



WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 26 No. 2 – June/July 2020



XXV

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Level 3

Lockdown
Pigeon
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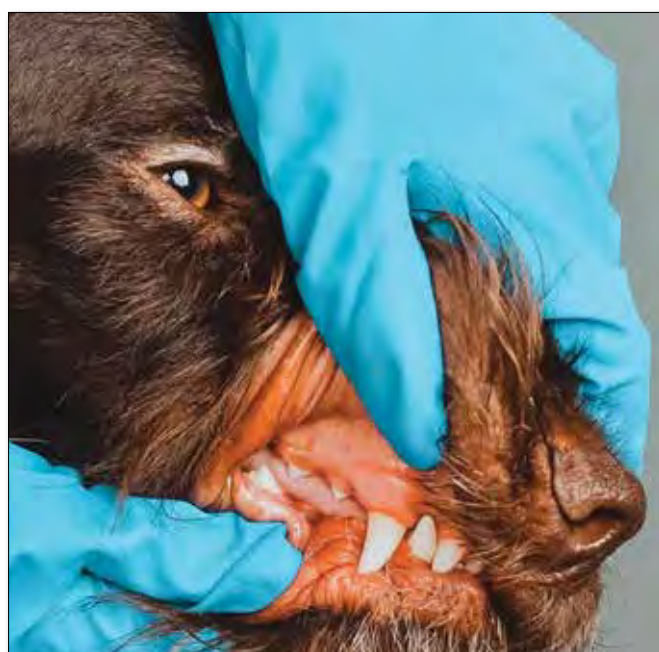
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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



Problem bird control volunteers at Singita, from left, Doug Rodd, Mike Cohen and Amy Cohen

photo: Debbie Odendaal

Lockdown blues over...

This lockdown really took its toll on many of us hunters and shooters. The restriction of not being able to go to the bush, veld and farms – which in my opinion is an example of extreme self-isolation – made no sense right from the start. There was absolutely no reason to limit hunters from doing exactly this and removing ourselves from high population density areas, if you think of it logically. I mean, if you leave your home to travel to a remote hunting area or farm, only stopping for fuel until you reach your destination it would not have made any impact whatsoever of the spread of Covid-19 in my opinion. Be that as it may... it has now been relaxed in level 3.

The past 4 weeks saw all of the associations and role players in the hunting, shooting and wildlife sector come together and work tirelessly to get the government to accept that hunting, especially for subsistence and food security, is an essential part of life in Africa as a whole, not just here in South Africa. Millions of people in Africa rely on hunting as a means to put food on the table – be it directly or indirectly. Many officials in government also realised and acknowledged this fact, in particular the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, as well as other influential role players such as Magdel Boshoff of the Department of Environmental Affairs, to name but a few. All associations gave input at the Wildlife Forum meetings, but a special mention must be given to Dries van Coller, CEO of PHASA, Stephen Palos, CEO of CHASA and Adri Kitshoff-Botha, CEO of WRSA, who devoted most of their time to get this level 3 subsistence hunting regulated through the positive government officials. Thank you for your efforts!

We are not out of the woods yet though. Currently, we are impatiently awaiting the official gazetting of the Gauteng hunting season, as well as the gazetting of same for North West and Limpopo Provinces. We hope that the lack of their timeous publishing of their provincial hunting gazettes was due to the lockdown, and not other more serious issues we are unaware of. We look forward to letting members know when these provincial hunting seasons will open. Enough of all the talking... we've already missed thirty-six days of the hunting season! Let's get to it!

Waidmannsheil

André –



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Alberta gains hunters

Across North America, only Alberta has gained hunters. A May 6 article in MeatEater.com reports a 23% per-capita decrease in hunters across the US and Canada between 1991 and 2016—a trend that will lead to “great challenges in revenue shortages, loss of political capital, and shrinking social relevancy” among fish and wildlife agencies and conservation organizations. Among the 50 states and 10 provinces, only Alberta reports more



hunters per capita now than it did 10 years ago. The possible reasons and mechanisms for this growth are under study. [Ed. note: In the wake of COVID-19 outbreaks at meat-processing plants, some US states are reporting a surge in applications for hunting licenses.

— conservationfrontlines.org

Hunters as citizen scientists

Monitoring biodiversity in Europe may fall to hunters. An April report—“Hunters as citizen scientists”—highlights the role of hunters in monitoring biodiversity across Europe. The lead author, from Norway’s University of Science and Technology, said, “The key point of our study is that collaborations between hunters and scientists are fruitful and should be considered a standard partnership for biodiversity conservation.

A result of this is that many of the game species are among the best studied wildlife species we have in Europe.”

Overall, we found that a wide range of biodiversity characteristics are being derived from hunter-based monitoring programs. In fact, our study suggests that researchers and



wildlife managers infer characteristics on Genetic composition, Species population, Species traits and Community composition with data that are being routinely collected by hunters. We did not find any evidence of hunter-based monitoring schemes directly gathering information on Ecosystem function and Ecosystem structure.

Other game birds and small game were the taxonomic groups for which hunter-based monitoring was the most diverse, with 79% of the species centric EBV candidates being monitored in at least some countries (if we exclude the 7 EBV candidates of the EBV classes Ecosystem function and Ecosystem structure). Hunter based monitoring for other groups of species was less diverse, with 64% of EBVs being recorded for ungulates and 57% for large carnivores and waterfowl.

— Sciencedirect.com and conservationfrontlines.org

World Migratory Bird Day 2020

9 May was World Migratory Bird Day and the theme this year is “Birds Connect Our World”. It was chosen to highlight the importance of conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems that support the natural cycles that are essential for the survival and well-being of migratory birds.

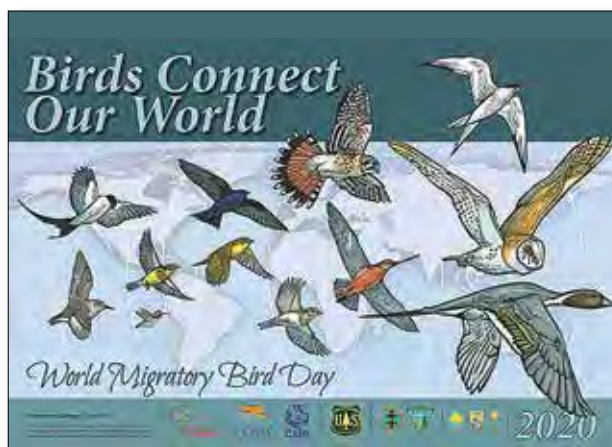
The theme also underlines the fact that migratory birds are part of our shared natural heritage and they depend on a network of sites along their migration routes for breeding, feeding, resting and overwintering.

Last year, over 870 events were registered, including many gatherings of school groups and other public events which took place in city parks, wetlands and other places around the world often frequented by migratory birds. In comparison to past years, the global celebration of our avian friends and their fascinating annual migrations will look very different this year because of the unprecedented global health crisis the world is facing from COVID-19.

“Nature is carrying on as usual, the cycles and rhythms of nature, including those of migratory birds, continue on their normal course,” said Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). “Not only are they connecting us to other people, but they are also reminding us that this crisis also provides an opportunity - an opportunity for humankind to revisit our relationship with nature and to rebuild a more environmentally responsible world,” said Trouvilliez.

There are many ways for people to voice their support for bird conservation, and to celebrate and share their appreciation for migratory birds in countries, cities, towns and villages around the world. While public gatherings (even in small groups) will be impossible in most localities, there are numerous alternatives that people could consider:

— aewa.org



WIN R20,000!

in our **Member Get A Member** drive



Introduce a friend or family member to join and get the benefits of SA Wingshooters membership and you could BOTH be in with a chance of winning R10,000 EACH in our **Member Get A Member** prize draw this year.

Here's how it works:

Any member that recruits a new member to join full membership, stands a chance to win R10,000 and the new member also stands a chance to win the same amount! The more new members you sign up – the more chances you have at winning R10,000 each!



Rules:

1. Only current members may be eligible for a prize. 2. There is no limit to how many new members a current member may sign up. 3. The current member and new member pair will stand a chance together. 4. Full membership is our standard membership, and does not include junior or senior membership as per our join form. 5. The recruiting member's initials, surname, and first 6 digits of his/her ID must clearly appear on the new member's join form, or be sent in an email to us. 6. Members of management, their families and relatives are not eligible for any prizes. 7. This membership initiative is open to members of SA Wingshooters Association ONLY. 8. Valid for membership of SA Wingshooters (not LRSC, PSP, etc) only. 9. The draw will take place on Friday 26 February 2021 at 12H00 at the SA Wingshooters office in Randburg. 10. Winners will be contacted via phone and email. E&OE. SA Wingshooters 2020.

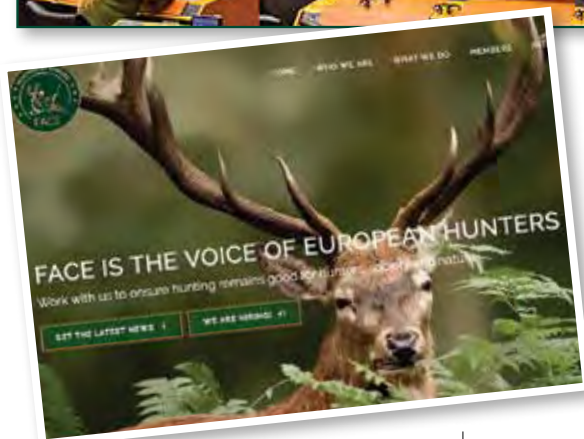
EU votes down proposed wildlife-use ban

proposals to ban the import, the trade and the keeping and consumption of wildlife in the EU, in order to reduce the risk of future zoonosis outbreaks."

The vote – 449 against and only 186 in

be levied against such a person, but that such a person will be allowed to renew the licence/s without further criminal penalty or charge. Such a fine could be as high as R1000 per owner/applicant.

There are many such examples in our government where an administrative fine is used for a late application, such as for vehicle registration licence disc renewals, drivers' licences, traffic fines, etc. In these instances, the vehicles or other property is not taken away from the owner and it is not criminal offence either, and there is only a fine payable without the addition of



favor, with 53 abstentions – was a significant setback to animal-rights groups that are using any means possible to ban hunting and other sustainable uses of wildlife in Europe..

– conservationfrontlines.org

Another Appeal to Parliament –

The European United Left/Nordic Green Left proposal to ban the trade and consumption of wildlife—with enormous consequences for conservation, hunting, land management and wild foods—was voted down by the European Parliament on April 16, according to a FACE press release.

The proposed ban, in the form of a constitutional amendment and ostensibly a response to COVID-19, posited that “the trading and farming of wild animals amplifies risks for public health, combining critical factors for the occurrence of zoonosis; calls on the Commission and on the EU Member States to advocate a global ban on wildlife markets and on the use of wildlife in traditional medicine; urges the Commission to present legal

On 3 June we wrote a letter to parliament to please reconsider the possibility of a fine penalty for late/lapsed firearm licences:

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION –
To allow firearm owners with lapsed firearm licences to renew such
firearm licence/s subject to an administrative fine

“As the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 (FCA), as amended, currently states, a person whose firearm licence expired is in possession of an illegal firearm. This law automatically makes a person a criminal by the mere fact that they forgot to renew their firearm licence/s. We therefore propose that an administrative late fine

a criminal record or charge.

The current Firearms Control Act automatically makes law abiding citizens criminals, if they forget to renew their firearm licence/s. We as an association feel strongly that to forget is human nature. Decent, law-abiding citizens should not be criminalised in such a manner!”

This comes after the end of the firearm Amnesty that ended 31 May 2020. There were many law-abiding citizens that plainly forgot to renew in time.

