



WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 32 No. 2 – June/July 2026



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Matter

Insight
Spain

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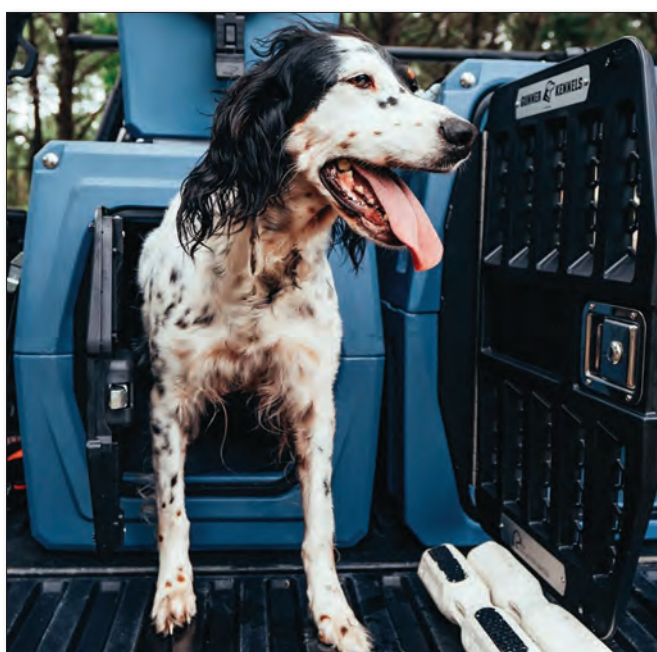
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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



Singita venue sunset. Photo by Michael Anderson

A mighty one...

"This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake.

Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

— George Bernard Shaw.

And so is hunting – a splendid torch we need to keep burning for generations to come. We can only achieve this by giving our energy, thought and effort in our time... now. Get your friends, colleagues, children, et al, involved in hunting, wildlife and nature.

Only through your effort can you open up a whole new world to these city dwellers, PC gamers and people 'afraid' of nature or being outdoors, or those who dislike a bit of dust on their skin or fear a tick. Share your hunting and nature passion with others, so that you enrich their lives.

You surely won't win them all over, but it's worth a try don't you think? Invite them on a shoot or take them to the range so they too, can experience nature's pure beauty, or the fun and skill-building sport target shooting offers.

Yesterday, I had the privilege to coach a 12-year-old girl on some shotgun shooting basics. It was, yet again, a wonderfully rewarding experience to see how quickly she gained confidence and started hitting the clays from the word go.

Book as many shoots and sporting days as you can this season and enjoy every second of it – this is the true joy of life.

Always remember, we are a mere phone call away for any assistance you might require.

Waidmannsheil! – André



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Youth Programme

The Tvl HPR Club will be launching a youth training programme this year.



As we all know, the average age of most Field Sports organisations increases every year, and many of our youngsters' only exposure to nature is the biased opinion of animal rights groups on social media. Traditionally, many youngsters join us when they are at school, but in their teenage years, they start having other interests and priorities. Only once they have settled will they again get a dog and come back to the club, usually when they are in their thirties.

The Tvl HPR Club wishes to bridge this gap and make youngsters aware of the wonderful world of field sports, conservation and dogs, to give them a more balanced outlook on nature and life in general. This will also be a long-term investigation for our sport, our club, and the future of working Pointing dogs.

Therefore, the Club will launch a youth programme where we will provide the basics of training and working with dogs and field work. Attending these training sessions will imprint the fundamental principles of dog discipline foundation, which a lot of grown-ups still find challenging, since they are already too clever to be taught.

We plan to start off with basic training classes, whereby the youngsters learn to train a dog. It can either be his dog or his

father's dog, or the club can loan him a dog to practice his skills with.

If there is enough interest, we will arrange a veld day or even a junior hunting day and junior field trial.

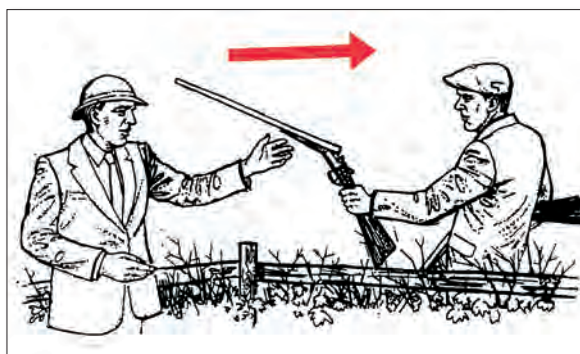
Please contact the Club if you and your child are interested.

— Tvl HPR Club

Shotgun Safety Guidelines

1. Carrying a shotgun in a slip

To prevent a shotgun falling out if your slip fastening should fail, keep it with the barrels down and stock up when slung over your shoulder.



A shotgun should be broken before removing it from the slip. Do not touch the trigger even then. Your first action should always be to check that the barrels are clear

whilst pointing the gun in a safe direction at all times. Don't point the muzzle end of the slip at anyone. Remember, a shotgun should always be considered to be loaded until proven empty and even then still handled as if it were loaded...

On replacing the shotgun in a slip, you should check the gun is clear and insert barrels into slip before closing the gun and then fastening the slip.

2. Where to find the gun's information

If in doubt about the cartridges your gun can safely use, check for this information, which is usually found on the flats of the barrels. You are looking for proof mark, gauge or bore and chamber length. If you are not sure what it all means, then ask someone who does know.

3. Carrying a shotgun out of a slip

When you are not shooting but have the gun out of its slip, it should normally be carried empty, broken and over the crook of the arm. If carried over the shoulder (with barrels forward), it must be broken and empty (no cartridges inserted). The muzzles should not be rested on your feet, unless the gun is empty and broken. Never lean a gun against a vehicle.

4. Passing a shotgun to someone

When passing a gun to someone it should always be proved clear; that is open, empty and passed stock first.

5. Crossing an obstacle on your own

Break the gun and remove the cartridges, then close the gun and lean it with stock down and barrels up against a firm rest so that it cannot slip or fall. Otherwise place the gun carefully on the ground and out of harm's way so that you can easily reach it from the other side. Climb over the obstacle and retrieve the gun, open it, check barrel for obstructions and continue. Carrying a gun over an obstacle you are traversing is dangerous.

6. Crossing an obstacle in company

Both guns should be broken and unloaded and held by one person while the other climbs over the obstacle. Once he is over, guns are then passed over (open, empty and stock first) one by one; the companion then climbs over and retrieves

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his shotgun on the other side.

7. Boarding a vehicle

Always show to other passengers that the gun is empty before closing it to put it in a gunslip or to hold it in or on the vehicle. Nobody should need to ask if the gun is safe! Never shoot from a vehicle or from the back of a vehicle or bakkie!

8. Wear shooting glasses and hearing protection

Eye protection is a must and so is hearing protection, especially when high volume shooting is taking place (such as at pigeons).

— SA Wingshooters

Parliament Needs Firearm Trace Data, Not Activist Shortcuts

The “Smoking Gun” Claim Does Not Replace Evidence

A recent article, noted in WFSAs May 2026 international news coverage, calls on South Africa’s Parliament to act on the supposed “smoking gun” of firearm violence. SAGA submits that this claim requires a clear South African lawful-owner response.

Parliament needs verified firearm-trace data, prosecution evidence and source analysis - not rhetorical shortcuts that blur the distinction between lawful ownership and criminal misuse.

The article repeatedly invokes “evidence.” Yet it does not disclose the evidence needed to prove its central implication: recovered-firearm trace data.

No one disputes that firearms are used in violent crime. No one disputes that illegal firearms must be recovered. No one disputes that stolen, lost, corruptly issued and diverted firearms are a public-safety threat. But none of that proves that ordinary licensed firearm owners are the main source of criminal firearms. That is the leap repeatedly made - and it is the leap Parliament should reject unless the trace data proves it.

Use Is Not Origin – A firearm used in a crime tells us that a criminal had a firearm. It does not tell us where that firearm came from. It may have come from an ordinary licensed owner. It may have come from private security, SAPS custody, SANDF stock, a corrupt official, an evidence store, an amnesty process, a firearm awaiting destruction, a cross-border supply route, or an already-illegal pool.

That is why tracing matters. A word count in parliamentary records is not a chain of custody. It may show that firearms were discussed. It does not show where crime



guns came from. Counting references is not tracing firearms.

The Numbers Undermine the Shortcut – The article refers to roughly five million licensed firearms in South Africa: about 2.8 million held by civilians, including private individuals and private security and about 2.2 million held by the State. If those figures are accepted, they weaken the activist shortcut. If there are millions of private firearms, millions of state firearms, and a large illegal pool already in circulation, how can anyone responsibly imply that criminal firearms mostly come from lawful private owners without publishing trace data?

If the source is state custody failure, fixs State custody. If the source is corrupt issuing, prosecute corruption. If the source is private security leakage, audit private security separately. If the source is already-illegal firearms, prioritise recovery, tracing and illegal-possession enforcement. If the source is ordinary licensed owners, show the numbers.

But do not merge every category into

one political pool and then use that pool to blame the lawful. The World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSAs), representing some 100 million shooters worldwide, puts the issue plainly: the priority is clarity and category separation.

Lawful sport shooting, hunting, collecting, conservation and legitimate industry activity must not be collapsed into illicit trafficking, violent crime or unlawful possession.

Lethality Is Not Source Evidence –

The article states that firearms are four to seven times more lethal than other weapons. Even if accepted, that is not source evidence.

It does not prove that the firearm used in a crime was licensed. It does not prove that it came from a private owner. It does not prove that further restricting compliant firearm owners will stop political killings, gang murders or organised crime.

“Guns are more lethal” is a weapon-effect claim. It is not a tracing study. The relevant question is how violent criminals obtain firearms in the first place. That question remains unanswered.

