

An initiative of the Provincial Government of Salzburg



Land Salzburg

Für unser Land!



Respektiere®

deine Grenzen



Thank you!

Dear sport enthusiasts and nature lovers!



The campaign called “Respektiere deine Grenzen” which was launched by the Regional Government of Vorarlberg, is to get underway this summer in Salzburg. It aims to highlight the way we can respect, protect and enjoy the countryside.

Woods, meadows, lakes and rivers are often habitats for animals and plants which are now rare. It's our responsibility to respect their rights too so that we can continue to enjoy the colourful diversity of our own native species.

This leaflet and indeed campaign is not about prohibiting but about drawing attention to the important relationships in nature, and the way we can protect and enjoy the countryside and its wildlife responsibly. For we can only truly preserve our protective forests, bogs, marshes, rivers and lakes if we all respect the countryside.

Sepp Eisl

Landesrat / Provincial Councillor

Commune with wildlife...

and find out about yourself in the process. Develop a love of the wild. Friends look after and look out for one another.



A question of survival

We choose our outdoor activities depending on the time of year. We don't go skiing in summer – we prefer to go cycling or swimming. However, the wild animals and plants of the natural world live their lives according to the annual cycle of the changing seasons. Winter, the toughest time of year for a great many animals, is over. But this does not mean that this is the season to take things easy and be idle: quite the reverse. Have you ever stopped to think in just how short a time plants manage to completely transform our entire landscape in early spring? Do you not admire such an achievement? It can be compared to us renovating an entire house, tidying up the garden and at the same time still managing to find time to go to the gym in just a mere 2 weeks.



Take a peek...

The mating ritual of the Black Grouse - a sight to behold.



Love is in the air...

Spring and summer, at least in our part of the world, is the time of year when many animals give birth to and raise their young.

But this is jumping the gun: before the parents can actually begin starting a family, the male has to find a mate and vice versa, then comes laying and hatching eggs, giving birth...

As you can see, a full-time job not only in the plant world, but also in the animal kingdom – and this is even before there is any thought of protecting and providing food for fawns and chicks. The right partner must be found and a lasting impression made. The perfect nesting sites have to be sought out and built, and any other necessary preparations made.

Springwatch

This has to be the best time of year for watching wildlife. Mating calls and rituals are essentially characteristic of animal behaviour, designed to arouse attention but not ours! Quite the opposite; many a promising attempt to woo a partner may well be abruptly broken off if an intruder is caught spying. There are, of course, other species such as frogs, who would never allow such a thing to happen, even if it is a stork. For while the stork reputedly delivers babies, this particular situation is so tempting and the frog otherwise engaged, it would be so easy for the stork to add a frog delicacy to its menu. You should, therefore, just stand back, enjoy and be inspired by this marvellous spectacle of animal courtship whilst respecting their privacy and keeping your distance.



Running away

Ground- breeders such as meadow birds – the curlew - need wide open spaces, because they immediately “take flight” – run away - when they sense an enemy: even at a distance they consider us a threat.



„Do not disturb!“

For us a meal is more a reward after a long, hard day's work, but in the animal kingdom, a meal is a job in itself. Finding enough food means a doe for example, has to eat her way through an average of 13kg of vegetation a day in the summer months. This is to meet the bodily requirement for water which is about 10 litres a day. If she should also have a calf to suckle, she has to eat twice that amount to compensate. Any disturbance can quickly frighten her away, which means that young and older animals alike do not get enough food. Dusk is the time of day when deer browse and graze. If you should still be out and about in the forest at dusk, just remember that it is "dinner time" and keep to the path and do not wander so as to avoid disturbing them.



In-flight food

Raising one's offspring to be big and strong often means having to do the impossible. Ask any parent and they will know!



Eating for 2

A lactating roe deer or a roe deer in calf needs almost twice as much food as normal.



Hungry mouths to feed

Birds are unable to build up and store fat reserves – if they did, they would have to forfeit their ability to fly. They, therefore, have to feed constantly at regular intervals: and the need is great indeed. Birds are particularly active animals with a highly-developed metabolism.

You can probably imagine that the additional workload of having to provide food for a brood of chicks does not exactly make life easier. Chicks have to more than double their weight in a matter of weeks to be able to survive, and all the food has to be brought in “by air” by their parents. Blue tits and great tits can make as many as 600 trips a day. If you were to add up all these “air miles”, you could get a free plane ticket and enjoy a cheap holiday.