There is a very good possibility that there will another Amnesty gazetted soon, to run until January 2021.

– SA Wingshooters





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One or Two

by Charles Duff

Long-standing shotgunning controversies are sidelock versus boxlock and over and under versus side by side. All have their pundits and the pros and cons are many and varied. Another, which gets little attention nowadays, is whether to use single or double triggers on a double gun.



Fausti Italyco
SLX with side plates

Back in Scotland in the 50s when I first picked up a shotgun there were few choices; shotguns were double-barrelled side by sides with double triggers. The only buyer's options were sidelock, boxlock or trigger-plate actions. Since then much has changed. In this country superposed guns have predominated for several decades and almost exclusively they are made with single selective triggers.

Back in the good old days the defence of the double trigger was based upon the fact that, if one lock stopped working, you still had the other to use, the gun was not completely inoperative. Much was also made of the fact that the shooter could select which trigger, and thus barrel, to use first, (most of the earlier O/Us were also made with double triggers).

A further development was the articulated front trigger. The space between the two triggers is never that roomy, so big fingers and gloved hands were often squeezed into what little was available. So some bright spark came up with this innovation where the front trigger was hinged to fold forward, nicely out of the way – a clever solution.

But with modern designs and manufacture, though shotguns breaking-down do very occasionally happen, but generally not that frequently. To cap it all, while hand-detachable trigger groups have been around for many years – thus answering the double trigger utility challenge – of late what was an expensive option has become more common-place and being offered more widely, by Zoli and Perazzi for example. Since the manufacturers are always looking for something new and different with which to attract buyers, I predict that more and more detachable trigger groups will become available.

The single trigger for a double gun had been around for quite some time, the first patent being applied for in 1864 and since then over 100 further patents were issued in Great Britain. There was great diversity between the many and various designs and some were very much better than others. Westley Richards achieved renown with their Anson and Deeley boxlock with a single trigger 'droplock' – the Lard's patent of 1899 with nineteen parts, adding a barrel selector took another five.

Other well-known mechanisms are the Boss 3-pull with five parts, the Lancaster with sixteen, the Fulford with nineteen and the Jones-Baker with seventeen. W.W. Greener was very proud of the fact that his version also required only five parts, and he had a point, except it was reported as being widely disliked by those gun-smiths who had to work on one. The Boss example was also not that well liked and a friend, intent on bidding for one at a British auction, was advised by a well-known and highly knowledgeable dealer to give the gun a miss unless he had a Boss gunsmith living in his neighbourhood!



Beretta 486 Parabello

Murphy's law is that the more intricate any mechanism is, the more likely it is to fail. Back in 1906 during a patent infringement action, an expert witness opined that "he did not consider that any single-trigger mechanism could be relied upon never to go wrong". However, times have certainly changed and though the modern single trigger might go wrong, very few are actually reported to have failed.

The barrel selector switch built into the safety catch on the top tang of the action is now pretty-well universal on modern guns. Flipping it over from one barrel to the other with the thumb is far quicker than moving the trigger finger back from the front to the rear trigger, but is this really necessary? The Blaser F 3 and F16 O/Us put their barrel selector lever in the front of the trigger guard, an

interesting move against current convention. As the average shot hardly ever uses the tighter choked barrel first, the need for a selector is not really that crucial, so divorcing it from the safety catch could be a reasonable move. For many years I used a simple 28ga O/U which had no selector at all and I must admit that I never noticed its lack. The only times that I can think of when to shoot the more tightly choked barrel first in Southern Africa would be driven guinea-fowl and possibly flocking rock pigeon or goose shooting.

I changed over to an O/U in the 70s and from then on all my shotguns have since been of the single selective trigger persuasion; except for one sentimental purchase of a John Dickson S/S 12ga which was a lovely gun, and I thought that it would make a good light field gun. But I found it almost

impossible to switch my trigger finger back to the rear trigger. To the point that after it languished at the back of the safe for a decade or so, I sold it.

A while ago at Waterhaven there was a small private competition of 50 sporting clays over 8 stations, all English doubles on report or simultaneous, for side by side guns only. I started very hesitantly with an AYA No.2 and the first double, on report,

nice Midlands Gun Co S/S sidelock that is so equipped, it's tempting....

Yet I have friends and acquaintances who happily shoot either option with seemingly no problems in changing over, though most will admit that the second shot from a double trigger gun is definitely slower than that from a single trigger gun where the second report can almost blend into the first. Certainly in

such gun, especially if the user was unknown to me.

A major and relatively modern advance, which has never received the acclaim that it deserved and remains surprisingly low-key and nowhere wide-spread, is the adjustable trigger. A really innovative and useful device that tends to be confined to the more upper priced guns, yet with modern manufacturing technology should be reasonably inexpensive to make, I am surprised that its use is not more widespread.

There are two types of cocking the locks with a single trigger double gun, mechanical and inertia. The difference being that with mechanical cocking, both locks are cocked by either opening or closing the gun. With the inertia system only the first selected barrel's lock cocks fully, the other usually goes onto half-cock. The recoil of the first barrel then fully cocks the second.

To find out what system your gun has, close the empty gun and pull the trigger – one of the locks will go click, pull the trigger again and if the other lock clicks then you have a mechanical system. If not then give the butt plate a healthy smack or bump the butt on the floor (to imitate recoil) and pull the trigger again, a click will confirm that your gun has an inertia system. Proponents of mechanical trigger say that it is more reliable, those who favour the inertia will point out that it is safer to have one lock ready to fire and the other on half-cock.

Without going into the details of each system, suffice it to say that some inertia guns don't fully cock the second barrel with lighter loads, and generally speaking, the mechanical system does seem to have slightly more problems. I have guns with both and on the balance I prefer the mechanical. Broken springs and ejectors, sheared firing pins and other such mishaps I've had over the many years, but broken triggers never.

So, if your bent is game shooting then it probably doesn't matter whether you have a single or a double trigger gun. But if, like me, you are even only semi-serious about clay target shooting, your only sensible option is the single trigger. For the dedicated sportsman there is no choice.

AYA No.2 in 28 Gauge



found me hitting the first target and then vainly trying to straighten the trigger for a second shot at the next. Kill and loss!

A good friend in the same squad then handed over his Beretta Parallelo Model 486 S/S single trigger gun and we shared it for the rest of the competition. None of the targets were easy and most were in the difficult plus class. Top gun scored 40 out of 50, with - can you believe it - a hammer gun. I was very happy with a 33, tying me in fifth place out of the 22 competitors.

I would very much have liked to see the same targets shot with O/Us. I doubt that I would have done much better with my Browning B25 or Beretta Ultra-lite. I liked everything about the Parallelo except the price! It confirmed to me that if I was ever to get another S/S, it would have to have a single trigger. Thus the likelihood is minimal, though I recently saw a very

the above competition many of the participants said that changing the trigger finger position for the difficult simultaneous doubles all too often led to a loss of the second target.

There was one, rather frightening, development of the single trigger – the release trigger. This was developed specifically for clay target shooting, in an effort to minimise the delay in operating the trigger, the belief being that the voluntary release of a finger under some tension would be quicker than tightening-up the aforesaid finger. Thus once the operator had put his finger on the trigger and tightened his grip, any release of tension would lead to the gun firing.

The possibilities for accidents are only too obvious and thankfully this aberration remained rare – I have only seen one, a trap gun – and it seems to have since had a natural death. I know that I would not like to be in the same squad with one



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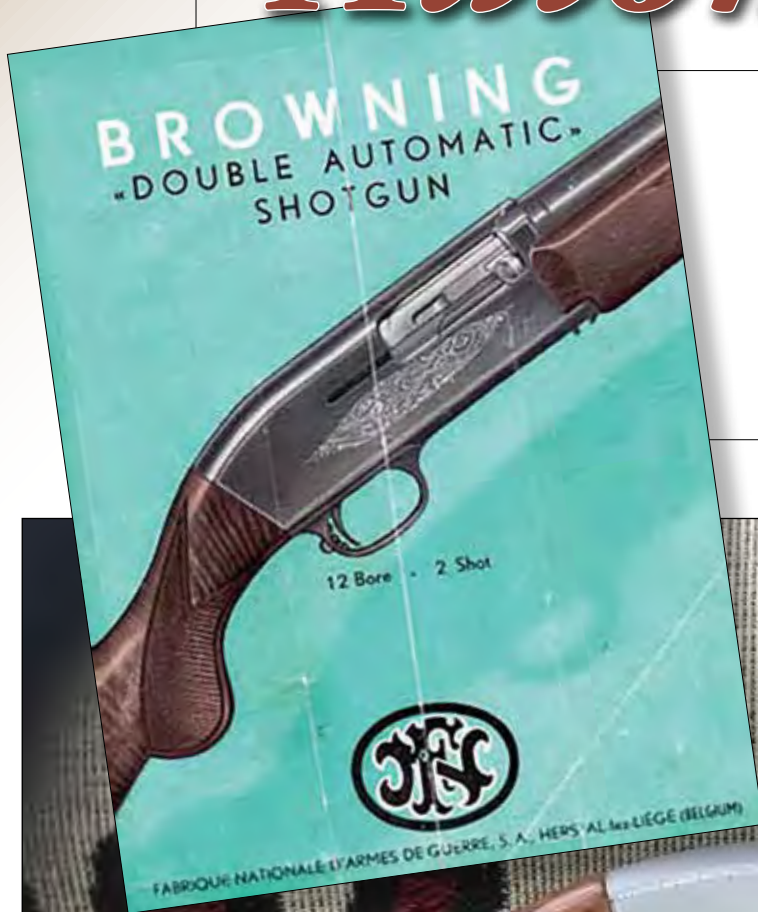
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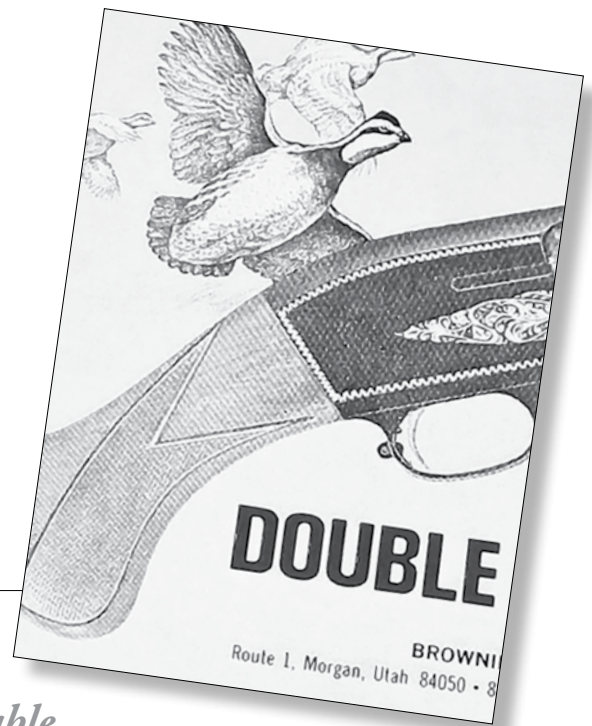
“Double Automatic”



by Charles Duff



image: gunsinternational.com



Val Browning took over the company in Belgium on the passing of his father, the redoubtable John Moses. A brilliant firearms designer in his own right, he completed the over and under Superposed B25's design and invented its single trigger mechanism as well as completing the design of the Hi-Power pistol. By the end of his career he held 48 firearms patents.

In 1952 he produced an innovative 12ga semi-auto model in Europe – the Double Automatic. The concept was of a slimmer, lighter gun than the then current semi-autos, using the short recoil principle where the others were mostly long recoil, and also to make the genre more acceptable on the clay shooting ranges.