The issue is not that firearms exist. The issue is illegal firearms in criminal hands. Even if every lawfully owned firearm were removed from responsible citizens - leaving honest, law-abiding South Africans less able to protect themselves - illegal firearms would still remain in criminal circulation unless their actual sources are traced, identified and disrupted. The claimant must therefore show the trace data.

Stop Hiding Behind “Civilian Guns”

The loose use of “civilian firearms” is another recurring flaw. Private security is not the same as an ordinary licensed individual. Dealers are not the same as sport shooters.

Training providers are not the same as self-defence licence holders. Institutional firearms are not the same as privately owned firearms stored in prescribed safes.

Yet activist language collapses these categories into one convenient target: “civilian guns.” That may be useful for campaigning. It is useless for serious policy. If private security is leaking firearms, say so. If dealers are implicated, say so. If ordinary owners are the source, say so. If SAPS stores are leaking, say so. If corrupt officials are issuing firearms to criminals, say so. But publish the data.

— With courtesy from SAGA

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Pellets *Matter*

by Charles Duff

Photographs
André van der Westhuizen



Ever taken a good look at the pellets in one of your birdshot cartridges? If not, then there's a lot you can learn about these humble little spheres, some of which might improve your shotgun shooting.

Birdshot pellets, in any appreciable quantities, were made by pouring molten lead into a metal sieve at the top of a purpose-built 'shot-tower', the height of which could be anything from 30m to 80m. The process was invented by a William Watts of Bristol in 1782

and shot size was governed to some extent by the size of the apertures in the sieve.

Larger shot required more of a fall than smaller; No.2s needing an 80m tower while No.6s could be produced in a 40m one. Some of these old shot-towers are still in use around the world – four in England and a couple

in the USA for instance. In free fall, the high surface tension of molten lead causes it to rapidly assume a spherical shape. In 1848 in New York it was found that if a blast of cold air was directed at the falling pellets, the drop could be considerably reduced and such shot became known as 'chilled shot'. This was touted as being harder and thus better than slower-cooling shot. At the bottom of the shot tower was a water-filled tank from which the now fully solid shot was dredged, dried and sorted.

Inevitably some was not uniformly spherical and teardrop shapes occurred; out-of-round pellets went back to the melting pot. It was found that the addition of a small percentage of antimony and/or tin largely did away with tear-dropping (and

*"The more
modern manufac-
turing process is
**known as the
'Bliemeister'**
after its originator
and was introduced
in the 1960s"*

renders them perfectly round and smooth. Sometimes lead wire was treated to the same process.

A really competitive clay shooter should open a cartridge and measure a score or so pellets. If they range beyond a half size above or below the stated diameter then this can be a negative factor in pattern consistency and he would be well advised to find a better cartridge maker.

The web is silent on when standardisation of pellet sizes occurred in Britain but their Imperial fractions of an inch produced a strange anomaly – British birdshot sizes almost all differ in diameter by 0.20mm. Thus No.8 is 2.21mm, No.7 is 2.41mm, No.6 is 2.59mm, No.5 2.79mm and so on. Unfortunately almost every country producing shot has its own scale.



*One can see the pellets and wad on their way
towards the Egyptian Goose – Hopetown*

also lowered the melting point of the lead). But there was enough size divergence to require graduated sieving to achieve a satisfactorily uniform product.

Rotating cylindrical drums or horizontal-shaking sieves are used industrially. To produce British No.6s the first drum has holes of 2.70mm (No.5½). Thus anything bigger goes off to be recycled. The second drum's holes are 2.50mm (No.6½) so anything smaller also goes back to the smelter, or on to another sorter. So the diameter range for any pellet is

actually one full shot size.

Preferably it should be a half - 2.61mm to 2.59mm for No.6s - but the higher rejection rate would very much increase costs. Finally the pellets were tumbled with a small quantity of powdered graphite as a lubricant and anti-oxidant. "Milled shot" was made by punching out squares from a sheet of lead whose thickness was that of the required size of shot.

These were then loaded into a large horizontal hollow iron cylinder, which was then rotated. The friction of the cubes tumbling about then

This can lead to confusion here, where we obtain cartridges from Europe, the USA, Britain and even Asia. For example, British No.5s are 2.79mm in diameter, but the Italian No.5s are 2.90mm, equal to the Dutch No.4 but smaller than the British No.4s. Astoundingly the commonest shot size used in Britain, the No.6 at 2.59mm has, except for the Italian 6½, no corresponding size in all the other shot sizes. It really is high time that the world gave up on these nominal sizes and standardised on metric diameters. Though, of course,

BIRD SHOT SIZES & PELLET WEIGHTS.

Diameter		Pellets		British	American	French	Belgian & Dutch	Italian	Spanish	Swedish	German
Ins.	mm	per ounce	per 10gm								
	3.75mm			B	2	2	1				-
0.143"	3.63mm	100	35	1	3			1	3	7	3
0.135"	3.43mm	120	42	2	3	3	2	2			3
0.128"	3.25mm	140	49	3	4	4	3	3	4	5	4
0.120"	3.05mm	170	60	4	5	5		4	5		5
0.114"	2.90mm	195	69	4½			4	5			
0.110"	2.79mm	220	78	5	6	6	5		6	3	6
0.107"	2.72mm	240	85	5½				6			
0.102"	2.59mm	270	95	6				6½		2	
0.100"	2.54mm	290	102		7						
0.099"	2.50mm	300	106	6½		7	6	7			7
0.097"	2.45mm	320	113					7½			
0.095"	2.41mm	340	120	7	7½	7½	7	7½	7		
0.090"	2.29mm	400	141	7½	8		7½	8	7½		
0.087"	2.21mm	450	159	8		8	8	8½	8		8
0.085"	2.16mm	500	176		8½	8½		9			
0.080"	2.03mm	580	205	9	9	9	9		9½		9
0.075"	1.92mm	715	247	9½				10			
0.070"	1.78mm	850	300	10	10	10	10				10
0.067"	1.70mm	919	328	11*				11			
0.060"	1.52mm	1380	487	12*	11*	11	11	12		0 or 1	11
0.050"	1.27mm	2835	1000		12*					0	
0.040"	1.02mm	4565	1610		Dust*					0	

* = Obsolete as factory rounds, some available in rimfire and pistol loads.

Establishing this comparative chart has been a frustrating experience. Many sources have been consulted and some of the above figures are 'best guess' or compromises from frequently widely differing data.

this would upset the Americans, who are firmly and blindly wedded to their Imperial measures.

The more modern manufacturing process is known as the 'Bliemeister' after its originator and was introduced in the 1960s. This involves multiple fine nozzles to control shot size and using a very short drop – 25mms or less – into hot water, then rolled down an incline and dropped a further metre into liquids with a high thermal capacity, such as diesel.

The term 'chilled shot' now includes any with added antimony and/or tin as these do harden the shot. There is a fine line between pure lead, which is rather soft and easily deformed but is almost guaranteed to dump all its kinetic energy inside the bird and the alloys.

Up to 2% antimony is still termed 'soft' shot; between 2% and 4% is considered medium and suitable for game shooting, while over 4% is termed hard and though excellent for clay target shooting, with minimal pellet deformation, is too hard for game in that it is likely to go straight through the bird, thus wasting its kinetic energy. Softer shot is more liable to clumping than the harder variety. Note that buckshot that is anything



Image from hullcartridge.co.uk

bigger than British No.1s is now cast in multiple cavity moulds, or by cold stamping calibrated wire lengths in hemispherical dies.

We have to accept that spherical pellets or bullets have unimpressive aerodynamics with mediocre penetration and a lot of drag. Moreover,

small pellets really lack mass, and thus momentum. So between the largest birdshot – No.1s at 3.63mm diameter, 35/10g and the smallest - No.9s of 2.03mm diameter, 205/10g, there is roughly 100 metres difference in extreme range.

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No.1s are said to achieve around 274m (300yds) if fired at optimum elevation – between 27° and 30° above the horizontal. No.9s will stretch out to about 183m (200yds). The fact that the SABS requires shotgun ranges to have at least a 300 metre backstop says it all, the largest shot allowed on international ranges is British No.6½ at 2.5mm diameter which can carry a maximum of about 206m (225yds).

At 100 metres most birdshot will not penetrate human flesh and its terminal velocity at the end of its flight is around 30fps. So, unless it

pushing the envelope. A shotgun kills with a pattern and it is inconveniently true that the efficiency of this pattern, beyond requiring a sufficient pellet count to close any gaps, is peculiar to every barrel, which will handle some shot sizes better than others and even favour some makes of cartridge over others. Without thoroughly patterning your gun, you will never get the best out of it.

Also, while it may seem, on the surface, that the long-ranging No.4s (60/10g) would be the ideal hunting load, there are 30% less of them in the pattern than No.5s (78/10g)

to consider that the average pattern from a cylinder-barrelled 12ga at 35m is roughly 1.4m wide and 3m long with 50% of its pellets in the first metre and 75% in the first 1.5m. The tail is usually composed of the more deformed shot, but it can still kill, and from this comes the saying that a target is rarely ever missed ahead.

