The 'At Force' hunts were designed for fit, young and very active men. As the name suggests there were many huntsmen involved in this.

- **Rabbits**
  - Usually hunted with aid of dogs and bows and arrows, to order to stay out of range of the horns. Suitable as the prey for 'Bow and Stable' Hunting.

- **The Deer, Hart or Roebuck**
  - Usually hunted with aid of dogs and bows and arrows. Suitable as the prey for 'Bow and Stable' Hunting.

- **Boar**
  - Usually hunted with the aid of dogs and with very long spears, in order to stay away from the tasks. Suitable as the prey for 'At Force' Hunting.

- **Foxes**
  - Usually hunted by chasing them with dogs and letting the dogs tear the fox apart. Foxes are rarely hunted as food. Suitable as the prey for 'Bow and Stable' Hunting.

- **Rabbits**
  - Usually hunted by sending trained dogs or ferrets down the burrow

- **Game birds (geese, ducks, pheasant, partridge, grouse etc.)**
  - Usually hunted with dogs to chase them into taking off, then with bow and arrow to bring them down, and dogs (again) to fetch the corpses back. Suitable as the prey for 'Bow and Stable' Hunting.

- **Otters**
  - Usually hunted with dogs. Hunted for sport not food.

- **Game birds (geese, ducks, pheasant, partridge, grouse etc.)**
  - Usually hunted with dogs. Hunted for sport not food.

**Additional Information**

The Book of St Albans (1486) provides a list of animals hunted in Medieval England as follows:

- **The Stag**
  - The stag was usually hunted with aid of dogs and bows and arrows, in order to stay out of range of the horns. Suitable as the prey for 'Bow and Stable' Hunting.

- **The Deer, Hart or Roebuck**
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**Additional Information**

*Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris Ms. fr. 616* and the Morgan library copy, also from 1407.

**Hunting** was the favorite sport of aristocrats during the Middle Ages, and the Livre de la Chasse, (Book of the Hunt), was the most popular guide for hunters. The text's author, Gaston Phébus, was an important political and military leader known for the magnificence and sophistication of his household. He himself owned sixteen hundred sporting dogs and two hundred horses.

**Types of hunting (Medieval Time)**

- The 'At Force' Hunt and the 'Bow and Stable' Hunt. At Force Hunting and hunts were the most strenuous forms of Medieval hunting. The 'At Force' hunts were designed for fit, young and very active men. As the name suggests there were many huntsmen involved in this type of hunt who arranged themselves into teams. Dogs often accompanied the huntsmen on the At Force hunts. The Wild Boar was an extremely dangerous animal and would be the main choice of prey for this type of hunt. The teams would chase the prey to near exhaustion or would corner the animal just before the 'kill'.

- The 'Bow and Stable' Hunts were less strenuous forms of hunting. The 'Bow and Stable' hunts were designed for less active, or ill, men. As the name suggests this type of hunt was conducted on horseback using a bow as the main weapon. Dogs also accompanied the hunt on the 'Bow and Stable' hunts and would drive the prey into an enclosed space where the huntsmen could kill the animal at close range. The docile deer would normally be the main choice of prey for this type of hunt.

**Additional Information**

The Book of St Albans (1486) provides a list of animals hunted in Medieval England as follows:

- **The Stag**
  - The stag was usually hunted with aid of dogs and bows and arrows, in order to stay out of range of the horns. Suitable as the prey for 'Bow and Stable' Hunting.

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**Additional Information**

- Pets were a rarity in the medieval world – people in the Middle Ages did keep domestic animals like dogs and cats, but most of them served a purpose. For example, household Dogs were used to guard homes or assist in the hunt, while cats were needed to catch mice and other vermin. Still, the relationship between these animals and their keepers was often an affectionate one.

- “Hounds were described in extreme detail according to their “ways” of hunting, those that “se sont tant haster, qu’ilz sont hors d’alone” (“those that ran so fast that they were out of breath”), those that “hunted slowly” but who “will hunt all day long”, those who “scented the wind and others who kept their noses to the ground”.

- “I speak to my hounds as I would a man… and they understand me and do as I wish better than any other man can make them do as I do, nor peradventure will anyone do it more when I am dead”.

**Additional Information**

The 13th century scientist and philosopher Albertus Magnus wrote a book *On Animals* that details the characteristics of various creatures, and includes some helpful advice on their care.

- Dogs, for example, should not be fed the food right off the dinner plate or be petted constantly, if you want them to be effective guard dogs.

**References:**


- Kalif McMickle, History Department, SUNY College at Oneonta

- Mules: Persian Copy of Manuscript named as Manaeh Al-Hiwan by Ibn Bakhtyshu or Uses of Animals in the 8th century.