The cumbersome and very non-ergonomic requirement of turning a semi-auto upside-down or even sideways to load it was targeted, and the more elegant, convenient, and acceptable loading through a port on the left-hand side of the action was used. This feature remains unique among semi-autos. At the same time the usual five shot tubular magazine was dropped and a simple lifter for a single cartridge inside the action was substituted. With the bolt open, if a cartridge is fed through this port, it is immediately and automatically raised and inserted into the chamber and the bolt closes. Another cartridge is then inserted into the port and onto the lifter, making this gun a two shot only. In the short recoil system, at a

shot the barrel breech and bolt recoil together for about 15-20mm when the barrel and breech separate from the bolt and stop. The bolt continues rearwards to eject the used cartridge and at limit of its backward movement the return spring comes into force and sends the bolt forwards, picking up and chambering another cartridge.

Other unique features were the aluminium alloy receiver version – made from an aircraft alloy called Hiduminium – which was also available in a variety of colours – Velvet Grey, Dragon Black, Autumn Brown and Forest Green – only quite recently has this option come back into the market. The receiver itself, at just 6 7/8" (175mm) was shorter than any other semi-auto and can handle any 2 3/4" cartridges, including magnums. The design needs no regulating ring to accommodate cartridges of differing strengths. Another first was that it was considered unnecessary, and possibly damaging, to take the gun apart for routine cleaning and oiling the internal mechanisms; a squirt of oil once a year sufficing.

Furthermore the gun can be stored with an open bolt and a compressed return spring for any period without any deleterious effects. The barrel can be removed from the action very quickly and simply by loosening the catch at the rear of the forearm (which then swivels downwards and is kept on the mainspring shaft by a front cross-pin), then retracting the bolt and rotating the barrel clockwise through a half-turn and giving it a yank.

Three models were produced, all with either plain round barrels, or recessed and ventilated top ribs. What a recessed top rib actually looks like is not easily apparent. Available fixed chokes were Full (*), Improved Modified (**), Modified (**-), Improved Cylinder, Skeet (**\$) and Cylinder. The Standard model with a steel receiver was the heaviest weighing between 7lbs 10oz (3.46kg) and 7lbs 14oz (3.57kg) with 30" or 28" barrels, in both trap and hunting versions. The 26" version in hunting or skeet guise weighed in at around 7lbs and 6 - 8oz (+/- 3.37kg). Next came the alloy receiver

continued on page 14...

"Twelvette" at around 6lbs 14oz (3.12kg) which offered 12ga performance in a 16ga weight class and then the "Twentyweight" with less recoil and lighter weight than competitive 20ga semi-autos and at around 6lbs (2.72kg) is still lighter than the Benelli Ultra-lite in 12ga.

However unlike the venerable

today all considered pretty rare even in the USA where the most were sold. The launch of the very much cheaper Remington 1100 in 1963 undoubtedly accelerated its demise, but the coup de grace occurred when Miroku bought out the company and moved the factory to Japan. In the words of Randy Wakeham, an American

model with steel receiver, a plain 29½" (75cm) barrel and very full choked. The serial number of C 152xx denotes steel with the "C", those with an "A" are all alloy receivers and according to the internet the serial number indicates manufacture in 1958. For a 60 year-old gun it is in pretty good shape, I have refin-



“Other unique features were the aluminium alloy receiver version — made from an aircraft alloy called Hiduminium — which was also available in a variety of colours — Velvet Grey, Dragon Black, Autumn Brown and Forest Green — only quite recently has this option come back into the market.”

hump-back A5 semi-auto, this was not a Browning success story. After introduction to the USA in 1954 sales did pick up a bit and when manufacturing ceased in 1971, about 67,000 had been made in the several versions. This average of about 3,500 per year was not great.

The only other one that I have ever come across was a 26" barrelled skeet model owned by Mark Drinn of the eponymous gunshop in Durban back in the seventies, it was probably a 'Twelvette'. They are

gun writer, it was “the most innovative and important shotgun introduced in the 1950s”, and looking at its unique features I can only agree.

The gun featured is a standard



image: gunsinternational.com

ished the woodwork, but the bluing is in the 95%+ range and the bore is clean, smooth and bright, all-up weight was just 2 ounces shy of 8lbs – 3.57kg. I am not a fan of long barrels, tight chokes or heavy shotguns and the barrel was soon docked down to 26" (66cm) which culled a couple of ounces. Here an interesting situation evolved, a registered gunsmith must, before truncating a barrel, apply to the police for permission to do so! However, if you cut off the unwanted portion and then take the gun to him for repair (crowning the barrel and relocating the front sight) he can effect 'necessary repairs'.

The barrel shows on its left hand side, by the breech, 'Fabrique National de Armes de Guerre Herstal Belgique' and 'Special Steel 12ga shells 2¾"' with the ELG and nitro proof and view marks. The left side shows 'Browning Patents made in Belgium'. On both sides of the receiver is a hand-engraved zig-zag border with a restrained scroll pattern in the centre. The lock time is acceptably fast but I find the very short travel of the trigger slightly disturbing.

The trigger safety sliding behind the trigger in a slot in the trigger guard is more ergonomic than a push-pull one but still requires taking the trigger hand off the gun to operate it. The walnut stock and forearm are quite plain and showed hand-cut 20LPI flat-top chequering, this hand work markedly increased the cost. The rounded semi-pistol grip is very short and could be much longer for my rather large hands, the length of pull at 14 ¾" (365mm) was fine for me and the drops at comb and heel were also fitting. The compressed horn butt plate is unique in showing a cameo of John Browning in relief, presumably in homage to Val's lately departed sire.

The initial extreme overall gun length – at 48 ¾" (1.24 m) only just fitted into my safe and was too long for any of my gunslips – all the more reason to curtail the barrel! On the range I found its length somewhat awkward for me, but it did function flawlessly and it digested 24 and 28 gram loads of three or four different makes effortlessly. At 40 yards on the pattern board at least 80% of the pellets were inside a 30" circle, making it a super-full choke. I hadn't fired a spring recoil operated semi-auto for many years, having mainly used a Beretta 300 gas-operated semi and I was surprised at the amount of noise that this gun generated on report and recoil, though the recoil itself was much reduced.

All things considered I think I will stick with gas-operated guns, they are appreciably quieter, even though they require much more cleaning. The shortened version was far more likeable, the handling improved markedly and, with an improved cylinder bore the performance is akin to a skeet gun. There is enough meat in the muzzle to make fitting interchangeable chokes a possibility.



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How many shotguns do you need?

Well, for starters in clay target shooting, you'd need at least three – a Sporting gun, a Skeet gun and a Trap gun. That is, if you want to genuinely partake in all the various disciplines.

article and photos by André van der Westhuizen

Many people think... I have a shotgun and that's fine for any and all types of shotgunning – Wrong!

If you want to be fair to yourself, and your partner for that matter (as you don't want to come home after a bird shoot empty handed or miss often at clays and look like you can't get food on the table or be the guy to come last at the clay range), you need more than a few shotguns in order to give yourself the best opportunity to achieve, not so?

Here's a quick lowdown of what you need...

Trap and Trench are gun-up disciplines and Skeet and Sporting are gun-down disciplines. This means the discipline prescribes the shooter to either start (call the target) with the gun pre-mounted in the shoulder and cheek welded to the stock – gun-up, as opposed to starting with the gun out of the shoulder and below the armpit or just above the hip – gun-down. In Compak you can start gun-up or gun-down.

The shotguns used in the above disciplines are vastly different in design. In short, and in general, a Trap/Trench gun is heavier, has a stock with a higher comb with

heavy, long barrels, tight chokes and a broader top rib, often with multiple beads on the rib (for correct sight alignment before that target is called). Competition grade Trap guns even have weighted barrels that can be changed by adding or removing weights and have beaver-style bulky forends. Trap guns are usually barrel heavy.

A Sporting/Compak shotgun will generally have a standard stock and some competition models will have an adjustable comb. The barrels are around 28 to 30 inches long generally, and the forend is of a lighter tulip or schnabel type and will have a full pistol grip stock. In the old days, before interchangeable chokes, the average shotgun would have a choke of a quarter choke (Improved cylinder) in the bottom barrel and a three-quarter (Improved Modified) choke in the top barrel. By the way, an over and under shotgun is designed to shoot the under barrel as the first shot. The rib is not necessarily broad and can be a narrow rib. The gun must have a good centre/pin balance and not be too heavy.

A Skeet shotgun is similar to a Sporting shotgun, but usually has 26 inch barrels with open chokes or even retro-chokes. The movements

(shooter and targets) in Skeet are quick and the gun and shooter must be set up for this style of shooting.

Okay, enough of clay shooting shotguns for now, but as you can see you need at least three here.

As mentioned above, the minimum shotguns are relevant to clay target shooting only. One needs at least another three for hunting, if not more. Here's why...

Pigeon/Dove shooting:

Here one needs a high-volume (within bag limits) pigeon/dove shotgun of decent quality that can handle many shots in a single day, without breaking a firing pin or ejector spring, week after week, season after season. Such a shotgun would be on the heavy side and well built. A main reason for a heavy shotgun when firing many shots a day is to counter excessive recoil. Barrel lengths of up to 32" with medium chokes (quarter and half) would be suitable.

That is why a semi-auto field shotgun is so popular in the USA – it reduces felt recoil tremendously. One does not move around much when hunting pigeons or doves, so a heavier shotgun is not uncomfortable, as we are mostly stationary when on a pigeon/dove hunt. Here one could use a Sporting or Compak clay

*“One does not move
around much when
hunting pigeons or
doves, so a
heavier shotgun
is not
uncomfortable,
as we are mostly
stationary when on
a pigeon/dove hunt”*



shotgun for the same purpose, but who wants to do that if you can have a reason to buy another one? ...Just saying.

Upland (Rough) shooting, AKA Walk-up shooting:

A field gun such as a side-by-side or lightish over and under for upland (rough) shooting when many kilometres are walked on a day's Francolin hunting in the Free State or Springbok Flats, is most preferable. Especially if you have to run after your mate's GSP that is on point 800m down the valley! Such a lighter upland shotgun would have shorter barrels between 25 and 28 inches, and be of light weight, easier to carry and quick to mount. Here the lighter gauges, such as the 16 gauge, 20 gauge, 28 gauge and .410 are all good options for francolin and partridge hunting. The cartridges are also lighter to carry. Yes, the recoil will be more intense, but then fewer shots are fired compared to a day's pigeon or clay target shooting, over and above the fact that you are not a snowflake and can handle the abuse.

While we are on the recoil topic, I think it pertinent to mention that more often than not a 20 gauge will have more recoil than a 12 gauge. The reason is simple – often the 12 and 20 gauge cartridges are similar or the same in load (24 gram for example), so the recoil will be the same in both gauges all things being equal (Newton's third law of motion), but the 20 gauge shotgun will usually be lighter and therefore have more felt recoil. That is why I suggest getting a 28 gauge for a junior or a slim, delicate lady. However, if you can kick-start a Honda XR500 whilst wearing just your slops, then you're good to go with a 12 Bore. (Note here I mention 12 Bore as it sounds meaner and more impressive than gauge).

The 28 gauge is renowned to have superb patterns and it is such a delight to hunt with. In the 2018 season almost all of my upland bird hunting (Francolin, Partridge and Guinea-fowl) was with my 28 gauge using number 6 shot. Here I need to hastily mention, before some of you condemn me to the gallows, that I refrain from long shots and stay



within 25m shot distance! ...pew I barely made it.