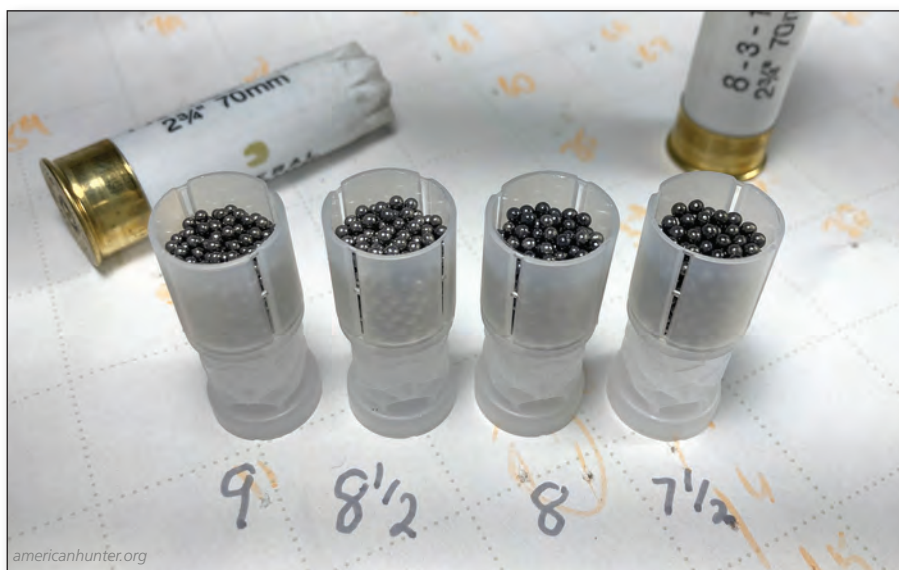
The old British gold standard was the 1 1/16th ounce (30g) load of No.6s with 287 pellets. A full-choked barrel of 40 thou constriction was expected to put at least 200 pellets into the standard 30" circle at 40yds (75%); the three-quarter choke with 30 thou needed 187 pellets (65%). Likewise the half-choke of 20 thou constriction had to put 175 pellets (60%) into the circle and the quarter-choke with 10 thou needed 145 pellets (50%).

A cylinder bore should deliver 114 pellets (40%) into the circle. This was a useful gauge back in the old days for those shooters who could not obtain the use of the expensive barrel measurement gauges and wanted to check their gun's performance (and can still be used today). Most of the guns of that era were merely stamped 'choke' on the barrel flat.

Finally there is also an inescapable loss of pellets in the pattern as the shot charge proceeds on its merry way towards the target with more and more pellets diverging from the centre line. A full choked barrel will deliver 100% of its pellets inside the classical 30" circle at 30 yards.

The figures then vary a bit depending upon the source, but it is generally accepted that the pattern then drops 16% for each 5 yards out to 50 yards where the charge has now shed 64% of its pellets (36% remaining). For 55 yards we must add another 1% loss, so drop off is 17% (19% remaining), at 60 yards the charge is 18% less and the pattern has actually failed, though individual pellets can still kill, but pattern width is well over 6 feet and the shot charge is 20 feet long!

I append a chart on page 10 of pellet sizes compiled by myself over the years (which is as accurate as I can make it), which may help you when buying cartridges of differing provenance.



should strike you in the eye, it will just bounce off. There's a moral here though – always wear shooting glasses when shotgun shooting in company!

Diving into velocities and striking power, several truths unfold. At 20yds from the muzzles, birdshot has lost 30% of its velocity. At 40 yards, the velocity loss is 45% with a concomitant loss of striking power of 50%; while at 60 yards these become 55% and 80% respectively.

So an ordinary hunting load with a muzzle velocity of 1,350fps is reduced to 675fps at 50 yards, thus average speed is 1,012fps and time of flight is 0.15 second. A bird doing 60mph (88fps) - which most of our gamebirds and waterfowl can achieve if they are shot at - will cover 13 feet, or 4 metres, in this time. An impressive amount of required lead in any man's language. Thus any ethical hunter should not take shots at anything over 50 yards, and even this is

and a shattering 57% less than No.6s (140/10g). According to Eley, the corresponding striking energies at 35m (+/- 40yds) are: 0.411m/kg for No.4s, 0.295m/kg for No.5s and 0.227m/kg for No.6s.

These figures are for their 'high velocity' game loads at a muzzle velocity of a somewhat pedestrian 1,120fps. They go on to state that the minimum requirements for a clean kill on medium sized birds (duck, francolin and guinea fowl) is 3 pellets of 0.12m/kg kinetic energy. This is easily accomplished by No.6s with the advantage of their massively better pattern coverage.

Though another truth also emerges – at long distances the pattern always fails well before the individual pellet loses its ability to kill. From this comes most of the tales of freakishly long shots – the 'golden pellet' syndrome, which cannot be considered even vaguely reliable. It is salutary



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No Cages, No Boxes – The Spanish Partridge Shoot

Doing Things Differently



Javier Lopez De Carrizosa started managing Cenicientos-OJESPAIN Spanish Partridge Shoot 16 years ago. At the start, he was asked by a paying gun if the birds were being released from baskets that day.

by Frank Stephenson
– with courtesy and thanks to
GunsOnPegs

He was disappointed by the question and did not want that attached to his name, and decided to do something about it.

By starting 'No Cages, No Boxes', Cenicientos – OJESPAIN has provided a form of assurance scheme that promises guests that the partridges have been released and prop-

erly kept before the shooting season has started.

Meeting Expectations

Like many travelling guns, I arrived in Spain with an open mind and a certain amount of curiosity. Over the decades, some travelling guns from the UK have had disappointing experiences, and Spanish partridge shooting has at times suf-

ferred abroad from a reputation for being over-manufactured. That is, in many ways, why No Cages No Boxes' matters. What I found at Cenicientos-OJESPAIN was far from disappointing.

Breathtaking Terrain

Set amongst the mountains, thick scrubland, rolling hills and agricultural land in the province of Madrid, Cenicientos-OJESPAIN has perfect terrain for partridges.

When I visited at the end of February, I was told that everything was far greener than was typical due to the much higher than average rainfall that the region has experienced this year, but the terrain still had all the ingredients one would hope for in a traditional Spanish red-leg shoot.

After a short transfer from Madrid airport, I met the other guests and Javier's brother-in-law Luciano (who expertly managed the day's shooting) in Cenicientos the evening before the shoot.





Our base for the trip would be the estate's luxurious lodge, where hunting trophies adorn the walls, and picture windows offer majestic views out over the estate.

Food To Write Home About

That evening the lodge's professional chefs treated us to a roe deer haunch, hunted on the estate and cooked to perfection. After getting to know the team over a few post-dinner G&Ts, I retired to my wonderfully comfortable room (one of five double rooms and five twin rooms) for a peaceful rest, excited about what the next day would bring.

Meeting my team mates

The morning started with a light breakfast in the dining room accompanied by views over citrus orchards towards the distant mountains still tipped with snow, despite the welcome sunshine. Having chosen a pair of nicely fitting Grulla side-by-sides as my guns for the day, we made our way to the first of the day's four drives, where I was allocated my loader, Fernando, and my secretary, Beltran, whose job it would be to keep an eye on proceedings, count and mark my birds and provide encouragement throughout the day.

Remincent of a Grouse Butt

Standing on the peg is rather like being in a grouse butt, which gives a hint as to the style of shooting. I was set up with screens in front and to the sides, to prevent you from swinging through the line, so on most drives you have free reign low in front and behind, and also high and crossing birds.

The drives themselves were different in character, from rocky mountainous ground, to lush green valleys either side of a crystalline river, making the variety of shooting wide and highly enjoyable - it certainly kept you on your toes!

Excellent Elevenses

After the second drive we stopped for a hill-top elevenses, with panoramic views stretching miles and miles, and enjoyed snacks that included wild boar and red deer chorizo, pickled partridge parcels (these were particularly tasty), cheese and a

wonderful broth. Back at the lodge, the day ended in the same style in which it had begun, with warmth, ease and excellent food. Chef Alberto produced a memorable partridge rice dish, apparently one of the house favourites of the season, and after a glass or two of Rioja it was time to head back to Madrid.

The Trip of a Lifetime

On the plane home, I reflected that I could not have wished for a better introduction to Spanish partridge shooting. Not just for the quality of the shooting or the hospitality, but because of the thinking behind it. 'No Cages, No Boxes' is not a marketing slogan, nor is it about criticising estates that do things differently. It is a public commitment to a traditional and transparent way of organising Spanish partridge shooting: birds are released in advance, given time to settle naturally, and are not brought out in cages or boxes on the day to create an artificial result for the line.

The Importance of NCNB

It is a distinction that probably matters to true countrymen, going to the heart of what makes a driven day feel genuine. A proper partridge day should be the product of time, management, keeping and care for the ground. That is precisely what 'No Cages, No Boxes' seeks to recognise and protect. For Javier and the rest of his team at Cenicientos, this philosophy is clearly more than mere words - they believe in their commitment to doing things the old way, and display the NCNB badge with pride.

But it doesn't stop at Cenicientos-OJESPAIN. Javier manages two other estates following the same principles - Castillo de Viñuelas (who you can contact through GunsOnPegs) and El Sauceral - and the distinguished La Nava in Castillo La Mancha has also signed up to NCNB, demonstrating a wider effort by respected shoots to defend and give proper value to traditional Spanish partridge shooting.

If you are interested in finding out more about Cenicientos-OJESPAIN, take a look at their [GunsOnPegs shoot page](#) and make an enquiry. 🦌



Shooting in the *Field*

*From the official WINGSHOOTING HANDBOOK
Available from the SA Wingshooters office*

Now for the real thing...

An experienced wing-shooter who has practised on the clay shooting range is a far more effective shooter than the average field shooter who does not shoot clay targets.

The contrary could also be argued, but then the field shooter would have to be highly experienced and score on his knowledge of the conditions and quarry. Certainly, for the average wingshooter, there is no substitute for the clay shooting range. It gives him confidence to tackle any quarry and quickly adapt himself to the slower flight of the francolin or guinea fowl.

He would, in the meantime, have been taught all the aspects of safety with a shotgun while training at a club and being subjected to the advice and comments of his peers. Even if his experience as a wing-shooter is almost non-existent, he can accept any invitation to a wing shoot in the most august company and give a good account of himself.

Which clay discipline works best?