Keep your distance:

If you really want to observe “wild” animals, and not have them constantly running away from you, use a pair of binoculars; this way, you can give them plenty of space and still enjoy the antics of nature in action.



Many of our rare and indeed endangered species of birds, who live and breed in our marshes and meadows, protect their nests in a nifty way: Should a predator dare to encroach upon this territory, the parents pretend they are the intended prey – acting as a decoy, they divert attention away from the nest. Curlews even pretend to be injured, and limp away from the nest seemingly in pain with a wing hanging down – but it is all an act!

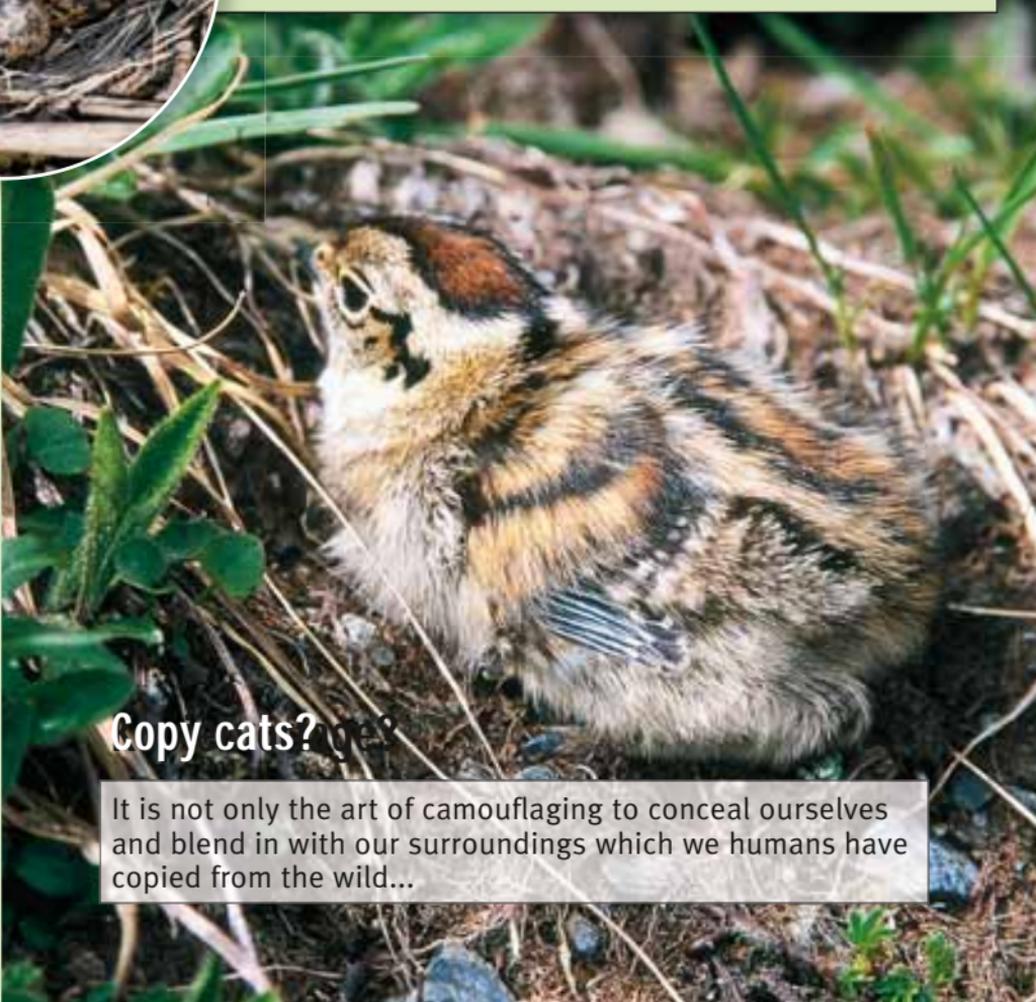
Then there are those who launch an aerial attack on anyone or anything regarded as the enemy. Many a “trouble maker” with evil intentions will, literally, have to make a run for it to avoid having to contend with such attacks from above. So, when you are out walking or cycling and are suddenly attacked by “low-flying” birds, it simply means you have inadvertently missed the “No Trespassing on our territory” sign: it would be wise and only good manners to make a quick get-away.