There are no specific choke setting for upland/rough shooting, and anything from quarter (Improved Cylinder) to three-quarter (Improved Modified) will do the trick. If you are well disciplined, are patient and have a good pointing bird dog, you can even use Skeet or cylinder chokes for those close-up shots, as you'd seldomly shoot past 25 metres distance. Unless you... let's rather leave it there.

Waterfowl shooting:

Another shotgun to consider would be a waterfowling shotgun. Geese and Spurwing are tough birds and extremely wary, and ducks fly and fast! In older English waterfowl shotguns, a 34 inch barrel gun with full and full chokes was common and almost the standard. Those old English shoguns are beautiful indeed. However, plodding around in mud flats and vleis is hardly the environment for that nice Holland & Holland, Purdey, or other nice over and unders such as a Browning B2G and the like. You get my drift. Hence, you want something more unrefined and tacky – a cheaper double-barrel shotgun, or dare I insinuate a waterfowl pump action or semi-auto.

All waterfowl see extremely well – they are quadchromats and can see more colours than us humans, including UV light. Therefore, it is not uncommon for a slow moving, middle-aged person, like myself, to start swinging too late or moving

about whilst the geese are inbound (because I get aches and pains from sitting still). This results in the birds seeing you first and when you start to move, they flare out of reach within seconds. Here you want something that will give you an edge... something with tight chokes and long barrels, to compliment that full suit of camouflage attire you'd be wearing.

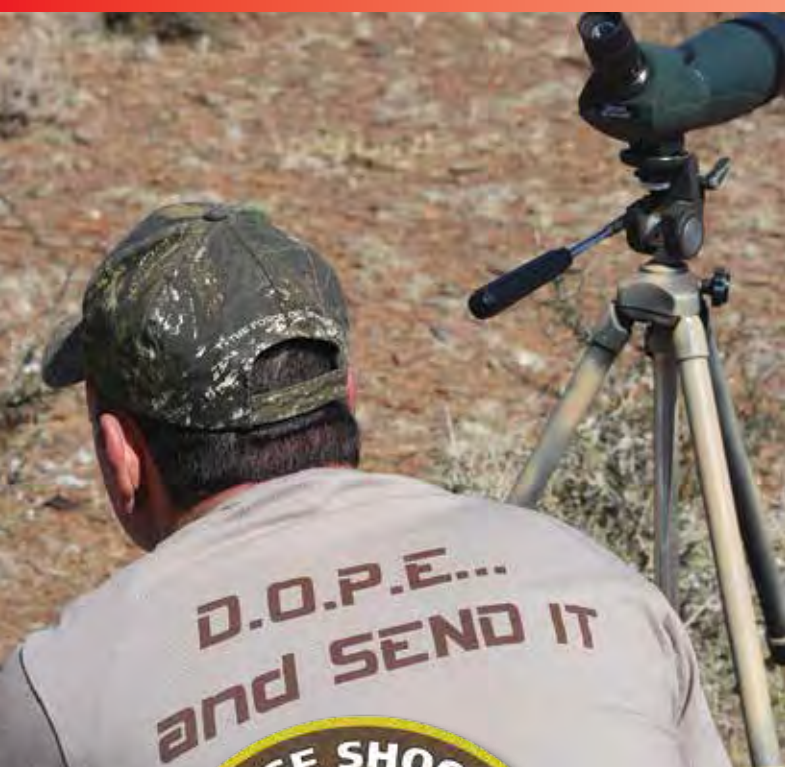
Seriously, full camouflage is a must, especially if your shooting spot is not hidden away under brush, military-grade camo netting and the like, so much so that you can't see the birds coming and the guy with the full camo in the open to your left is taking all the shots before you can. (Don't you just hate those guys... boom boom... shouting "hey man woohoo, I got another double", and so on). Pffff!

Stick to something basic here, that is easy to clean and keep clean whilst out in the field. Or use your dad's old cupboard shotgun for that matter, which is usually an old Greener side-by-side, but never ever attempt to use an 18 inch short barrelled 'riot' pump action or drum-fed Striker shotgun for bird shooting! If the farmer does not chase you off the farm, then I hope your mates do! Go, back to camp... off you go... those are for multi-gun sport shooting, not hunting! Should you have one of those 'riot' shotguns and want to use it for sport shooting, get hold of us at the office and we'll get you involved in our TPS club (part of the LRSC) where you can use that thing for multi-gun events.

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Wildlife Poisoning

Am I crazy?



Wildlife poisoning is real and a scary thing, because pesticides (poisonous substances) are easily available from many rural outlets. It's because of this that the small NGO, Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution exists...

by Tim Snow

Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution

The NGO was established when a former Poison Working Group was disbanded. I ask "Am I crazy?" because this issue seems so huge that it may be impossible to even get a grip on the extent of what's happening across southern Africa and worldwide...

When one opens the discussion about wildlife poisoning it seems that Nobody is responsible. Everybody blames Somebody and Anybody can tell that Somebody is doing this, so why does Nobody takes responsibility when Everybody knows that Somebody should? When talking with farmers, it's always their neighbour, their staff or someone else who is accused, never them. Grandfather's poison lies safely hidden away. But I know the pesticides that are abused come from vegetable farms, or sheep farms... so why is it that we are unable to stand up to others and say, "Enough is enough?" The absence of large birds of prey from many parts of our region is an indicator of poisoning and other factors affecting wildlife well-being. Vultures, birds of prey, small wildlife, mongooses and game birds suffer at the hands of those who abuse poison, intending to



Vultures poisoned in Kenya. Photo: Munir Virani

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Vervet Monkeys poisoned in Durban



87 Vultures poisoned in Mozambique



100 Vultures poisoned in KZN



Lions poisoned. Photo: Charlie Hamilton James

“protect their livelihoods” or avoid detection by rangers, without realising that their methods are flawed. And poisoning continues unabated. It seems that, apart from paying lip service to the issue; nobody gives a toot about it.

From studies and reports since 1985, we know that hundreds of thousands of game birds, waterfowl, vultures and mammals have been poisoned, and around 450 000 are poisoned every year in South Africa (Snow, Berutti & van Zijl, 1995). We know that 54 lions were poisoned across southern Africa from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018.

We know that despite better livestock damage management techniques being proposed and used, some farmers still poison carcasses and put out poisoned bait for predators. We know that Motswana farmers are given crop pesticides by their

government, which they use to kill predators as revenge for predation. We have heard horror stories about pesticide abuse and we frequently see the death of wildlife as a result. Social media is full of it. Game birds, cranes and water fowls are killed in their hundreds by poorly paid farm workers, who, with just a little maize soaked in a pesticide, can kill hun-

dreds of birds per event (and then eat those birds, blissfully ignoring that they will also in due course suffer chronic poisoning effects). Yet when we seek out these people who are poisoning the environment, to prosecute them, communities enigmatically close ranks and protect them. Its a secret...

Apart from rodenticides designed and registered for rodent control, there are no pesticides registered for the general public to kill mammals and birds. Even so, the chemical industry is under environmental pressure, so they are thinking of new “non-toxic” ways to kill, such as

Vitamin D overdosing. Some toxins which are controlled under the Hazardous Substances Act, Act 15 of 1973, have been permitted for restricted use under restricted conditions, but because it’s almost impossible to make a poison bait target specific, the authorities have steered away from these poisons, which, without exception, pose a severe threat to human health. Other pesticides are controlled by the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act No. 36 of 1947. The poisoning of predators and wildlife that we hear of more and more is illegal and environmentally unsustainable, never mind short-sighted and irresponsible!

There are different forms of poisoning. Primary poisoning is the effect on the first victim and as example, when a carcass is poisoned by poachers who want to escape undetected (sentinel poisoning), or when a poisoned meat bait is put out by an irresponsible farmer who intends

to target predators. The primary poisoning victim is the victim of that action. Because poison is very difficult to make target specific, especially when people go to great lengths to poison animals and birds; the victim often leaves the "kill area" to die elsewhere. It's then scavenged by others which die of secondary poisoning and there is a multiplier effect, because scavenging birds will often return to their nests to feed nestlings, and hence entire colonies are wiped out. It's pointless seeking an example of this because it happens so frequently that according to those working with vultures, we have reached the point in southern Africa, where vulture deaths exceed breeding recruitment and so we can expect to soon have no vultures left.

At that point carcasses will no longer be cleared from the veld and we may expect an increase in animal disease problems. A Bearded Vulture study in South Africa placed satellite trackers on about 20 Bearded Vultures. Of these, nine are known from toxicology on recovered birds to have been poisoned. Other dead project birds were recovered but no toxicology was done because the carcasses were too old or decomposed, but circumstances point to poisoning also. That's a large portion of the sample population killed, or suspected to be killed by poisoning!

In the livestock and game farming context; predators and scavengers are the victims of illegal use of pesticide poisons to "manage" predators. But poisoning is really not the right solution to this conflict. Farmers believe they are defending their livelihoods and their investments, and nobody can deny them that right. The debate is rather about how they do this, because if one applies Systems Thinking to evaluate the cause and effect of management decisions and actions, it's clear that poisoning kills everything that eats meat or scavenges and merely stops conflict for a short time until the habitat and population vacuum created by the poisoning event is filled again. The correct measure of conflict management success is not the number of predators killed, but rather a long term end or reduction of conflict. We should rather try to balance and stabilise wildlife populations on farmland and farm

in harmony with nature by long term management principles because random poisoning can never achieve this goal, or even be considered as a contributing method. It's not just illegal but illogical, irresponsible and unethical.

People working at the wildlife crime interface believe that poachers are increasingly using pesticides. We know that animals that have been shot or snared are often poisoned because the poachers return to collect dead vultures or predator parts and bones for traditional beliefs or muti. There have been several events where 200 or more vultures were killed in a single event. In July 2012, an elephant carcass was discovered in a Protected Area.

A team of rangers was sent in on foot to investigate further. They found the bullet wounds had been cut open and systematically poisoned with Temik®. The tusks had been removed and a nyala, a zebra and over 180 vultures were found poisoned. With carbamate poisonings like this, even blowflies and maggots die on the carcass. There are many more examples.

Solutions are not easy. The chemicals most widely abused in Southern and East Africa are aldicarb or Temik® and carbofuran or Furadan® respectively. Bayer CropScience voluntarily terminated the sale of Temik® in Southern Africa so anything still available is illegal product (see below). FMC chemicals conducted a voluntary retrieval and with-

drawal of Furadan® from East Africa. Internationally, Bayer have stopped manufacture of Temik® and the product has been off the market since 31 March 2011 in South Africa, yet vast illegal stocks; and stocks stolen from uncontrolled farm stores in Zimbabwe and elsewhere still remain and are abused in many forms of criminal activity.

Internationally, unscrupulous chemical manufacturers take advantage of such situations and should be stopped by regulatory authorities, but this seldom happens. From the enforcement aspect there is a lot of work needed. The greatest challenge is that abusers seem to have all the time in the world to poison.

They do so under a cloak of secrecy. The enforcement officials always seem to be reactive, seldom getting information that leads to an arrest and conviction. Then at the Police stations, policemen are apathetic, and don't know the legislation. Sometimes, in the scenario of rape and murder, they don't even regard poisoning as an offence! Prosecutors are underpaid and overburdened with cases and they don't have time to research legislation. Few know the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, Act 36 of 1947. The relevant section to use is Section 7 bis, read with government gazetted Regulations 1716 and 181. For more information and full detail of this legislation, please visit www.wildlifepoisoningprevention.co.za



Solutions suggested for Wildlife Ranchers and industry stakeholders to consider are:

1. Control of pesticides and chemicals, by good management and safe, access-restricted storage.
2. Exposure of pesticide abuse, and collaboration with enforcement officials.
3. Lobbying government authorities, chemical companies and neighbours to recognise the hazards of agrochemical abuse and to limit abuse opportunities by different formulations, carrier products and by enhanced education programmes.
4. Chemical companies could offer incentives for correct purchases of appropriate volumes of chemicals by farmers, and for correct, safe storage; rather than dishing out incentives for bulk purchases which all too often become unused surplus, and unwanted or obsolete.
5. Training enforcement staff to recognise and deal with pesticide poisoning crime scenes.
6. Awareness and investigation of vulture activity.