The differences are fewer than one thinks. The sport of clay target shooting was actually devised as a means of practising for live bird shoots. The semi-circular layout of skeet, with a trap house at each end, is designed to present the shooter with a variety of targets on a 180° axis. Modern FITASC 'parcours de chasse' sporting clay shooting is specifically

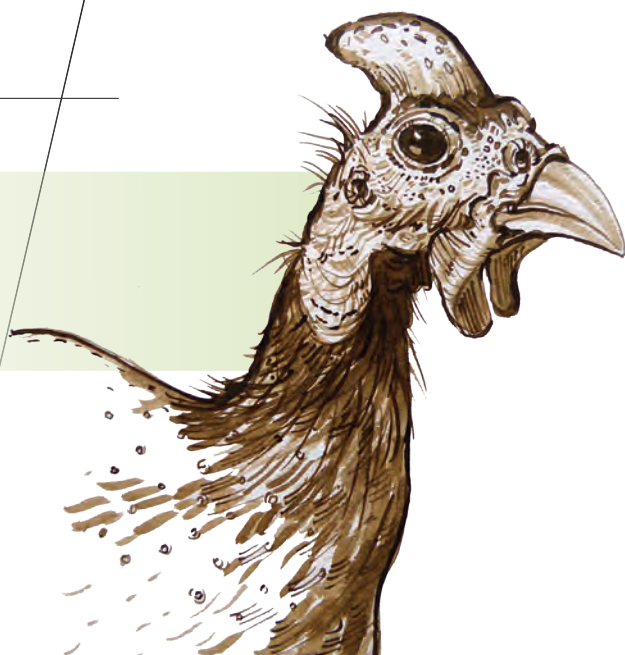
designed to simulate 'hunting walks' and includes the limitation of targets within 40 metres, even though modern clay shooters can consistently break targets at ranges as far as 60 or sometimes even 70 metres!

Any form of trap or trench shooting is very good practice for shooting in the field over gun dogs. Trap or trench targets mostly simulate a flushing bird and experienced trap

shooters rarely miss such birds. Crossing birds or high flying geese is another matter altogether, and the trap shooter is advised to do some sporting clay shooting before venturing into the field.

What are the differences?

The sport of clay shooting has, beyond a shadow of a doubt, introduced a new level of marksmanship



Photographs by André van der Westhuizen



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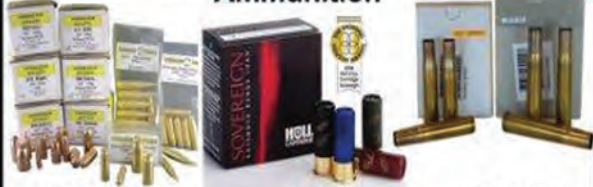
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keeps missing in the field is as follows: 'Cut your lead in half... and if that still doesn't work, cut it in half yet again.'

On the subject of rock pigeons, they can constitute what is generally considered to be the most difficult field target of all. Flying fast and at a great height and, on the first shot report, taking violent evasive action while diving like F-16 jet fighters, they are faster than the fastest and steepest battue ever seen on the clay range! Or they may come in 'hedge-hopping below the radar', skirting the tops of the sunflowers and wooshing past the shooter before he can pull the trigger.

This situation can, in fact, be very dangerous. Under such circumstances, where other shooters are often also present or may be present in the same field, the shooter has to be extremely careful before firing and has to remain aware of the surroundings even while focusing on the bird. Any shot angled lower than 45% is dangerous!

In the field, shooting etiquette, in addition to safety, is of great importance and the experienced clay shooter must be sensitive to the special rules and requirements of the host and one's shooting companions. The golden rule, once again, is that the gun must be obviously safe at all times; nobody must need to ask: 'Is that gun safe?'

The burden of the deadly shot

The crack clay pigeon shot is onto a flushing bird in a flash. Before his field shooting companions can even move a finger, he explodes the bird in a cloud of feathers and mince meat. In the olden days, this used to be considered very bad form because the bird is not given a 'sporting chance'.

In modern times, when animal cruelty and even animal rights have become hot issues, the ethics have changed along with the times. It is now acceptable, even advisable, not to let the bird get away too much to minimise the risk of wounding.

Nevertheless, the experienced clay shooter will be well advised to slow down his shooting a bit and to give other, slower field shooters a chance to also shoot something too. 

This helps to get invited again.

to shotgun shooting that has never been seen before, and shooting regularly at a clay shooting club with one's peers has a dramatic effect on one's standard of shooting.

Indeed, this is a problem in itself. Consider the scenario: A new shooter, even an experienced wingshooter, arrives at a clay shooting club with his fine side-by-side shotgun. He walks on to the range and proceeds to miss half the targets – which are much faster than most gamebirds and also demand much faster reaction times ('Olympic skeet shooting is, in fact, nothing but circus shooting', one wingshooter observed).

Compared to the regular members, his score is so poor that he becomes disheartened, almost disgraced, and leaves the club never to return. What a sad loss to clay shooting! Meanwhile, all he did was to consistently miss those fast clay

targets behind.

Another big difference between clay targets and field shooting is that the hunter is often surprised in the field and caught unawares, literally on the wrong foot. As we have seen in the previous section, bad footwork generally leads to a miss. The clatter and noise of the flushing bird causes the shooter to rush his shot and lift his head to see it. The result? Missed above! Don't think this happens only to novices. It also happens to experienced shots and will happen again and again and provide his or her buddies with endless mirth.

Most terrestrial gamebirds fly distinctly slower than clay targets and it takes a while to adapt to the slower targets and to decrease the lead. This is most noticeable on targets such as doves or rock pigeons in cruise-mode, looking for their buddies. The advice to an experienced clay shooter who

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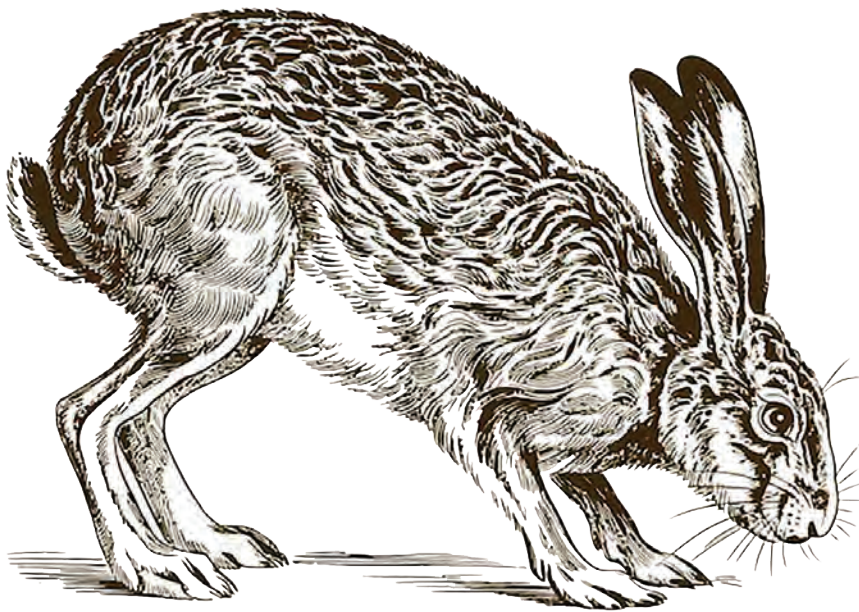
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Facts, Fallacies &

Old Wives' Tales

By Dr. P.J. (Slang) Viljoen



*The question:
Scrub hare (Kolhaas) versus dog...*

Do dogs use their tails to balance when they run? As you know, Scrub Hares do not dig burrows like rabbits, and they hide and raise their young right out on the open ground.

They rely on their camouflage and speed to outwit predators. They have short legs and short tails and can outrun most predators. While most dogs are too slow to outrun a Hare, some Greyhounds are faster than a Hare,

but a single dog can seldom catch a Hare simply because the Hare outmanoeuvres and outbalances the dog at every turn and corner. So much for the widely held notion that you need long tails to balance yourself and long legs to sprint quickly.

Actually, scientific research has shown that a dog's tail has very little, if any, bearing on its ability to balance. (Tom Rottier, Andrew K. Schulz, Katja Söhnle, Kathryn McCarthy, Martin S. Fischer, Ardian

Jusufi (2022)). It also stands to reason that a tail of 400g can have little influence on a 30kg dog's balance.

Do all dogs have the same scenting ability?

There are often misconceptions around scenting and the scenting ability of dogs. Many people believe that all dogs have the same scenting ability and that scenting conditions remain the same. This, however, is far from the truth, as has been repeatedly



demonstrated at the field trials since 1908 in South Africa. Pointing dogs have for centuries been selected for their superior scenting abilities.

Dogs, where scenting is not a criterion for breeding, cannot hope to have the same scenting abilities as Pointers who have been selected for ages for their outstanding scenting ability. Even within the same dog race, there is a vast difference between different lines of dogs.

Are scenting conditions always the same?

So why did the dogs not smell the Hare? Most pointing dogs regularly smell and point the hares, so why not

here? The dogs in the photo come from long lines of Field Trial champions and have proven their superior scenting ability numerous times. Yet they had no clue that the Hare was there, even when brought right up to it.

So why is this? Our studies have indicated that atmospheric conditions can seriously affect the scenting capacity of dogs. Preliminary research indicates that while the Barometric Pressure is dropping it seriously affects the scenting capacity of dogs, not so much how high or low the pressure is. Of course, we need more research to determine all the factors involved. So far, however, we can pre-

dict with some accuracy that the dogs will seldom find game while the pressure is dropping. During that specific morning when the photograph was taken, the dogs could not smell the Hare, they also did not find a single gamebird. Yet, an hour later the same dogs pointed both hares and gamebirds whose scent they picked up.

Researchers who use dogs in scenting experiments should therefore take notice of this and not use any dog under any atmospheric conditions for their experiments.

Using dogs with inferior scenting ability in adverse climatic conditions might seriously jeopardise your results.