“He’s putting it on ref”

It’s not only on the football field that you can witness so-called “injuries” to score points.



If brooding is interrupted and the parents are scared away, the nest and its contents will quickly become cold.



Copy cats? ge?

It is not only the art of camouflaging to conceal ourselves and blend in with our surroundings which we humans have copied from the wild...



No need for them to panic...

... if we stick to and do not wander from the path, animals know what to reckon with.



I can't see any animal...

... does not mean that there aren't any nearby. Very often we fail to see an animal until we have already disturbed it and it is fleeing from us in panic.

„Kids“ kindergarden

Sharing the chores is about the only way that a parent chamois can get away from the “kids” and grab a bite to eat.

One of the mums takes over the job of keeping an eye on the youngsters, while the other mums can go and look for some food in areas where it would be too steep or dangerous for the little ones to cope.

Even when they are running away from some seen or unseen threat, these unskilled “mountaineers” can slip and fall to their immediate death, or break a leg while running and then die a slow agonising death

If, when out walking, biking or paragliding in the mountains, you do not want to provoke such fear and flight, bear in mind:

- As long as you keep to the signposted paths, tracks and footpaths, animals will not regard you as a threat. If you have ever looked out of the window while travelling on the train and seen deer grazing right beside the railway lines, you will know that this is true – they take no notice of the train thundering by: they know it is not dangerous. They have learnt that anything that moves here is not a threat.
- Usually it is the forest which is a safe haven for deer. If one single animal or the herd grazes out in the open, having to take flight means using up valuable energy resources. You should consider this when doing aerial activities such as paragliding. Even if animals seem to have become accustomed to the noise of a nearby airport and the sound of planes taking off and landing, if you make a noise outside of the perimeters of the recognised “safe zone”, you soon become a nuisance, create panic: yet you yourself don’t even notice.

Mean and nasty

Such fly-tips are not a pretty sight for anyone, least of all nature lovers. Any rubbish dumped does not just spoil the beauty of the countryside; it can be dangerous to wildlife, spread disease and cause nasty injuries to animals.



Do you really have to do that?

Ship shape and Bristol fashion – as least that is how the saying goes. And if you could only witness the disastrous effects that such careless dumping of rubbish can cause to inquisitive and unwary animals, you would immediately agree that the proverb is right.

O the other hand, being too house-proud can also be a problem for plants and animals. The garden is probably the best example: you may want to create a natural look or you may be just sheer lazy, but whichever the case, insects, birds and other small mammals will feel much more at home in this “natural mess” and more than happy if you leave your garden in a bit of a “mess” rather than clearing everything away.



Recycling

It's rare that animals can make such good use of our rubbish.



Lazy gardener? Natur lover? Or both?

True animal lovers

We would also kindly request your/our four-legged friend and constant companion to act responsibly when in the countryside. But since they are unable to make up their minds for themselves, it's every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals and wildlife. So, when you are out and about with your dog in the countryside, the golden rule is to keep it on a lead at all times.



Off limits:

The fragile natural balance of ecosystems above and below water, are easily disturbed and are, therefore grateful to you for keeping a safe distance and not being a nuisance.

The elixir of life: water

That special place where land and water meet and even overlap, provides exceptional conditions that cannot be found anywhere else.

Any kind of wetland – whether it be a stream, a river bank, pond or boggy ground is a habitat for a wide variety of rare species of fauna and flora. These biotopes are particularly sensitive areas where the natural balance can soon be upset.

The best way of showing that you respect your “co-inhabitants” is to always adhere to local signs and signposting. These will inform you which particular places to avoid when you go out in a boat, swimming or walking.



Putting on weight for winter

When the “kids” have learnt to stand on their own two (...or four) feet and fend for themselves either in late summer or autumn, this is the time to look ahead to winter and put on some extra weight. Only those who manage to gather enough food or have something in reserve for hard times will be able to survive the worst and “go forth and multiply” next spring.

We very much hope that this leaflet has not only ignited your interest and told you something you didn't know before, but perhaps any new-found knowledge will be put to good use making it easier for you to share open spaces responsibly with our/your “partners” and for that – and for them – we would like to say:

Thank you!



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