Please become a part of the solution, rather than being a contributor to the problem. For more information or to support our projects please contact: Tim Snow: 082 8026223

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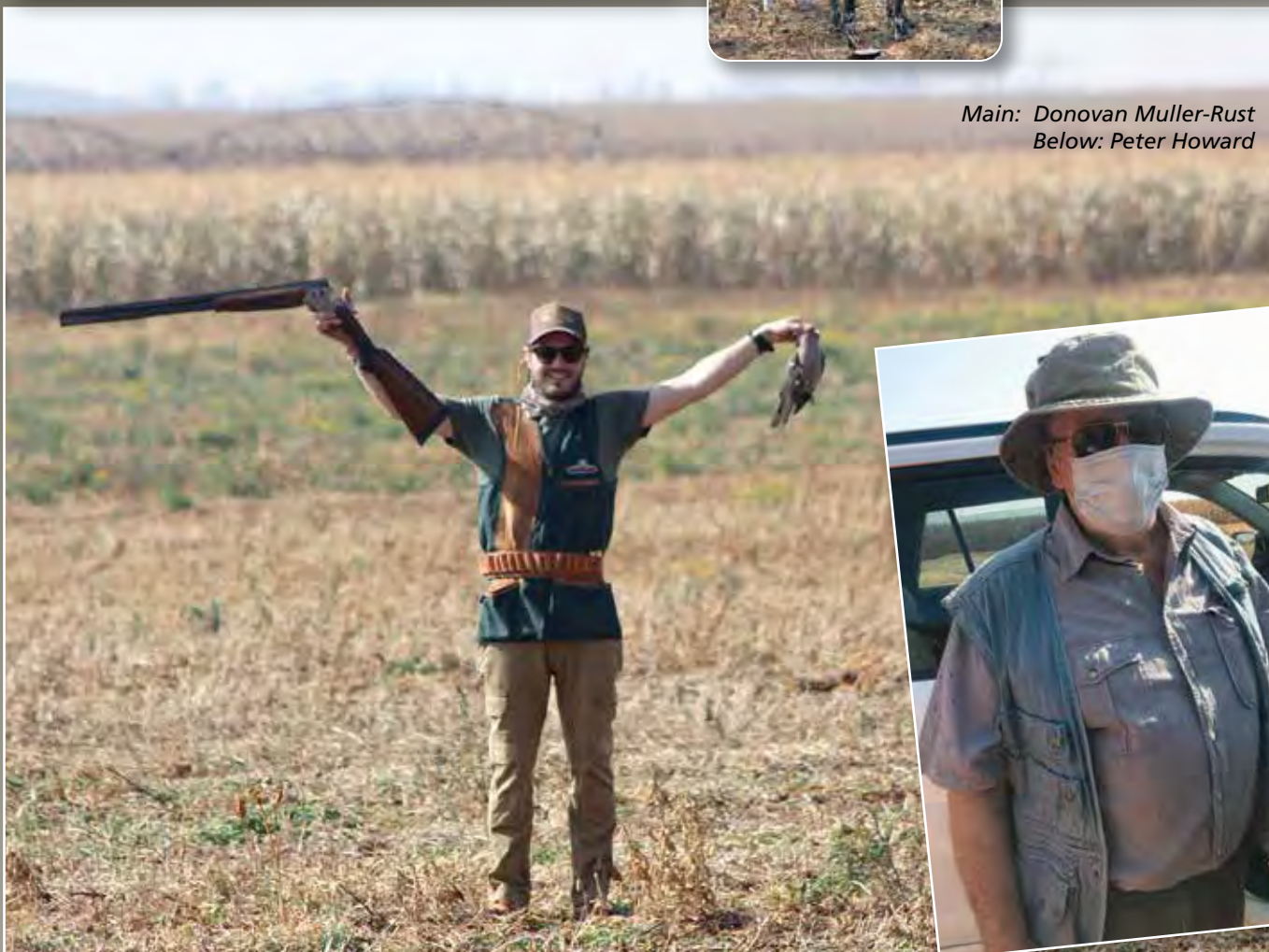
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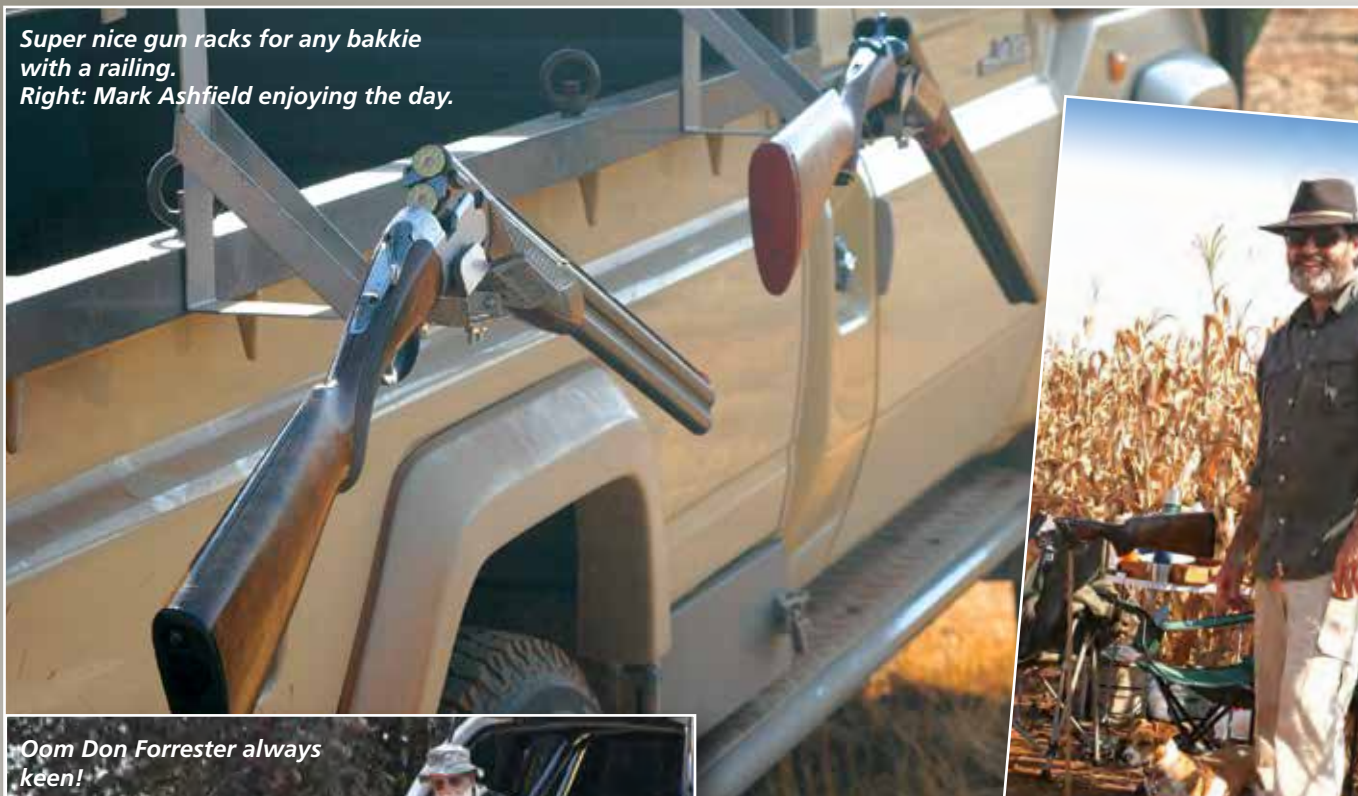
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Main: Donovan Muller-Rust
Below: Peter Howard



Super nice gun racks for any bakkie with a railing.
Right: Mark Ashfield enjoying the day.



Oom Don Forrester always keen!



Johan Geldenhuys



Left: Gawie Combrinck & Stefan van Eck



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Dental disease in hunting dogs leads to poor Scenting Abilities

Ignore the old wives' tales and learn the science behind dental disease and a bird dog's ability to scent.

Written by Joe Spoo DVM, DACVSMR
projectupland.com



In the above picture of the author's setter the teeth are represented in white, the gum line in red, the sinuses in yellow and blue is the vomeronasal organ. You can see how closely all of these important structures are aligned.

When six-time Champion Hard Driving Bev started missing birds, professional trainer Joe McCarl attributed the changes to an aging dog starting to lose her senses. "She became really unsure around birds," McCarl recalled. "This was a dog that always just stuck her birds and now she either wasn't finding birds or was really unsure of where they were when on point." While McCarl wasn't going to turn back the hands of time, it was possible that Bev's scenting loss was related to a very treatable condition — advanced dental disease.

Dog owners and handlers are a superstitious lot, and for all of the technology and advanced knowledge of canine health and behavior that we have been given over the years, a reliance on old wives' tales and a mentality of "that's how we've always done it" still exists. For years field trialers thought removing the tonsils on their favorite field trial dog would help increase scenting ability and performance in the field. When this procedure was looked at to determine how it worked, researchers discovered that at the time of the tonsillectomy most veterinarians were also cleaning



the teeth. It was this teeth cleaning that was actually causing the increase in scenting ability, not the removal of the tonsils. Yet even with the research out there to show dental care can impact scenting, many dog owners are reluctant to spend the money to have their dog's teeth cleaned.

For a better understanding of how dental disease can impact scenting ability, it is important to take a look at canine anatomy and how closely associated the teeth and sinuses are in relation to each other. The picture on the left shows a side profile of a setter with important structures drawn on the photo. To qualify the drawing: I am neither an artist nor an anatomist, so bear with me.

In the accompanying pictures, I've outlined in white where this setter's teeth and roots lie, and in yellow where the sinus cavities are. For point of reference, the red line represents the gum line, and the blue area is the sinuses. It is easy to see that inflammation and infection of the teeth and surrounding tissues directly impacts the sinuses, the respiratory tissue, and the scenting ability due to the close proximity. With very severe dental disease, tracts can develop, forming an opening between the

mouth and sinuses.

Now I can just about guarantee there will be skeptics who believe a veterinarian is writing an article on dental disease to drum up business and perform an unnecessary procedure. Too often we hear the argument that people don't have to be put under for dental cleanings or that we have our teeth for over 80 years without the need for such aggressive measures so why is it so important for our dogs?

The thing to remember, especially with health issues, is that dogs are not little humans and their medical needs are different than ours. This includes their mouths. A dog's mouth health serves as a gateway to the rest of the body, and with advanced dental issues we can see the effects on distant organs like the heart, liver and kidneys, in addition to the local problems it causes in the mouth and sinuses. With too many dogs, it isn't just an issue of bad breath, but rather, a much deeper health concern.

The vast majority of sporting breed dogs will likely never require a dental in their lives. Dental disease is a highly variable condition from dog-to-dog and is more prevalent in our small and toy breeds. As with all

health issues, though, it is important to treat and evaluate the individual dog and not make blanket statements in regards to health care. Many dogs will have staining and tartar buildup as they age, and with most this will not have a significant impact on their overall health. The most important criteria to evaluate with dental health is the gum line and surrounding tissue. Once there is evidence of gingivitis, it is time to consider a thorough cleaning in order to head off more severe problems. By the time this inflammation has started, there very likely has been an impact on scenting ability.