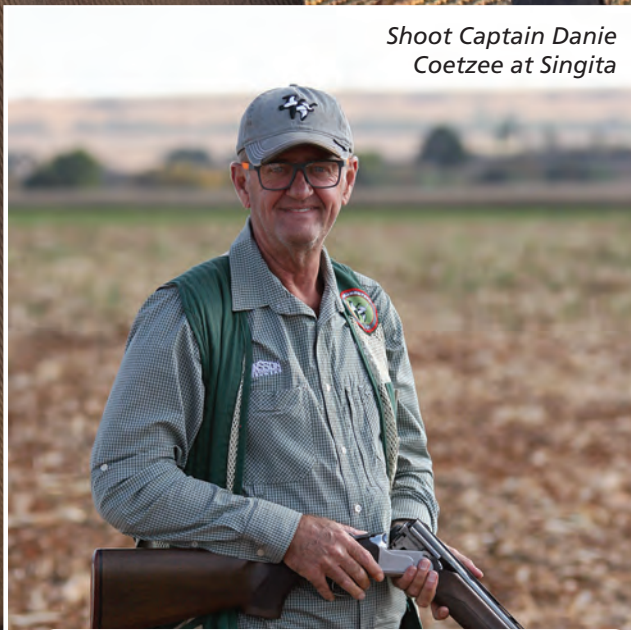


Members in the Field

Teagan and Tyler Lillico at Singita



Shoot Captain Danie Coetzee at Singita



Luke Strugnell at Singita



At the Malmesbury Guinea shoot:
From left: Niel Swart, Philipp Schulz, Wynand Visser, Judge Ron McLaren,
Oscar Basch and Heinrich Stoltz.



At the Malmesbury –
Mathew Palin & Mark Middelhoven



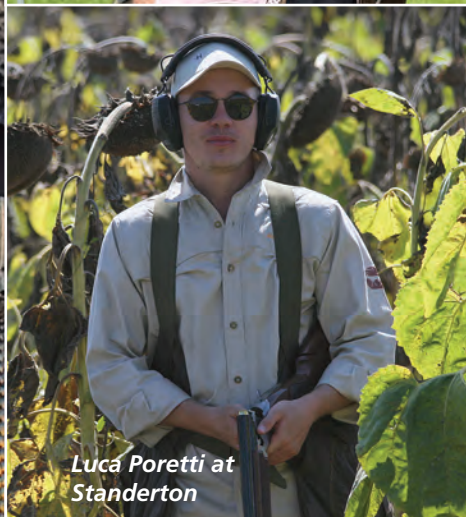
Rockies at Singita



Caren Ziady and
Hester Halkias at
shotgun coaching



From left: Michael Anderson, Steve Siebert &
Roland Boesch at Singita



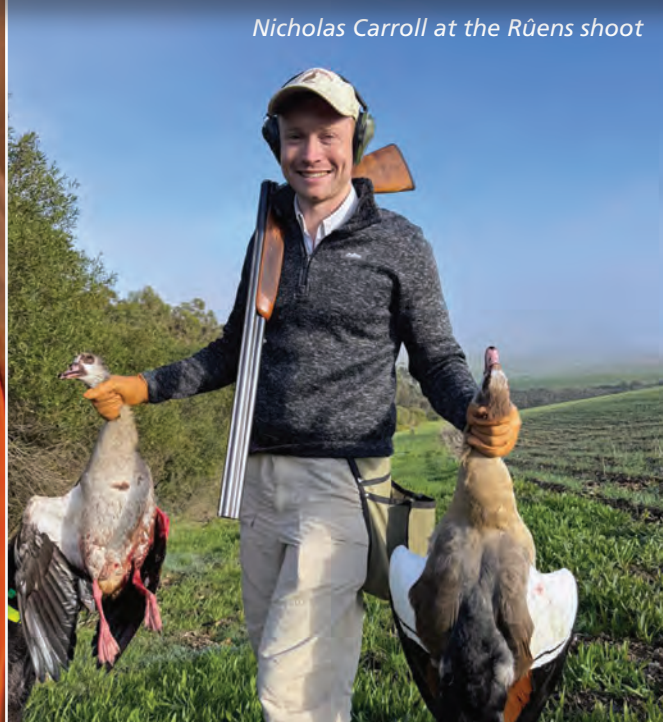
Luca Poretti at
Standerton



Nicholas Carroll at the Rûens shoot



Wouter-Ben Theron at the Clocolan shoot



LRSC Members Sending it



The first squad getting ready for the night shoot start



Kristina Gallow, AKA Krispi Klean
Headshots



The first of it's kind, the long range
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Team LRSC at the Clocolan gong shoot –
From left: Xander & Charl Jacobs sitting like
Dassies in the sun in the background, albeit
38°, Jacky van den Berg, Berns & Wiza.



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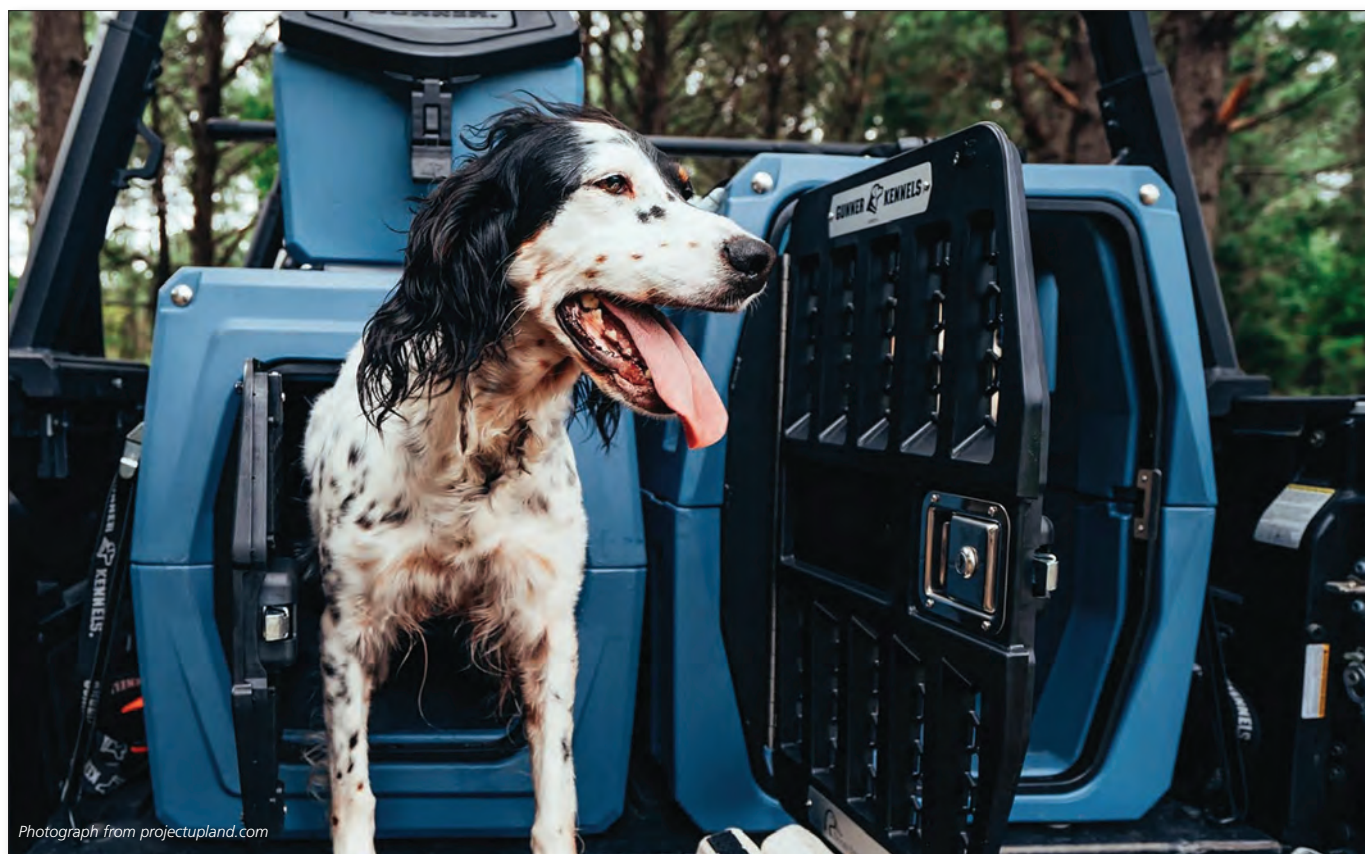
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Dog Car Safety:

Lessons From Veterinarians and Crash Tests About Protecting Your Dog

What dog car safety crash tests reveal about harnesses, crates, and real risks – plus what veterinarians recommend for safer travel.



Photograph from projectupland.com

*by Gabby Zaldumbide
projectupland.com*

Dog car safety crash tests reveal a hard truth: the most common ways people transport dogs in vehicles fail under real collision conditions. In many cases, kennel doors fail or dogs are not restrained at all, leading to escape, severe injury, or worse.

So how can we keep our dogs safe in the car? More importantly, how do we reduce the risks our canine companions face when traveling to the veterinarian, hunting spots, or on road trips?

When it comes to keeping dogs restrained and protected in vehicles, dog owners have a few options.



Photograph from projectupland.com

Products like seatbelt or harness devices, backseat barriers, and wire kennels can keep dogs from distracting drivers, but they aren't perfect. Independent crash testing has shown that many popular dog restraints fail under collision forces, highlighting a largely unregulated market. Similarly, heavy, rugged kennels and even truck bed mounted dog boxes and custom trailers can be deemed worthless if their kennel doors pop open during an accident. Dogs left to fend for themselves on highways, busy streets, or backroads are susceptible to being hit by oncoming traffic or being lost.

As dog owners, we've invested time, love, energy and money into our beloved family members. It just makes sense to protect them as much as possible, especially during high-risk activities.

To learn more about best practices for keeping dogs safe in cars, I talked with Dr. Joe Spoo, a veterinarian and Diplomate of the American College

of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Addison Edmonds, the founder of GUNNER Kennels.

What Actually Happens to Dogs in Car Accidents

When you get into an accident with your dog in the car, oftentimes, they fare better physically than we humans do even when they're unrestrained. According to Dr. Joe Spoo, dogs either die in the accident, have minor injuries like soreness, escape from the crash site, experience emotional trauma, or have no noticeable side effects at all.

