

# Identification of field signs

Workshop Mavrovo  
November 2005



Field procedure

Lynx kills

Fox kills

Wolf and dog kills

Others

## 1. Place, circumstances, signs

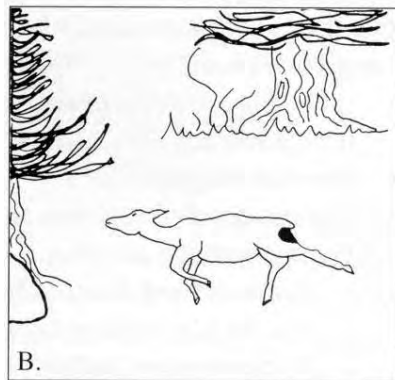


- Forest, pasture, house, roads?
- Fence?
- Snow?
- One or more victims?
- Animal injured but still alive?



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## 1. Place, circumstances, signs



- Animal covered (leaves etc.)?
- Large bones separated at joints?
- Tracks



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Signs: footprint



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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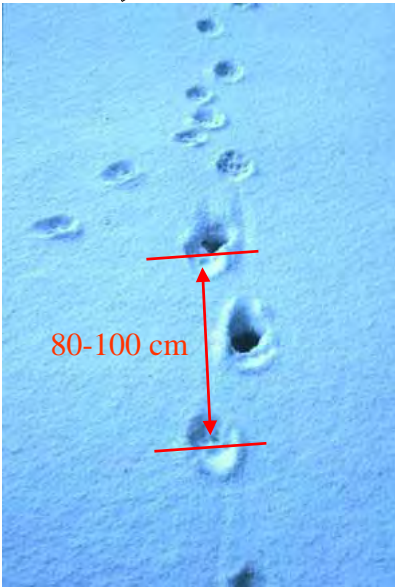



Signs: footprint

Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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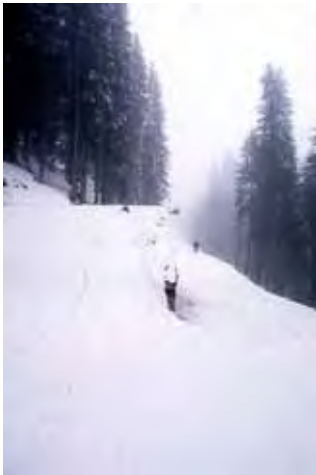
Signs: footprints

Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Signs: tracks

Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Signs: tracks




Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Signs: hairs



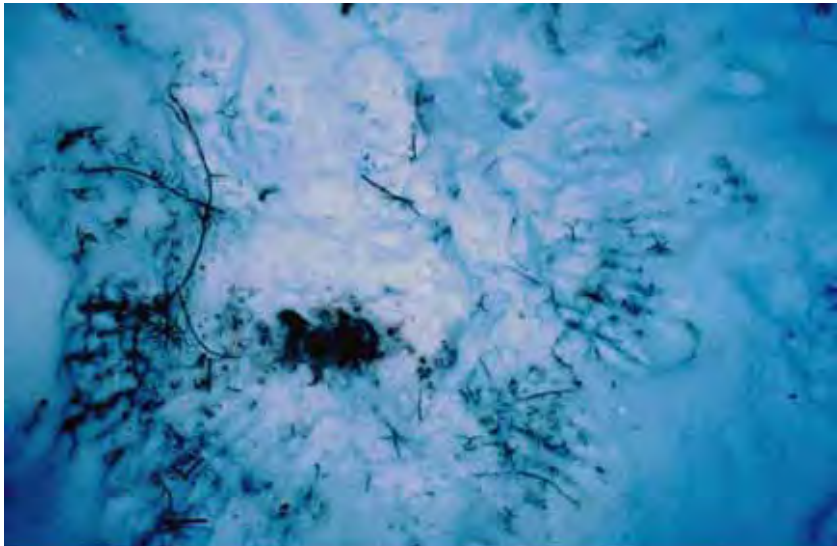

Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Signs: scats

<b>Field procedure</b>	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Signs: scats

<b>Field procedure</b>	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## 2. Analyses of the dead body

C.

D.

Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## 2. Analyses of the dead body

- Condition of the animal?
- State of the skin? (injuries, parasites)
- Bitten or missing body parts?
- **Remove the hide!**
- **Look at the hide from the inside!**
- Open the body, look at the organs



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Analyses, documentation: tracks, injuries

→ Sketch, photography (scale!)

Drawings of the observed injuries:

Fig. A: Head and neck



Fig. B: Head and throat

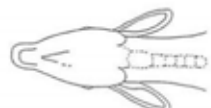


Fig. C: Wall (fur) from the ~~outside~~ <sup>inside</sup> (laid out)



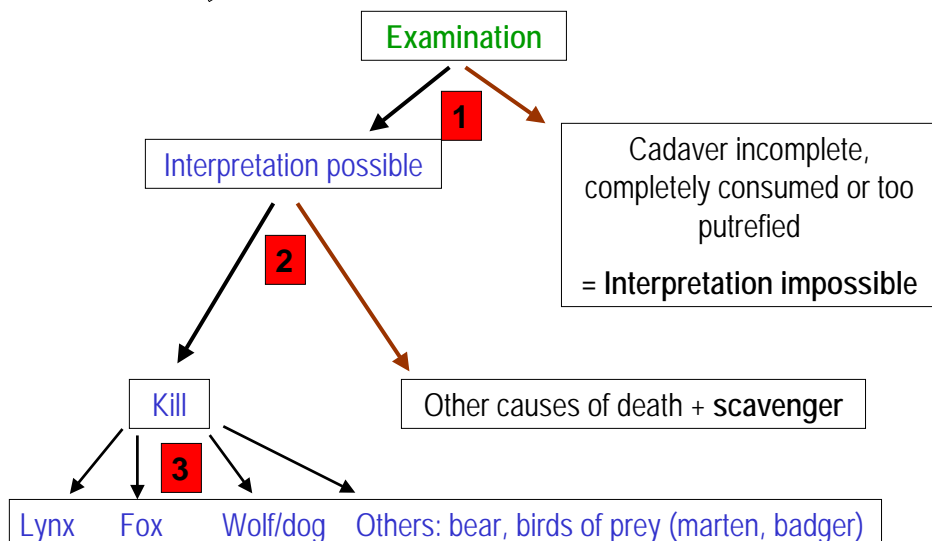
Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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### 3. Interpretation of the findings

- General condition of the cadaver
- Bleeding? Is the skin perforated? Claw injuries?
- Distribution of the injuries? Missing body parts?
- Health state of the animal?
- Place and circumstances
- Knowledge of the biology of the indigenous carnivores



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Field procedure	<b>Lynx kills</b>	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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**Lynx kills**

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**KORA**



Field procedure	<b>Lynx kills</b>	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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**Animal covered**



**KORA**





Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Animal killed with a bite in the throat

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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Animal killed with a bite in the throat

Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Animal killed with a bite in the throat



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Animal killed with a bite in the throat




Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Lynx usually feed from the back to the front




Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Consumption over several days



Lynx usually feed from the back to the front



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Consumption over several days





Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Consumption over several days



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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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The digestive tract is never eaten



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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Summary lynx kills

- Often in or near forest (cover!)
- Kill often covered
- Animal killed with a bite in the throat
- Few but clear skin perforations on the throat, larynx perforated
- Rarely, sharp and deep (perforated) claw scratches
- Consumption from the back to the front, over several days
- The digestive tract is never eaten
- No body parts are carried away
- The skin is turned inside out