A big sticking point with many owners is that dogs have to be anesthetized in order for their teeth to be cleaned. Too often owners will want to chip the tartar off on their own or just have the teeth scaled; unfortunately, this can worsen issues. By the time there is evidence of dental disease and inflammation, oftentimes the issues have spread to below the gum line.

In order to perform a complete cleaning at tooth level and under the gum line, even the most tolerant dog will need to be put under anesthesia. As for just scaling or chipping off the

continued on page 30...

tartar, this too is a bad idea, because it can create grooves or imperfections in the enamel, which will give the tartar-forming bacteria a foothold and can actually accelerate tartar buildup. It is vitally important to both clean the teeth and then to have them polished in order to ensure better dental health.

I strongly recommend to dog owners to take a hard look at the teeth and gums every six months, and more frequently if your dog has dental problems. I certainly don't advocate across the board dentals for all dogs over a certain age, and some dogs will indeed go a lifetime

selection of a veterinarian to perform the procedure: while it may cost more, I would encourage you to find a small animal veterinarian with the appropriate anesthetic and dental equipment. Dentistry is an area that you can't just compare prices due to the varying equipment and skills in this field. It is also important to understand if your veterinarian is able to take dental x-rays to evaluate below the gum line including the roots of the teeth. Tooth extraction can be a complicated surgical event which also means specialized equipment, which again not every veterinary clinic will have. I always

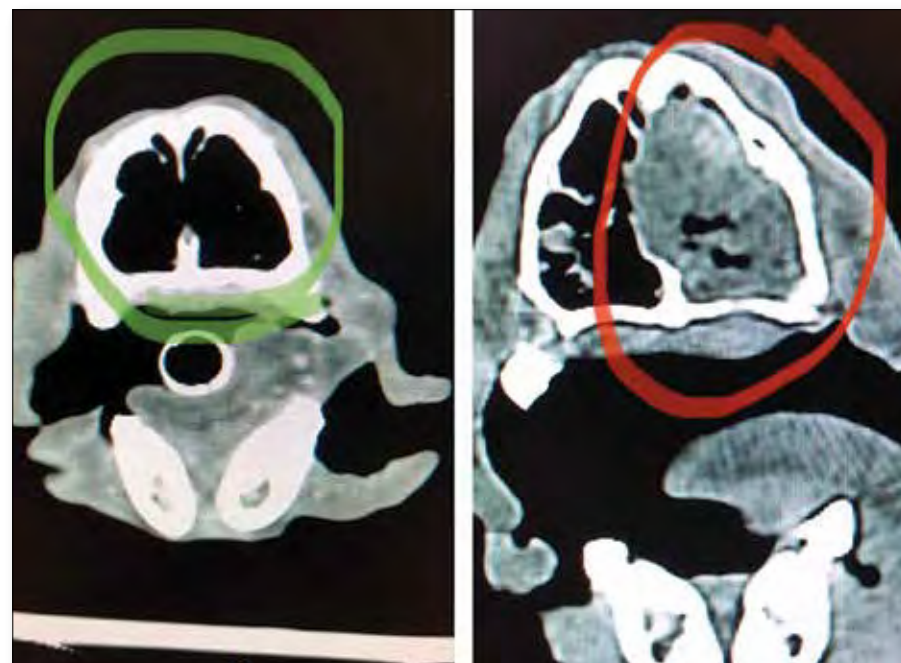
the mouth. One important point is to look for products that carry the VOHC Accepted label. These are products that have been evaluated by the Veterinary Oral Health Council to verify that they do indeed slow plaque and tartar development. One such product that I use on my own dogs are Greenies Dental Treats; other options include oral gels, rinses, water additives, etc.

There are also foods designed to help with overall dental health. Eukanuba Adult dry dog foods have 3D DentaDefense which contain an anti-tartar agent, derived from naturally occurring minerals, which works during and after meals to prevent tartar buildup throughout the whole mouth. Eukanuba's specially designed S-shaped kibble and crunchy texture along with an anti-tartar agent, helps break the plaque-to-tartar cycle, helping to promote dental health between checkups and cleanings.

The downside is that these treats and diets are not going to undo a dirty mouth with significant dental disease. They are only effective when used preventatively before a problem develops or after a dental cleaning has been performed.

So how did things turn out for McCarl and Bev? After performing poorly in the spring trials due to a lack of finds, McCarl had a dental performed on the Champion. "She almost immediately went back to sticking her birds," he noted. "I couldn't believe the difference and I kick myself for not having her teeth cleaned sooner."

The next time you roll back your dog's gums and reveal those foul-smelling, tartar-laden teeth don't dismiss it as just teeth. Think of it as the gateway to your dog's scenting ability and more importantly the major organ systems of the body. Ignoring dental health now can have dire consequences down the road. 



The above CT image shows a severe example of this in an older pointer. Those foul-smelling, atrocious teeth are not just causing problems at the gum line – often the issues extend much deeper and can be incredibly painful. In the CT image on the left the sinuses look the same, dark and air-filled on both sides (circled in green) while on the image on the right you can see the right sinus is filled with infection and is invading the bone into the left as the result of extensive dental disease (area circled in red).

without needing veterinary dental care. However, with that being said, it is also important to not pooch-pooch the need for a dental. In conjunction with your veterinarian, evaluate if your dog will benefit from a dental. This decision may lead to increased performance in the field and more importantly a longer healthier life.

One note on dental care and

encourage owners to ask questions and understand what and how things are being done to their dogs.

Once the dental is performed there are things that can be done to prevent or slow future tartar buildup and gingivitis. There are a number of dental chew products on the market, some impregnated with formulas to inhibit bacterial growth in

– Article courtesy of: <https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/hunting-dog-health-and-first-aid/dental-disease-in-hunting-dogs-leads-to-poor-scenting-abilities-2/>

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SHOOTING TIPS

Some tips and hints from shotgun shooting pros and authors...

All I ask you to do is to look at the bird; and, by correct mounting and body work, shoot naturally without constraint or effort apparently straight at the bird; but subconsciously, overthrowing a little and so giving the necessary lead or compensation for time flight; and, in that way, arriving at what, in any other terms, is a complicated mathematical problem.

– This tip came from the book *“Robert Churchill’s Game Shooting”* by Macdonald Hastings.

If we stare at the visual pick-up point of the target in an attempt to centre on it, we reduce our peripheral awareness and the target literally gets the jump on us. Learning how to look for it and at the target periphery is one of the critical fundamentals of shooting well. The secret to centreing on a target is know where to look and why.

– This tip came from the book *“Breaking Clays – Target Tactics, Tips & Techniques”* by Chris Batha.

Sometimes call the “look point,” the visual pickup point is the precise point along the target line at which the eyes are positioned to visually acquire the target. It is usually placed somewhere between the trap and the hold point and should almost never be placed where the target is still a blur.

– This tip came from the book *“Mastering Sporting Clays”* by Don Currie.

The maximum lead requirement we need on any target is when we are at 90 degrees to the target line. With any target that is coming toward the shooter, the angle of the target relative to the shooter is increasing all the time. The perception of lead will increase accordingly as the target gets closer to this 90-degree maximum.

– This tip came from the book *“Successful Shotgunning – How to Build Skill in the Field and Take More Birds in Competition”* by Peter Blakeley.

A simple fundamental is making sure



your foot position is correct each time you stand on a selected station and that you consistently assume the same stance each time you shoot that station.

– This tip came from the book *“Finding the Extra Target – The Ultimate Training Guide for All the Clay Target Sports”* by John Linn & Stephen Blumenthal.

All too frequently I have peered over the shoulders of students and watched as they executed the shot beautifully until the last second. Their technique was good, and lead was perfect, but at the last instant they broke confidence and tensed up.

At the end of a well-executed swing they lacked the confidence to pull the trigger. Instead, they rode their bird, trying to see exactly what the lead was. They ended up focused on the barrel as they pulled the trigger, the swing stopped, and they shot behind the bird.

– This tip came from the book *“The Orvis Wingshooting Handbook – Proven Techniques for Better Shotgunning – New and Revised”* by Bruce Bowlen.

A key thought is used to free the mind to allow the conditioned reflex of good technique to take over and trigger good responses. What is a key thought? Choosing one thing to think about just before you call for the bird, and concentrating on that thought to the exclusion of everything else is the key.

– This tip came from the book *“Finding the Extra Target – The Ultimate Training Guide for All the Clay Target Sports”* by John Linn and Stephen Blumenthal.

The one thing you always need to remember, especially when you get a little long in the tooth, is that you don’t have to be able to see clearly and acutely. You just need to be able to focus acutely, your mental focus.

– This tip came from the book *“The Coaching Hour Chronicles – Conversations in the Pursuit of Sporting Clays Excellence, Volume 3,”* by Gil & Vicki Ash.

The only way you can know for sure how your particular gun performs with

various loads at different ranges is to fire test patterns and evaluate performance of different loads at various ranges.

– This tip came from the book *"The Sporting Clays Handbook"* by Jerry Meyer.

Concentration is not a single entity. Rather, it is the result of a number of events occurring at the same time. In shooting, this involves setting a goal, applying technique to the goal and avoiding distractions. As a result, the whole exceeds the sum of the parts, and concentration occurs. If you have problems with concentration, you need to look at the parts and see where the faults lie.

– This tip came from the book *"Mental Training for the Shotgun Sports"* by Michael J. Keyes, M.D.

The best thing you can do to improve your game is to perfect your move and mount and learn to focus on nothing but the target. A quality move and quality focus, these are the most important things

to learn initially if you hope to hit clay targets consistently.

– This tip came from the book *"If It Ain't Broke, Fix It!"* by Gil & Vicki Ash.

The higher the velocity of your shotshell, the more it's going to kick. Ask yourself, do you really need a 12-gauge shotshell with a rated velocity of 1,150 to 1,300 feet per second? Try experimenting with slower shotshell loads if you're having difficulty managing excessive recoil.

– The *"Women and Shotguns"* section on *Shotgun Life* is full of helpful information on gun fit, recoil management and other advice for a successful wing and clays experience. Visit <https://goo.gl/dvLFrC>.

Just as with standard target presentations, target trajectory or line is the most important thing to consider with dropping targets. It is unusual for a target that is not dropping rapidly to produce a truly vertical line – usually there is a slight deviation to the left or right. Failure

to see this subtle nuance in the target's trajectory, combined with the added effects of the weight of the gun, often will produce vertical momentum in the barrels as the shot is triggered, and a miss to either side of the target.

As the upper torso moves forward with this bowing movement, the arms must guide the gun accurately on the same line as the target. I often tell my students that line is more important than lead because if you get the target line wrong on a dropper, you might as well forget about lead.

– This tip came from the book *"Successful Shotgunning – How to Build Skill in the Field and Take More Birds in Competition"* by Peter Blakeley.

As I watch this target make its flight, I make a mental picture of how far above the trees it was, and, I have a tall dark tree that stood out at me, I'm going to use that as reference point..

– This tip came from the DVD *"Bill McGuire's Focus and Fire."*

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One Association

We do it all

SA Wingshooters Association is truly the one association for all shooting disciplines. With us you can do it all. We offer shooting events and venues in all divisions, including shotgun, rifle, handgun, semi-auto rifle, long range target shooting and multi-gun sport shooting...



The SA Wingshooters Association has been accredited by the CFR as a Dedicated Hunting Association, since 2004.

In fact, we are the second oldest accredited association in South Africa.

We have current members, many of whom regularly participate in the various sport shooting disciplines available and thus have a definite need to be able to grant such members the Dedicated Sport Shooting status, in order to enable them to fully participate in their chosen sport. We are both an accredited sport shooting and hunting association, as we have members who want dedicated status, but who do not hunt.