"The biggest tragedy associated with car accidents is escape," said Dr. Spoo. Dogs often escape containment after car accidents because their kennel broke, the kennel door failed to stay closed, or the dog wasn't contained within the vehicle in the first place. "Say the dog kennel breaks but the dog survives without injury. The

owners are taken by ambulance to the hospital, and then the dog gets out. Because it's afraid and in an unknown location, the dog could get hit by a car, or people can have trouble relocating the escaped dog later."

Somewhat reassuringly, Dr. Spoo mentioned that in the 20-plus years that he's been a practicing veterinarian, he's never seen a dog come into the office with a serious injury from being in a car accident. In his years of experience, it's more likely that the dog either died in the accident, suffered superficial wounds, or got lost.

It is worth putting thought into how you safely travel with dogs. Even if many dogs survive the initial impact, that doesn't mean they're out of danger.

Unrestrained dogs can distract drivers and, in a crash, become dangerous projectiles. Most importantly, in many cases, the crash itself isn't what kills a dog – it's what happens after it escapes.

Unrestrained Dogs Can Distract Drivers

Dogs as projectiles pose risks to drivers, passengers, and the dog itself. This is where crash test rated seatbelt devices or backseat barriers come into play – these products can keep dogs in your car's backseat in the event of an accident.

"These devices can help keep dogs from doing something stupid while we're driving," said Dr. Spoo. "We've all had that incident where we think they're fine, and then they're on the floorboards and you're trying to keep them from stepping on the brake pedal or on the accelerator while we're driving. The biggest benefit to these backseat barriers is that they keep dogs contained to the backseat."

Dr. Spoo reflected on just how many dog owners he's seen pull into his veterinary office with dogs on their laps, hanging out the windows, or otherwise unrestrained in their vehicles. "There is the potential for these dogs to pose a distraction," he said.

While there are many state laws regulating the use of cell phones while driving, only eight states have laws that apply to unrestrained dogs in vehicles. For example, Hawaii's statewide traffic code states that "While operating a motor vehicle, no person shall hold in the person's lap, or allow to be in the driver's immediate area, any person, animal, or object which interferes with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle."

Dogs As Projectiles: The Force Behind Unrestrained Dogs in Car Accidents

Research on the threats dogs pose to passengers in vehicular accidents is limited. However, keeping in mind that I am not a mathematician, we can use some basic physics to illustrate the risks dogs pose to humans during a crash.

Say your 50-pound German Shorthaired Pointer is unrestrained in the backseat while you're driving 55 miles per hour. A deer jumps into the road, and you collide at full



speed. Your dog does not stop with the vehicle – it will not meaningfully slow down before impact. It continues moving forward at 55 miles per hour until something stops it (likely your windshield, or worse, you).

Using a simplified physics model based on kinetic energy, a dog of that size moving at that speed can generate roughly 10,000 pounds of force when it comes to a sudden stop. When concentrated inside a vehicle, that amount of force becomes extremely dangerous to both the dog and anyone else in the car.

In other words, in a crash, a 50-pound dog doesn't stay 50 pounds. It becomes a projectile capable of causing catastrophic damage.

The Weakest Point in Dog Car Safety: The Kennel Door

Ultimately, while backseat restraints may not be perfect, they can reduce driver distraction. The more a driver can focus on the road, the less likely an accident will occur in the first place. But many products are designed to contain a dog, not to protect it in a car crash.

If your dog is in a kennel during a crash – whether from a rear-end collision, a T-bone, or hitting a deer – the weakest point of that system is often

the kennel door. A kennel might survive a crash structurally, but if the door fails, the system has failed.

"The door is the biggest point," said Dr. Spoo. "If the door to your kennel or dog box isn't up to par, then you risk it opening during a crash. If the dog survives the crash, but the door fails and the dog gets hit by an oncoming car, it's like the Alanis Morissette song: 'Ironic.'"

Addison Edmonds, the founder of GUNNER Kennels, was present when his kennel's design was being crash tested by an independent third party research testing facility. "They had a giant vise that could show how much pressure the kennel could hold," Edmonds said. "It broke the machine three times at 2,000 pounds. They also dropped a huge sled on it from 10 feet, and it was the only kennel not to get completely crushed."

It was at those crash test rating experiments that Addison realized just how important kennel doors are to a dog's safety. "Crash tests are extremely violent," he said. During these tests, dummy dogs are placed in the kennels. The kennel is then launched towards a cement wall at 30 mph. In testing, every other kennel failed at the door, allowing the

Photograph from projectupland.com



dummy dog to be ejected. Only GUNNER's reinforced door and backup pins remained secure.

"We tried to engineer GUNNER Kennels to give dogs the best chance of survival," said Edmonds. According to its website, GUNNER's G1 Kennel was the first kennel design to earn a five-star crash test rating from the Center for Pet Safety, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of companion animals. They have many customer testimonials available to read on gunner.com, including this story about Cash, a black Labrador, who survived a roll-over.

"Whether that door stays closed during a crash or not is the major sticking point," said Dr. Spoo. "And using the safety features that are there. Full disclosure, sometimes I get lazy and I don't hit the safety pins. How ridiculous is that?"

Keeping Dogs Safe in Cars: Consider Heat, Airflow, and the Broader Environment

When it comes to keeping our dogs safe in cars, crash test ratings are just one part of the equation. Temperature, airflow and humidity are all things that put our dogs at risk of heatstroke, hypothermia, dehydra-

tion, or even death while traveling.

"What is your dog's environment like? Is it hot in there? Is there airflow? We get complacent because we're in a comfort controlled cab. But if that dog's under a truck bed topper and we forget to open the vents, or you kennel a hot dog during the summer, now that kennel is like a sauna," explained Dr. Spoo.

Not only is the dog itself generating heat, it's panting, too. As a result, temperatures inside of kennels can get even hotter than the interior of our vehicles.

"Tragically, people put their dogs in some of the safest kennels they could put them in, and they could kill them because of the environment," said Dr. Spoo.

Notably, Edmonds kept thermal properties in mind when creating the G1 Kennel's design. Several features of these kennels help it maintain a safe temperature when compared to other kennels, including its rubber feet, double-walled construction, and windows. You can also mount a fan to the door in hot environments, and put on an all-weather kit on that covers the windows in cold or wet conditions.

"We have tested the thermal properties of our kennels with third

party research groups as well," said Edmonds. "Because the rubber feet elevate our kennel off of that hot truck bed, and because it's double-walled, you've got a lot of thermal protection." Edmonds has also stashed a Bluetooth thermometer in his dog's kennel. He's witnessed it maintain 45 degrees in single-digit weather.

Dr. Joe Spoo also recommends using Bluetooth thermometers to track the temperature of your dog's environment while traveling. "Sometimes we just don't realize the temperature of our dog's kennel has changed 20 degrees. It's a cheap solution."

The Safest Way to Travel With a Dog in a Vehicle

For so many of us, our dogs are members of the family. They deserve to be intentionally safe while in vehicles. In the end, take the time to evaluate why you're using a dog kennel. Is it simply to contain the dog for convenience, or is it actually designed to protect them in a crash?

In practical terms, keeping dogs safe in vehicles comes down to a few key decisions: reducing driver distraction, using a system designed for crash protection – not just containment – and ensuring that system is used correctly.

Just as important, dog owners must consider the environment their dog is traveling in, from temperature to airflow. Small decisions in how we transport our dogs can have outsized consequences.

"It's so simple. People think, 'oh, I'll just put my dog in a kennel.' It's almost too simple, but it truly is life or death," said Dr. Spoo.

"Why is everybody okay with what's out there?" said Addison. "Let's think twice about how we transport our dogs because a lot of devastation could be avoided."



– https://projectupland.com/dogs/keeping-dogs-safe-in-vehicles-lessons-from-crash-tests-and-veterinarians/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&_kx=fUSZQjgzqvSYnuuxNSS2OPOnTvlDmtPQhgaaKJ-WMWz29fqJhAU3f6Y6qWTLzEu.XSVPXG

Ask The Instructor:

Gun Mount to the Cheek

by Don Currie

Question: A friend who only shoots skeet questioned the amount of drop on my gunstock. Both of the guns I shoot have parallel combs with 2 inches of drop. His thought was that if I mounted the gun securely under my cheekbone, I would not need as much drop. My thought is that as long as I mount to the cheek, my mount is consistent and my eye is above the rib, the comb does not have to be pressed into the cheekbone. I would appreciate your thoughts and comments.

Answer: You are correct! With a practiced and consistent mount to the cheek (not the shoulder), your eye will always come to rest at the same place above the rib for every shot. As for the height of your comb, here are my thoughts.

Traditionally, we gunfitters like to see the iris (eyeball) centered on and immediately atop the shotgun rib when the gun is fully mounted, similar to a marble on a table (as seen by the gunfitter positioned at the muzzle end of the gun). With that said, some guns shoot a bit higher or lower than others. Also, some shooters “float” the target above the barrel more than others and therefore favor a higher-shooting gun. For others, this is not the case. It is for this reason that my gun fittings always include a visit to the patterning board and watching my clients break actual targets.

As you correctly point out, it is not necessary to “lock in” the comb to the lower cheek ledge as long as your mount is consistent. Many excellent shooters use



a “soft mount,” with the cheek ledge quite a bit higher than the comb and eye higher off the rib.

One might think this would result in a higher point of impact; however, in this example, the shooter’s brain has adapted to this higher float, and a higher comb is perfectly fine and, perhaps, preferable. As long as the gun patterns to the point of

focus and the mount is consistent, the gun will always shoot consistently and will shoot where the eye is looking.