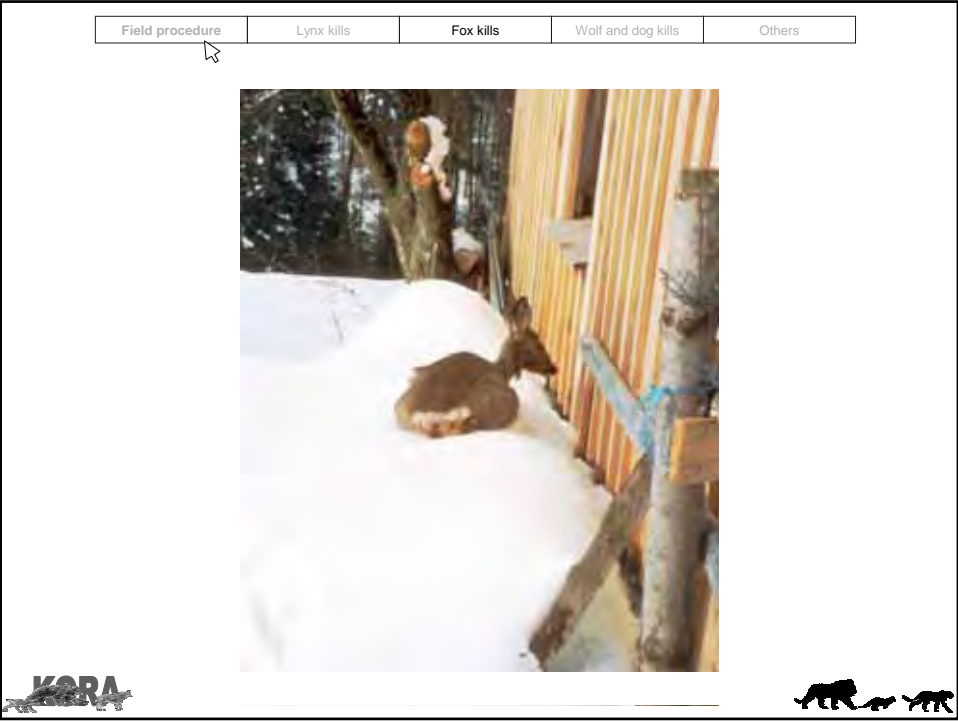
Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Fox kills









Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Summary fox kills

- **Body parts (head or appendicular) often carried away**
- Many fine perforation on the throat
- Bite injuries at the belly, the legs and the articulations
- Starts to eat from the belly or from the anus
- The digestive tract is eaten (not valid for domestic animals)
- Sometimes quick consumption (a roe-deer can be consumed in one night!)



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Wolf and dog kills





Field procedure

Lynx kills

Fox kills

Wolf and dog kills

Others





Field procedure

Lynx kills

Fox kills

Wolf and dog kills

Others



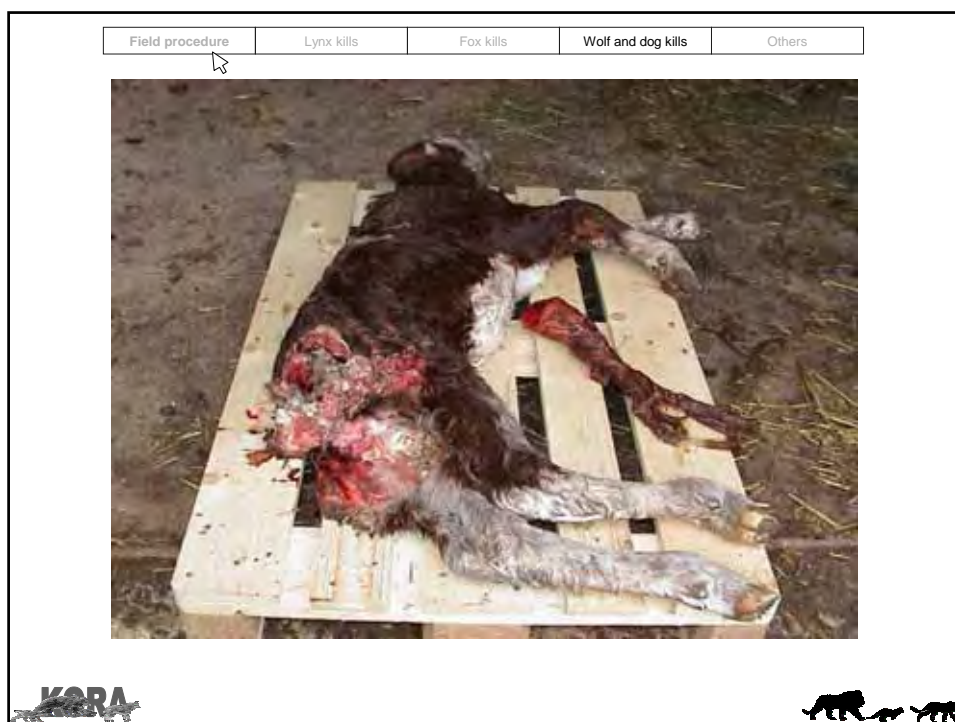
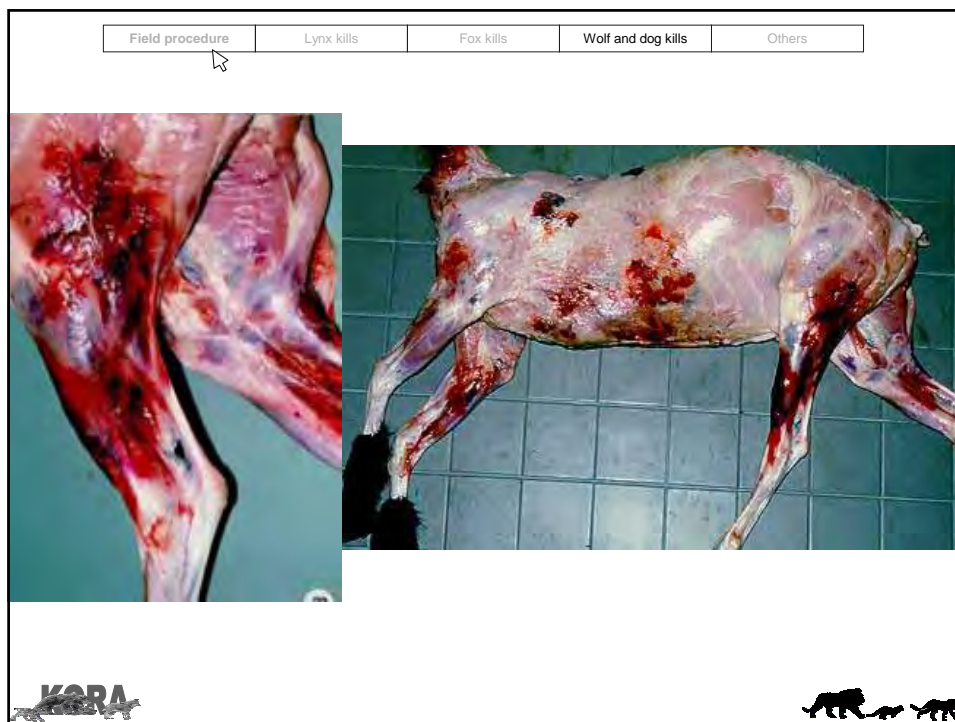