We currently offer the following sport shooting disciplines to our members, either at our own facilities/ranges, or at any range country-wide and internationally.

PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) target shooting for handguns, rifles and self-loading rifles. Various target shooting tables/disciplines are offered, which can be practiced at any range world-wide. All our targets are available on our website.

Clay Target Shooting – all members have access to Clay Target Shooting using shotguns at any accredited clay target range or club

(CTSASA, COMPAK, etc.) country-wide.

Long Range Rifle Shooting – we have our own dedicated long range rifle shooting range near Leandra, where members compete over shooting distances ranging from 100m to 1300m.

This range also affords us the opportunity to offer a 3-gun sport shooting discipline (handgun and rifle combination shooting with movement and transitions), starting at 10m for handguns, to 100m and then up to 400m for self-loading rifles, with official division categories for calibres and types of rifles. We also offer .22LR Precision Small-Bore club rifle shooting through our LRSC membership.

Handgun Shooting – we offer handgun shooting, again at our LRSC range, or any other range world-wide via the PSP, on our 17 target steel pistol range with targets from 10m to 100m, and includes a 6-plate duelling tree.

The requirements for obtaining a Dedicated Sport Shooting status is as follows:

All prospective applicants will have to complete a practical shooting qualification exercise, in either handgun, rifle or shotgun.

A minimum final score of 50%

must be attained in order to qualify and must be signed off by a range officer or club official.

All qualified members must submit an annual report to us, in confirmation of their minimum dedicated sport shooting activities, as required. We propose a minimum of three sport shooting activities per year for members in order to retain such status.

Should you hold current dedicated sport shooter status elsewhere, we will accept that status, if it is indeed current, on the basis of RPL.

The Long Range Shooting Club (LRSC) and the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) are part of SA Wingshooters and are subject to its constitution, disciplinary codes and rules of ethical conduct, but requires an additional membership. LRSC and SA Wingshooters membership together includes membership of all the sub-clubs.

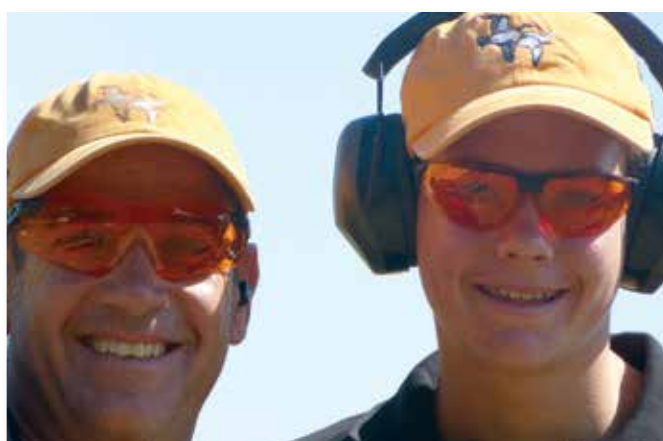
Lastly, as you know, the SA Wingshooters Association has R20-million liability insurance to cover the Association, with each individual member also having R20-million liability insurance as individual cover, for all shooting related activities.

We are proud to be an association that offers all forms of shooting and hunting to our members. Thanks for your support!





We offer all types of shooting and hunting... as well as coaching!



PROVINCIAL BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (and bag limits in brackets)

MPUMALANGA 013-759 5329 – same as 2019

All year	Rock pigeons (need licence).
1 May-31 Jul	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, Spurwing, Guineafowl and Spurwing.
1 April-31 Jul	Grey Wing, Orange River Partridge
1 May-30 Sep	Crested francolin, Coqui francolin, Red-wing, Shelley's Partridge

FREE STATE 083 632 3992 – same as 2019

All year	Rock pigeons, Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove.
1 May-31 Aug	Greywing & O/River partridge, common quail, guineaowl, Swainson's francolin, yellow-billed duck & red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, spurwing.
Note:	(maximum 10 land & 10 water birds pp per day)

GAUTENG – Not Gazetted yet!

1 May-30 April	All year. Rock Pigeons (need licence) (20).
1 May-31 Jul	Egyptian geese (5); Red-bill teal (5); Yellow-bill duck (5).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons francolin (5).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Helmeted Guineaowl (5).

N-WEST PROVINCE – Not Gazetted yet!

All year	Rock pigeons (No limit), Red eyed dove (20), Cape turtle dove (20), laughing dove (20) (licence required).
1 May-30 Sep	Francolin: Red-billed (3), Crested (5); Partridge: Coqui (5), Guineaowl (10).
1 May-30 Aug	Partridge: Shelleys (5), Redwing (5); Quail: Harlequin (5), Common (10); Rameron Pigeon (5).
1 Apr-31 Jul	Partridge: Orange River (5).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqua Sandgrouse (5).
1 Nov-31 Apr	Sandgrouse: Burchells (5), Double-banded (5).
1 May-31 Jul	Duck: White-faced (4), Yellow-bill (4), Cape Teal (4), Red-bill (4), Cape Shoveler (4), Southern Pochard (3), Knob-bill (4), Spurwing (4).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (3).
1 Jan-31 Jul	Egyptian Goose (4).
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (2).
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

LIMPOPO 082 802 0871 Not received – Not gazetted yet

All year	Rock Pigeons (licence) (50), Red-eyed Turtle Dove (50)
1 May- 30 Sep	Guineaowl (10), Crested Francolin, (6), Shelley's (2); Natal francolin (6).
1 May - 31 Jul	Egyptian (6) & spurwing (4), white-faced whistling duck (6), Yellow-bill duck (4), red-billed teal (4).
15 Jun- 30 Sep	Swainson's francolin (8).
Note:	Total combined daily bag of (10 land & 10 water birds)

WESTERN CAPE <https://www.capenature.co.za>

1 Jan-31 Dec	Spurwing (3) & Egyptian goose (10), rock pigeons (and Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove, Speckled Pigeon) (40 in total), guineaowl (10),
1 Jan-30 Jun	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (10 in all).
1 May-31 Jul	Greywing Partridge; Cape & Red-necked Francolins (6 in all). 1 May-31 Aug Common quail (5).

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – same as 2019

All year	Egyptian Goose (10); Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves (10 each) and Rock Pigeons (50).
1 April-31 Dec	Helmeted Guinea-fowl (10);
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Spurwing (5).
1 May- 30 Jun	Orange River Partridge (5), Red-billed Francolin (5), Cape Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (5), Swainsons Francolin (5), Grey-wing Partridge (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Northern Cape Excluding Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow billed duck (10), Red-bill Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10). Namaqua Sandgrouse (10).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Burchell's Sandgrouse (5).
1 Jan -31 Mar	Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow-billed duck (10), Red-billed Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
1 Jan-30 Apr	A maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.
Note:	

EASTERN CAPE 040 609 4717 same as 2019

1 Jan-31 Dec	Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves and Rock Pigeons. (need licence).
1 Jun-31 Jul	Rameron Pigeon (Olive Pigeon) (5).
1 Jan-31 Mrt	Shelduck (2).
1 Feb-30 Sept	Egyptian Goose (10).
1 Mrt-30 Sept	Spurwing (5).
1 May-31 Jul	Red-billed Teal (3), Yellow-billed Duck (3), White-faced duck (2), Southern Pochard (2), Cape Teal (2), Cape Shoveler (2).
1 May-30 Sept	Guineaowl (5).
1 Oct-30 Nov	Quail (10). (Note: Different in former Ciskei)
1 May-31 Jul	Red-Wing Partidge (2).
1 May-31 Jul	Grey-wing (4), Orange River Partridge (4), Red-Necked Francolin (4).
1 Jan-31 Dec	Exotic Anseriformes

KZ-NATAL 033 845 1652 same as 2019

31 May-31 Aug	Ordinary Game Licence Required for all. Common Quail, White-faced Duck, Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Spurwing, Helmeted Guineaowl, Rameron Pigeon. Francolin: Red-necked, Natal, Swainsons. Partridge: Grey-wing, Red-wing, Coqui, Crested & Shelleys..
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

Other game birds can be shot under a SPECIAL PERMIT during the open season, please contact KZN Hunting & Extension Department on 033 845 1652.

PLEASE NOTE that all members must still consult the respective provincial ordinances, as we do not list species that are not traditionally gamebirds. All exotic Anseriformes are open all year.

Please Note: You have to return your licence to the respective provinces, after each season, stating on the licence all the relevant details as asked. This applies to provinces who require this, such as NW Prov, and is stated as such on your licence.



DEDICATED ACTIVITIES (Act 60/2000) - ANNUAL MEMBER'S REPORT

Fax to: 086 211 5111 or e-mail to: anel@wingshooters.co.za

Year of Report:	PROVINCE			
Member's Surname:				
First Name:	DISTRICT			
Initials:	FARM / CLUB			
ID Number:				
Signature or e-mail	DATE			
RIFLE SHOOTING		☐	☐	☐
HANDGUN SHOOTING		☐	☐	☐
SHOTGUN SHOOTING		☐	☐	☐
GAMEBIRD HUNTING		☐	☐	☐
PLAINS GAME HUNTING		☐	☐	☐
OTHER HUNTING or RELATED activities also count towards activities, such as reloading, HuntEx show visit, etc.				
Activity Description 1:				
Activity Description 2:				
Activity Description 3:				

Please note that this report completed by you is an affidavit under oath

An English Pointer as a versatile

HUNTING DOG

I love English Pointers. I love them because of their temperaments, their devotion, their short, no fuss coat, their tenacity, their endurance, their drive and most of all because they are very trainable to be versatile hunting dogs.



by Guy Stubbs

I've only had two in my life, but both have been the same. They have been able to hunt, point, retrieve on land and in water, and track wounded animals. They can hunt in the bushveld and on open plains. My most memorable hunt was for Bushbuck along the Limpopo river with my old pointer Dubula on a short leash.

We had a few days of what I would describe as a 4 dimensional bush experience, where he would point a doe suckling her lamb in a thicket, barely visible to me and a leopard hiding in a large tree, to a heard of Waterbuck being led by an mnumzaan bull who passed 2m from us.

Another time I shot a rutting Impala that had its entrails hanging out from a fighting wound. I fired a bad shot in haste through the gut because I could not get a good angle past a bush. The buck made off and we started searching for blood amongst a muddle of rutting Impala spoor. After 15 minutes I brought Dubula to the one spot of blood we had found and he was off, we ran after his baying and after 250m we found the ram being held fast to the ground by the dog.

Last year, about 10 years after my Dubula died, and we had just had to put my sons beloved lab down,





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my wife said that it was my turn to get a dog again. Vicki from SAFTC told me about a litter bred by Sandy McDonald. We made contact and the only black and white bitch from the litter became mine. A sweet, soft little girl who got very car sick on the way to Pretoria.

I named her Bess after fond boyhood memories of my Grandfather's most favourite dog. I was given my last pointer by David Fowler. He suggested "Gun Dog" by Richard Wolters as a good guide on dog training. I used Wolter's method for Dubula and now for Bess.

With Bess, I went 100% by the book. I read through Gun Dog numerous times, and even got the video. I have noticed that many newer trainers use a lot of Wolters' methods, as well as modern methods, but all I can say is that his methods really work. We got Bess on exactly the 49th day and immediately started making her part of the family. First and foremost, she was a beloved pet. I am even a bit shy here to mention that she sleeps in bed with my wife and I (that is until her farts lead us to take emergency action).

I posted a list of commands on the fridge door so that the whole family could speak to her in the same language and we played, and she became part of our pack. Wing on a string, balls/rubber bones, rope with knots, she loved them all. I started at an early stage to teach her restriction by

putting on a leash and tying her to a chair while we ate lunch and taking her for walks also on the leash around the neighbourhood.