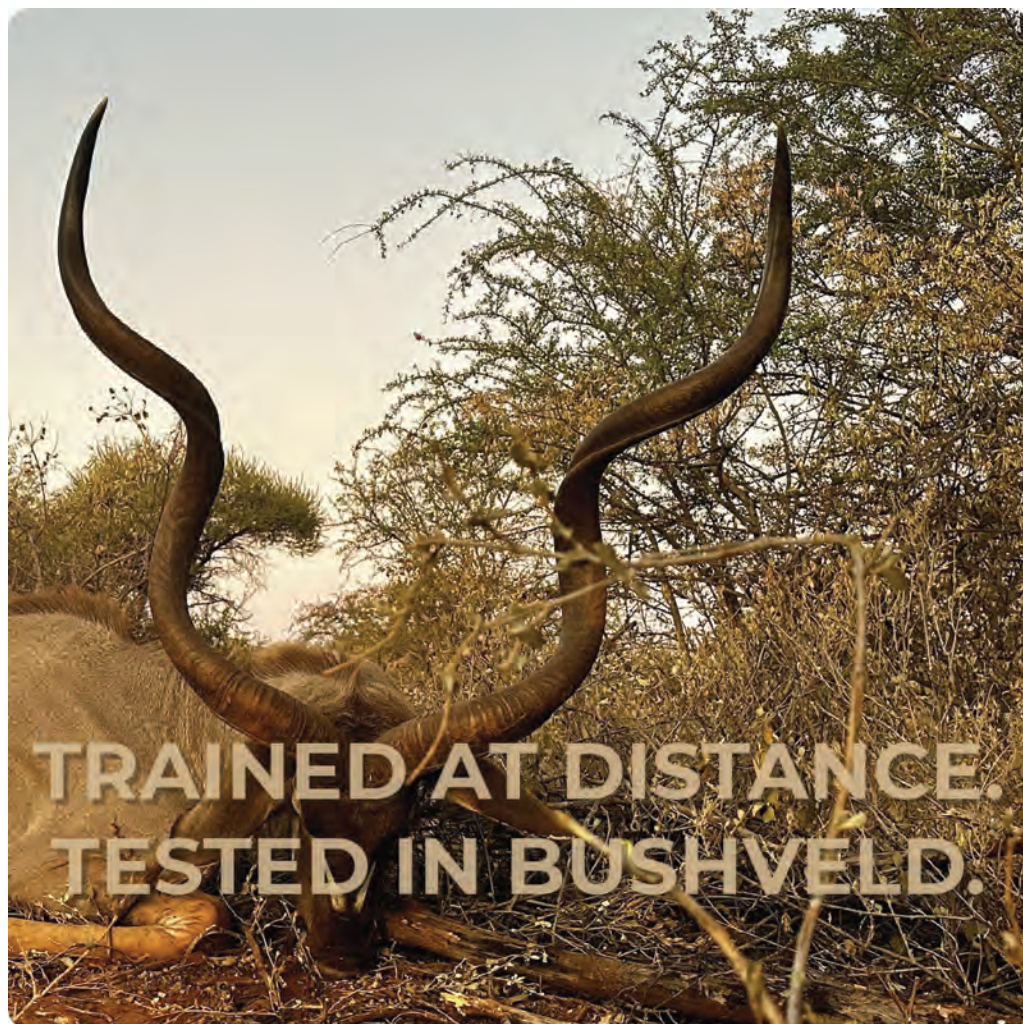
– Don Currie is NSCA’s Chief Instructor, an Orvis Wingshooting School instructor, and Master Class competitor. You can also see more tips from Currie at www.doncurrie.com.



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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.

So, 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, manual 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 in Gauteng, where members compete over shooting distances ranging from 100m to 1900m. This range also affords us the opportunity to offer a 2-gun sport shooting discipline (handgun and rifle combination shooting with movement and transitions), starting at 10m for handguns, to 100m and then up to 600m for self-loading rifles, with official division categories for calibres and types of rifles.

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.

Multi-gun (4-gun, 3-gun & 2-gun) sport shooting – we offer multi gun events, where self-loading rifles, PCC, handguns and bolt action rifles are used, at our LRSC range and elsewhere.

Membership of the LRSC gives you additional membership of the following sub-clubs:

- The LRSC (Long range shoot-



ing club for rifles in both Bolt Action and Self-loading rifle, which are to distinct separate divisions).

- The .22PSBC (Precision Small-Bore Club)

- The TPS (Tactical Precision Shooting) multi-gun club for 3-gun and 2-gun shooting and competition

- The LR Open Sight club (Open Sight rifle division)

- The LR Handgun and Revolver sub-club – for handgun shooting in various divisions.

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.

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 – Gazetted

1 May '26-30 Apr '27	Rock pigeons, Egyptian goose, Spurwing (need licence)
1 May-31 Aug	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, Guineafowl, Swainsons, Natal & Red-Necked Spurfowl, Crested francolin, Coqui francolin, Orange River Partridge, Shelley's.
1 June-31 Aug	Grey Wing, Redwing

FREE STATE – Gazetted – Same as 2025

All year	Rock pigeons, Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove.
15 May-15 Sept	Greywing & O/River partridge, all Spurfowl, common quail, guineaowl, all Francolin (except Redwing), yellow-billed duck & red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, spurwing, Red Knob Coot
1 Jan - 30 Apr	Shelduck (1)
Note:	(maximum 10 land & 10 water birds pp per day)

GAUTENG – Gazetted

1 May-30 April '27	All year. Rock Pigeons (need licence) (20).
1 May-31 Jul	Yellow-bill duck (2).
1 May-31 Aug	Egyptian geese (10);
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons francolin (5). Helmeted Guineafowl (5).

N-WEST PROVINCE – Same as 2025 for now (Draft in process)

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), Guineafowl (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 – Gazetted

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).
1 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> – Gazetted

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 April	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (5 in all total combined).
1 May-31 Jul	Greywing Partridge (3); Red-necked Francolins (3); Cape Franc. (6). 1 March-30 April – Common quail (2).

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – Gazetted Same as 2025

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). Burchell's Sandgrouse (5).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow-billed duck (10), Red-billed Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
1 Jan -31 Mar	A maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.
1 Jan-30 Apr	
Note:	

EASTERN CAPE – Gazetted – Same as 2025

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 (4).
1 Feb-30 Sept	Egyptian Goose (15).
1 Mrt-30 Sept	Spurwing (5).
1 May-31Aug	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), but in Queenstown (2), Orange River Partridge (4), Red-Necked Francolin (4).
1 Jan-31 Dec	Exotic Anseriformes

KZ-NATAL – Same as 2025

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 Guineafowl, 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, and we do not take responsibility for information correctness on this page. All exotic Anseriformes are open all year. E&OE.



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
e-mail to: anel@wingshooters.co.za

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

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

Don't Skimp On your scope

In the world of precision shooting, few components influence success as profoundly as the rifle telescope. While modern rifles and premium ammunition are undoubtedly important, the optic remains the shooter's primary interface with the target.

by André van der Westhuizen

Undoubtedly, the most important piece of kit you need on any rifle is the scope. Here's why...

Whether engaging steel targets at extreme distances or pursuing game in challenging terrain, a high-quality rifle telescope can mean the difference between a precise hit and a costly miss.

Premium optics such as those produced by Kahles and Zero Compromise Optic (ZCO) have earned an outstanding reputation amongst competitive marksmen, professional shooters and discerning hunters. Their products represent the pinnacle of optical engineering, delivering performance that cheaper alternatives simply cannot match.

Long-range shooting is fundamentally a game of precision. Targets often appear deceptively small, particularly at distances beyond 500 metres. Any degradation in image quality can make accurate shot placement considerably more difficult.

High-end rifle telescopes provide exceptional glass quality, superior light transmission and remarkable edge-to-edge sharpness. This allows the shooter to distinguish fine details, read mirage conditions more effectively, and identify subtle features that may otherwise go unnoticed.

In hunting situations, the benefits are equally significant. Early



mornings, late evenings and adverse weather conditions frequently present challenging lighting environments. Premium optics maintain image clarity and contrast when lesser scopes begin to struggle, providing valuable additional minutes of effective shooting time during legal hunting hours.

Accurate Tracking Is Non-Negotiable

One of the most important characteristics of a long-range optic is tracking accuracy. When a shooter

adjusts elevation or windage turrets, the reticle must move precisely the amount indicated by the adjustment.

In long-range target shooting, even minor tracking errors can translate into significant misses at extended distances. A scope that fails to return perfectly to zero or introduces cumulative errors through repeated adjustments quickly becomes a liability.

Manufacturers such as Kahles and Zero Compromise are renowned for producing scopes with exceptionally precise mechanical systems. Their

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turrets are engineered to provide repeatable, reliable adjustments that allow shooters to engage targets confidently at varying distances without concerns about mechanical inconsistency. Kahles and 34 other brands of scopes were tested some years back by the folks at PRS and the Kahles was one of the 5 error-free scopes.

Superior Reticle Design Enhances Accuracy

Modern precision shooting often relies heavily on advanced reticle systems. Rather than simply aiming at the centre of a crosshair, shooters frequently use reticle subtensions to compensate for bullet drop, wind drift and target movement.

Premium optics offer thoughtfully designed reticles that maximise precision while minimising visual clutter. The best reticles allow rapid target engagement without obscuring the target itself.

For competitive shooters, this can dramatically improve speed and consistency. For hunters, it enables more precise shot placement under real-world conditions where there may be limited time to make adjustments before taking an ethical shot.

Long-range shooters and hunters often operate in harsh environments. Equipment may be exposed to rain, dust, extreme temperatures and rough handling during transport.

A quality rifle telescope is built to

withstand these challenges. Premium manufacturers utilise robust construction methods, precision-machined components and rigorous quality control processes to ensure reliability in the field.

The consequences of optic failure during a competition are frustrating enough. During a hunt, however, equipment failure can result in lost opportunities or, worse, poor shot placement on game animals. Reliability is therefore not merely a convenience—it is an ethical necessity.

Enhanced Confidence Leads to Better Performance

Perhaps one of the most overlooked benefits of a premium optic is the confidence it provides. When shooters trust their equipment completely, they can focus entirely on fundamentals such as breathing, trigger control and wind reading.

