.

It is worth noting that some of the crocodile hunts are so called “put and take” or “canned hunts” since crocodile farming is legal in South Africa. When male crocodiles get older, the ridges on their neck and back calcify and this is not good for leather production. Older bull crocodiles become aggressive and injure younger males—thus reducing the value of the animals to the leather industry. These big bull crocs are sold from crocodile farms to hunting outfitters and placed for hunts.

Among the South African auctions is a five-day critically endangered black rhino [vita dart hunt](#) valued at \$20,000. These “vita hunts” involve shooting an animal, usually rhinos or giraffes, with an immobilizing drug. They are sold as non-lethal hunts and conservation funding events. Vita hunts have grown in popularity after South Africa banned a similar offering known as “green hunts” or “green darting.” Due to repeated darting of the same animal for non-veterinary or non-management procedures, green hunts are now prohibited by law in South Africa. In a legal loophole, “vita darting” or “vita hunts” now provide hunters a slightly different opportunity, i.e., darting a rhino with a vitamin dart or unscheduled drug dart before a veterinarian immobilizes the animal for what is normally a once-off management action, such as DNA sampling, blood collection or ear-notching. Both green hunts and vita dart hunts are against the South African Veterinary Council's policy.

What sets South Africa apart from other African countries that allow trophy hunting is its intensive breeding of game species for hunting and other purposes. The most controversial and unethical among them all is the captive breeding of lions and its spin-off industries. Lions are commercially exploited throughout their life cycles. Female lions are forced into an endless exhaustive cycle of breeding. Lion cubs, some as young as a few days old, are snatched away from their mothers and used in photo sessions with tourists. When the animals are too big to be cuddled, they are used in “walking with lions safaris” before being sold to canned hunts. After the animals are shot by hunters and their trophies are exported, wildlife dealers make one last

round of profits from the leftover skeletons and bones by exporting them to Asia to supplement the black market for tiger bones. Another disturbing practice is that “spent” female lions who cannot breed anymore and weaker cubs are frequently offered as a hunting package for “family or father-and-son hunters.”

In recent years condemnation of the captive breeding of lions and its associated spin-off industries has increased globally with lion scientists, conservation bodies and animal welfare organizations repeatedly [calling on the government](#) to shut down these enterprises. Trophy hunting groups like Safari Club International and Dallas Safari Club have also opposed captive-bred policies through issuance of policy statements. In reality, as we noted above, outfitters known for peddling the sale of captive bred lion hunts were still allowed to participate in the SCI and DSC conventions.

With a very large trophy production industry, some trophy-hunted species are intensively bred, managed and genetically manipulated to produce higher numbers of bigger and better trophies. Animals are farmed in the same way that cattle are farmed – calves are removed from mothers at very early ages and placed in breeding camps. This enables females to come into oestrus quicker and increases the breeding rate. Bulls and cows are selected, bred and traded for the best genetics. Trophy bulls are separated out. Animals are drugged and horn measurements taken, guaranteeing hunters a good trophy. Horns are piped to protect them from being damaged to ensure the trophy quality while bulls are kept separate to prevent injuries and fighting. Trophy animals are marketed at auctions for genetics, horn size and as trophies—and then supplied on demand for a hunt; essentially “put and take or canned hunts.”

Some species are intensively bred and genetically manipulated to produce a large variety of color variants, such as golden or pink wildebeest and white, black or dappled impala. These color variants usually arise from recessive genes that are then amplified by manipulated breeding practices. Along with the recessive genes go other, weaker and problematic genetic traits that have both welfare and biodiversity concerns. A 2016 report by Taylor et. al., “An assessment of the economic, social and conservation value of the wildlife ranching industry,” warned that, “The management practices for color variants are a direct threat to biodiversity because they result in the persecution of predators and because the animals are bred intensively with little regard to the environment.”²

Similar concerns are echoed by Seiler et al in “An assessment of the potential risks of the practice of intensive and selective breeding of game to biodiversity and the biodiversity economy in South Africa,” published by Conservation Action Trust.³ The authors cautioned that, “where deleterious co-segregating traits are linked to selected genes, i.e. color genes or horn length, and are non-lethal, they could be transmitted to other individuals...” and lead to lower reproductive potential, as well as an altered ability to adapt to environmental change.

Seiler et al also note that intensive breeding requires the use of impermeable fences [that] fragment the landscape and have a range of negative ecological impacts, including on free ranging species including wild dog, cheetah and pangolin.

United Kingdom

Three exhibitors are based in the United Kingdom: Bettws Hall, Criddle Field Sports and Royal Outfitters UK. The sale of UK hunting packages is, however, not limited to UK-based outfitters. Celtic Field Sports, while based in Ireland, also offers hunts in Scotland as well as across the world, from Africa, continental Europe to South America. Spanish outfitter Cazatur Spain & Europe offers hunts of roe deer and red deer in Scotland.

² Taylor, W.A. , et al. (2016). An assessment of the economic, social and conservation value of the wildlife ranching industry.

³ Selier, J., Nel, L., Rushworth, I., Kruger, J., Coverdale, B., Mulqueeny, C., & Blackmore, A. (2018). An assessment of the potential risks of the practice of intensive and selective breeding of game to biodiversity and the biodiversity economy in South Africa.

Sweden-based outfitter Scandinavian Prohunters sells hunts in the UK of a variety of species such as muntjac, axis deer and Chinese water deer. None of these commonly hunted species are native and were introduced to England and Scotland for the purpose of trophy hunting.

The UK government has announced its intent to prohibit the import and export of hunting trophies and is currently working on technical details of a ban. The UK government's policy intent was confirmed in the Queen's speech to Parliament after the election in 2019, followed by a public consultation ending in February 2020. A ban is supported by 80% of the British public with YouGov polling showing that 76% want any restrictions on trophy imports and exports to apply to all species and not just threatened or endangered species.

United States

Over half of the hunts being auctioned off in the U.S. at the Dallas Safari Club are for captive, or "canned," hunts. Eight of these hunts are in Texas, and the remainder are located in Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri and Pennsylvania. Captive hunting is one of the worst forms of trophy hunting. Animals on these hunts are bred for the bullet, and stocked and shot within fenced enclosures where they have zero chance of escape. These ranches bear zero resemblance to traditional hunting.

Texas is home to more canned hunts than any other state, and some of the animals being offered to the highest bidder at the Dallas Safari Club's virtual auction include non-native species like blackbuck antelope, aoudad sheep, axis deer and nilgai antelope. White-tailed deer are a popular target at these ranches as well, as they can be selectively bred for abnormally large antlers, creating "Frankendeer."

In addition to canned hunting, DSC is auctioning off hunting packages for brown and black bears in Alaska and black bears in Idaho. The most expensive item for auction is a 10-day hunting trip for brown bear in Alaska, valued at \$52,850. The trip also includes an option to add a wolf to the hunt. Unfortunately, native carnivores like bears, wolves, mountain lions and bobcats are frequently targeted by trophy hunters throughout the United States. In addition to the auctioned hunts, over a dozen exhibitors at DSC are offering cruel and unnecessary trophy hunts targeted at these native carnivores who are critical to the ecosystem.

Conclusion

This analysis illustrates the blatant global carnage caused by Dallas Safari Club members and its industry allies on wildlife and biodiversity. This ugly, cruel business of killing animals for bragging rights spreads across multiple continents and impacts hundreds of imperiled and iconic species.