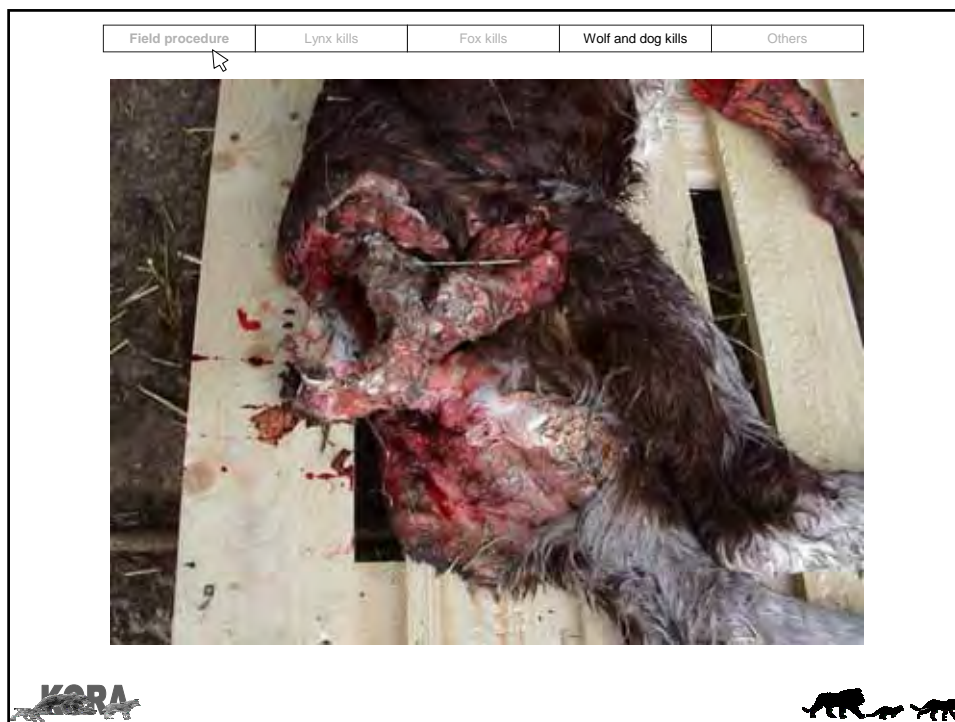














Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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## Summary wolf and dog kills