I started reinforcing the instructions Sit and Heel when she was doing it naturally. As I mentioned, she was soft, so I hardly ever scolded her. If she did something wrong, the command was No. I never used treats, I found praise and love were sufficient rewards. When judging Bess for the SAVHDA Junior Versatile Hunting Test, Matthew Berry, commented that I should have named Bess "Springbok" because she prunks

with glee when she has done something right.

My son, Ross, mocks me for hunting with a GPS. I use a Garmin Astro 320. In my opinion, the best thing I invested in. I have had to do all my training in bushveld and the biggest problem in training is calling dogs off a point because you can't find the dog. A bell or beeper is one solution, but after major brain tumour operation, I can't hear where a sound is coming from.

Now, when Bess goes on point, I command "steady" until I've found her (and the GPS enables me to find her fast). It works like a dream. We have pointed hares, leguaans, tortoises, snakes, but slowly she is starting to understand that it is game birds we are after. Yesterday we had our first perfect point on a covey of francolin, and she held perfectly when they flushed. That wouldn't have been possible without the GPS though. Where I used to hunt my old dog, Dubula, in the Eastern Cape grasslands, I could see the dog 90% of the time.

Here, close to Pretoria in bushveld, I only see my dog 10% of the time. I never had much luck pointing gamebirds in the bushveld with Dubula, because I never knew when he was on point. Now, with Bess and the GPS, I have best of both worlds: – hunting with my favourite type of gundog and being able to hunt in any kind of environment.

***"Yesterday we had
our first
perfect point on a
covey of
Francolin, and
she held perfectly
when they flushed"***

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Sarah Kalell, Executive Officer,
Clay Target Shooting Association
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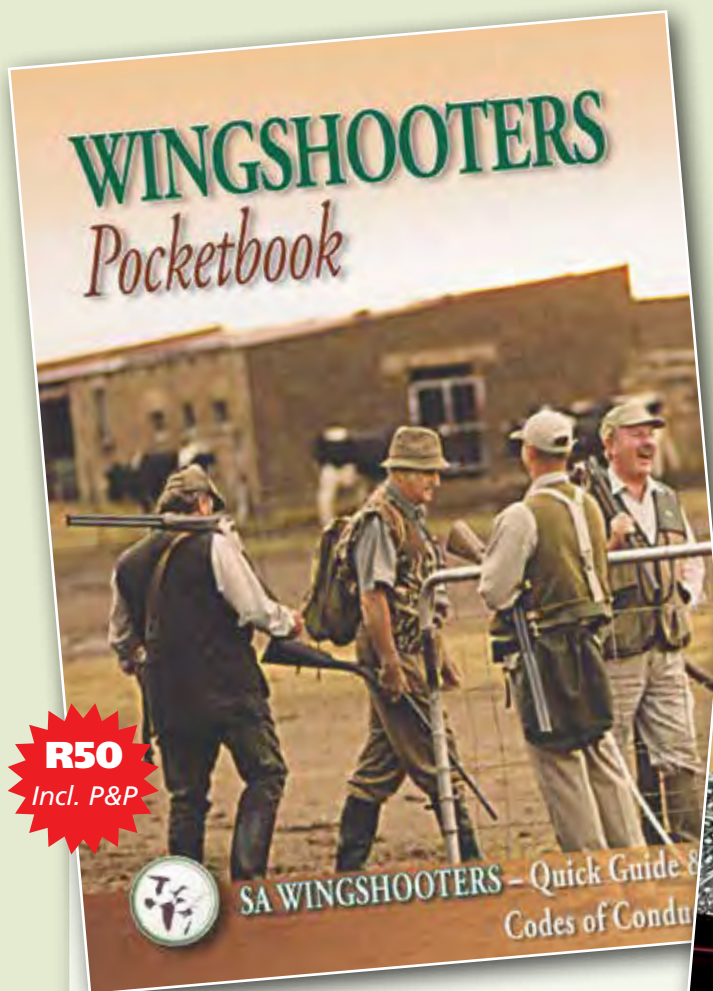
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This pocketbook is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is an essential 'must have' for every wingshooter, particularly *Dedicated Hunters*, and contains:

- The Wingshooters Codes of Conduct, including the codes for bird dogs, shoot organisers and wildfowlers,
- A guide to the identification of gamebirds in the field,
- The combined shooting and hunting log for use by dedicated hunters to comply with the regulations of the Firearms Control Act, incorporating the landowners' hunting permission form... And much more...

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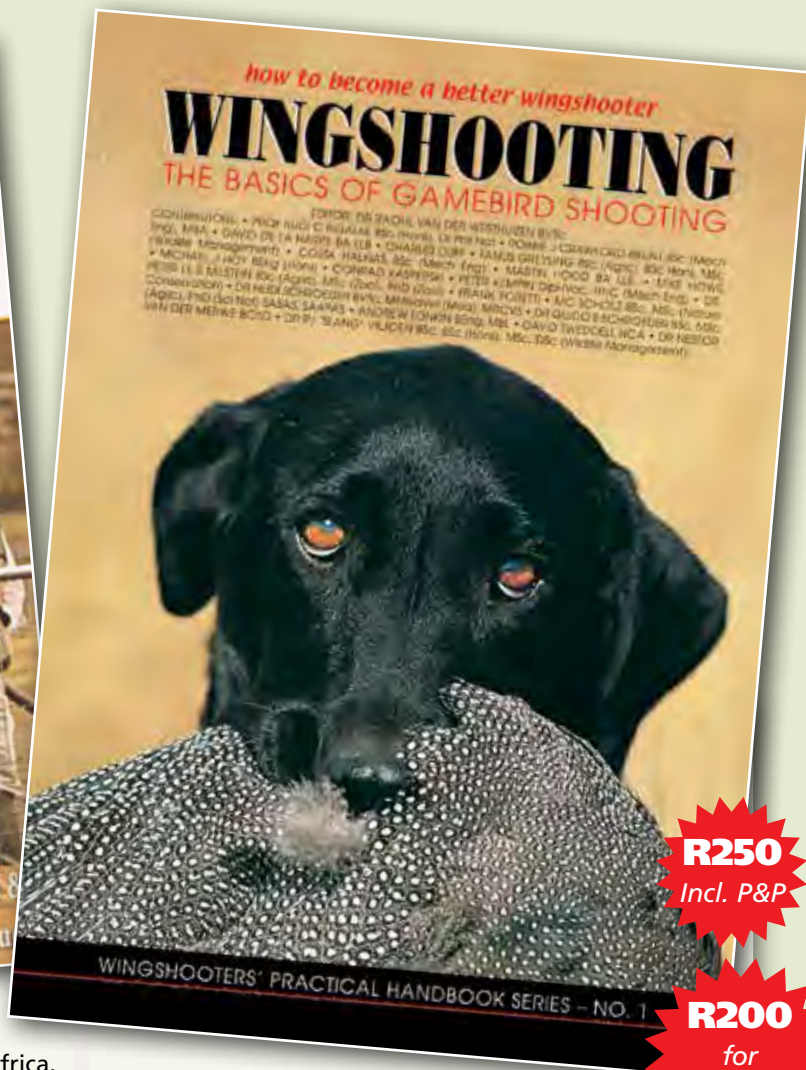
'In today's world, where it is so important that all hunters act in a responsible and ethical manner, this pocketbook is an essential part of the field hunting gear of every gamebird shooter. We are pleased to support this pocketbook and I strongly recommend it to all who wish to hunt more responsibly. Every Wingshooter should carry it on him in the field'

— Dr Alan Klocek
MD: MSD

'Respect for all Creatures, Great and Small'

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— Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen
Chairman: SA Wingshooters



HINTS AND TIPS FROM 20 EXPERTS ON THE BASICS OF WINGSHOOTING

This is not just another book on Wingshooting in Southern Africa. It is the definitive practical handbook by 20 top experts, packed with facts. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced shooter, in these pages you are sure to find lots of new tips and tricks from the old hands. The subjects are covered in short and concise fashion and include:

- Shotguns • Gun fit • Gun care • Gauges & shot sizes • Shotshells and ballistics • Shotgun marksmanship • Safety • Game bird identification • How to shoot francolin, guinea fowl, geese, ducks, sand grouse, rock pigeons, etc. • Gun dog breeds • Training your gun dog • Gun dog nutrition and health • Shooting ethics and etiquette • The Gun Control Act • How to get a hunting licence • Game birds for the dinner table • Field trial clubs & associations

For the first time, this book brings together the collective know-how and experience in game bird shooting of many of the leading wingshooters in Southern Africa — be they scientists, field triallists, gun dog experts, veterinarians or lay people — who all share the passion for wingshooting and the joy of the great African Outdoors. The section on shotgun marksmanship alone makes the handbook worth having. In this section the greatest South African sporting clay shooter ever and 20 times Springbok tells how to shoot any target under any condition. The handbook is edited by the co-founder and first chairman of the SA Wingshooters Association, Raoul van der Westhuizen.

Dedicated REPORTS

Go to:

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and register to create your own profile for your dedicated reports & firearm licence renewal reminders



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How you can send us your report:

Via email, fax or on-line on your personal member profile.

Go to:

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Complete a report (you can download it from our website: www.wingshooters.org.za) and email to anel@wingshooters.co.za or fax to 086 211 5111, or you can email us a report listing 2 activities you did during the year. Dedicated Hunter activity reports are mandatory, by law, for all qualified dedicated hunters!

New Member Online Portal

For Dedicated Activity Reports & Firearm Licence Renewal Notices –

Firstly, It's nearing the end of the season, thus all Dedicated members need to send in their dedicated hunting activity report. **It's a legal (Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000) requirement for Dedicated Hunters and Dedicated Sports persons.** You can send any hunting activities report, whether it was plains game, bird hunting or range shooting and includes rifles, shotgun, handgun use, etc. You only need to list two (2) activities for the year. Remember to send us a report before end October, as we have to send a 'members activity report' to the SAPS every year in November, listing all the members who did not send in a report.

Our on-line member portal –

You can do it on our new member online portal. Please go to our on-line member area and 'Register' with us:

<https://members.wingshooters.co.za>

Once we've approved your registration request, you can 'Login' and start to use this service for your dedicated reporting and to list your firearms renewal dates for our renewal reminder service. Call the office if you don't know what to do! Tel: 071 132 5450.

You can also enter your dedicated hunting/sport shooting activities report online, on our website! Go to www.wingshooters.org.za and click on the "Dedicated Hunters" menu and complete the form right at the bottom of the page. It's quick and easy!

Or, if you prefer to remain old school you can download the form from the "All Downloads" page on our website. You can fax it to 086 211 5111 or 071 132 5450. You can also send us the same one you might have done for another association you belong to... it needn't be our form.

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- Option to qualify as Dedicated Hunter/Sports Person in terms of Act 60
- Membership of Police-accredited Hunting & Sport shooting Association
- Exclusive hunting rights and shoots for members only
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Sign me up and rush me my membership documents

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* If you are a dedicated hunter at any other association please attach a copy to receive a credit towards decated hunter status.



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SA WINGSHOOTERS 2020

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*Subscription Junior U/21:	☐ R 253.-	☐ R 500.-

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I agree to honour the constitution and I do not have a criminal record. You hereby confirm that you are subscribing to SA Wingshooters Association for a period of one year or two years, depending on your option.

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Full Names

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E-Mail *

*(we email members with news regularly)

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* The entry fee of R350 is not payable by younger than 21. The annual subscription fee for Juniors (persons younger than 21) is a nominal R253.- (VAT incl), and for persons 70 and older is R903.- Incl. Family memberships do not pay any once-off join fee.

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