- Often more than one domestic animal killed, some may be wounded but still alive
- Wolves consume quickly their preys, dogs seldom consumed the animals
- Large claw scratches are rarely visible, if present then rather superficial
- Animal killed with bites in the throat
- Dog bites rarely perforate the throat
- Tissue often strongly torn to pieces (shaking)
- Often bite injuries in the region of the belly, the legs and the articulations (often without perforations in the case of dogs)

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## Not every dead animal is a kill !!






Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Traffic accident




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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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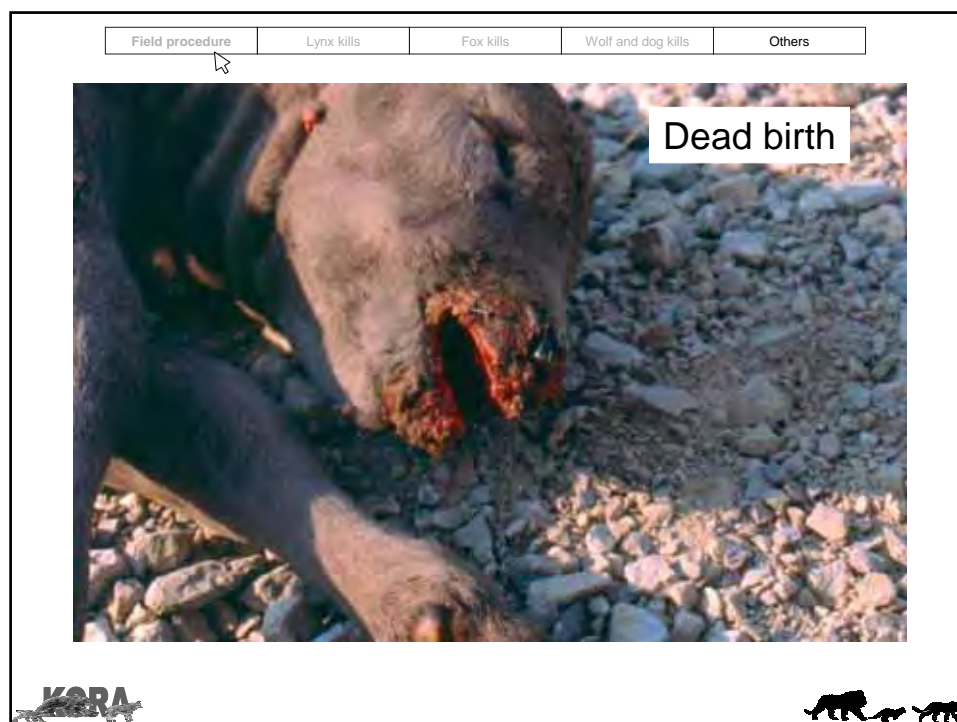
Fallen



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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Dead birth



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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Different species at work

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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Birds at the cadaver



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Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Birds at the cadaver



KORA



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Birds at the cadaver

KORA



Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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Birds at the cadaver

KORA






Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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The causes of death cannot be identified

Field procedure	Lynx kills	Fox kills	Wolf and dog kills	Others
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The causes of death cannot be identified

# Who was it?







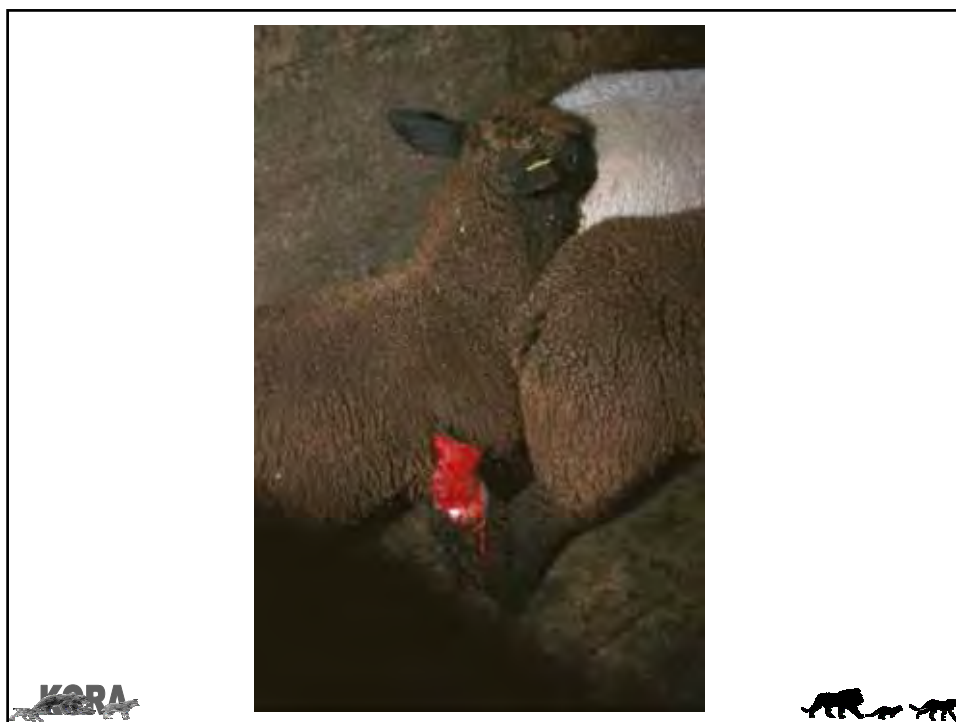
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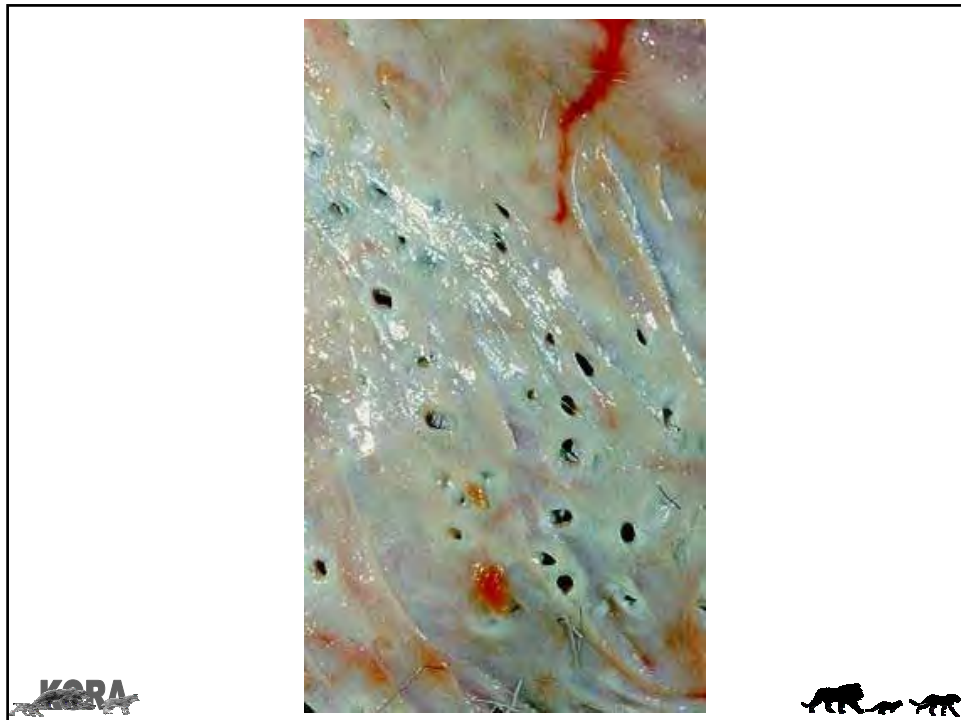


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Vorgehen im Feld	Luchsrisse	Fuchsrisse	Hunderisse	Anderes
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## Do not forget !

- Is it possible to assess the causes of death of the animal?
- Was the animal killed or consumed by scavenger ?
- Animal killed with a bite in the throat! (not only lynx)
- In case of uncertainty:
  - Leave it in the field and install a camera trap!
  - Ask for peer help





Thank you for your  
attention!