Doubt in equipment introduces hesitation and uncertainty. Confidence in one's optic allows for a more disciplined and consistent shooting process.

This psychological advantage becomes increasingly important as distances increase and shooting challenges become more complex.

Long-Term Value Rather Than Short-Term Savings

Many shooters initially hesi-

tate at the price of premium optics. However, a rifle telescope should be viewed as a long-term investment rather than a disposable accessory.

Top-tier optics often remain in service for decades, retaining both their performance and resale value. In many cases, a quality scope will outlast several rifles. The cost per year of ownership becomes remarkably reasonable when viewed over the lifespan of the product.

Furthermore, investing in superior optics from the outset often prevents the cycle of repeatedly upgrading from cheaper scopes that fail to meet expectations.

The Ethical Dimension of Hunting

For hunters, equipment selection carries an ethical responsibility. The objective should always be a clean, humane harvest achieved through precise shot placement.

A premium rifle telescope contributes significantly to this goal by enabling accurate target identification, precise aiming and confident shot execution. Better optics help hunters make informed decisions about when to take a shot and, equally importantly, when not to.

The ability to clearly assess an animal, judge environmental conditions and place a bullet exactly where intended is central to responsible hunting practices.

Long-range target shooting and hunting demand a level of precision that leaves little room for compromise. While rifles, ammunition and shooting technique all play critical roles, the rifle telescope remains one of the most influential factors in overall performance.

Premium optics from manufacturers such as Kahles and Zero Compromise represent the highest standards of optical clarity, mechanical precision, reliability and durability. They provide shooters with the confidence and capability required to perform consistently at extended distances and under demanding conditions.

In both competitive shooting and ethical hunting, a quality rifle telescope is not simply an accessory – it is an essential tool that enables accuracy, confidence and success when every shot counts.



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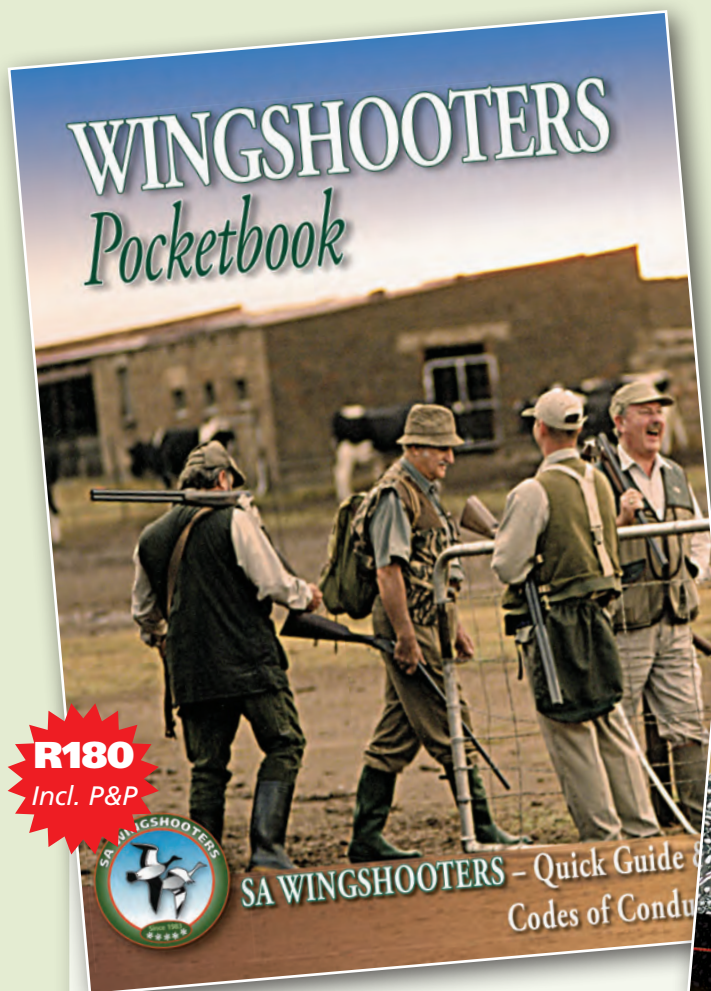
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This pocketbook is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is an essential 'must have' for every wingshooter, particularly *Dedicated Hunters*, and contains:

- 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...

'Every Wingshooter should have one'

'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 Kloock

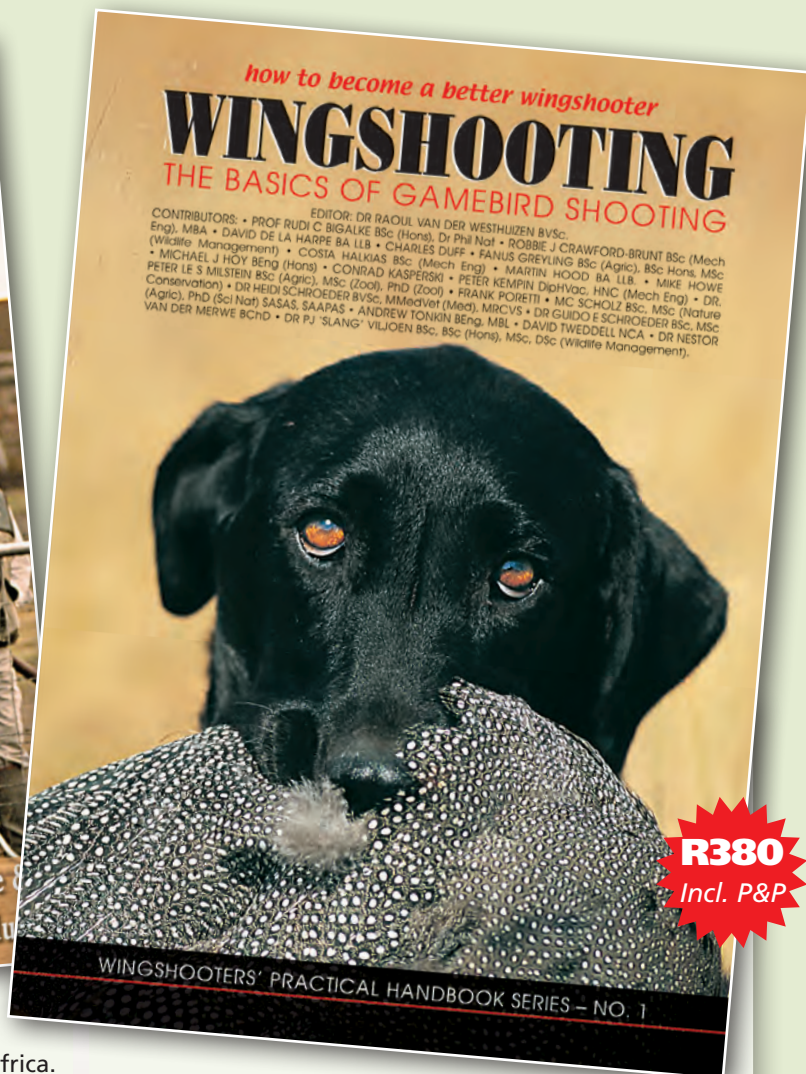
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'Respect for all Creatures, Great and Small'

'There are very few, if any, hunters who can say they have never shot the wrong quarry by mistake or have committed some thoughtless act, which they, in hindsight, would like to undo. This pocketbook will help all of us to prevent such mistakes and to embody the Wingshooters motto of Respect For Life.'

— 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 trialists, 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:

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

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



YOUR ANNUAL DEDICATED ACTIVITY REPORT (Hunt & Sport) – What to do:

How you can send us your report:

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

Go to:

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

and register to create your own profile; or

Complete a report (you can download it from our website: www.wingshooters.org.za) and e-mail 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 activity reports are mandatory, by law, for all qualified dedicated members!

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.



Join South Africa's Bespoke Sport Shooting, Hunting and Firearms Association



Some of the great benefits:

- Exclusive members-only access to the Gun Licensing Help-line
- 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
- Access to the National Shooting Venue Database
- Up-to-date information on the Firearms Control Act
- 4 'WINGSHOOTER' magazines with full shooting calendar
- Provincial hunting licences (for most provinces)
- Access to clay shooting clubs, Shotgun/Rifle/Handgun clinics and training
- 25% saving on the handbook WINGSHOOTING, with tips & hints by 21 experts on game bird hunting
- Free advice on shooting seasons, gundogs, shotguns, rifles, handguns, etc.
- Free firearm ENDORSEMENTS for any type of firearm.
- R20 million wingshooters' liability insurance included
- Option to join PSP – Postal Shooting Programme for Handguns & Rifles
- Option to join the Long Range Shooting Club and TPS 4-gun; 3-gun, etc.

YES! Sign me up and rush me my membership documents

Deposit your subscription by means of Internet banking (EFT) or deposit it in our bank account as per the details below (email us the proof of payment with the application form) to:
anel@wingshooters.co.za

Bank: ABSA Brooklyn
Branch Code: 335-345
Account Name: SA Wingshooters
Account Number: 1500165460

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

* Please enquire about our family memberships.

Non-Profit Organisation Reg. 031-587-NPO • Tel: +27 (0)71 132 5450

E-mail: anel@wingshooters.co.za

or Fax to Email: 086 211 5111

SAPS Accreditation No's: 1300080 & 1300136



SA WINGSHOOTERS 2026

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: (Tick all appropriate boxes)

1. I wish to join for	☐ 1 Year	☐ 2 Years
Join Fee – Once off, plus:	R 350.-	R 350.-
Subscription – Annual*	R 1,462.-	R 2,750.-
*Subscription – over 70's:	☐ R 903.-	☐ R 1,700.-
*Subscription Junior U/21:	☐ R 280.-	☐ R 520.-

You can also join the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) for rifle and handgun shooting. The PSP offers participation in our annual target shooting competition in various divisions for rifle and handgun shooting:

2. I also wish to Join the PSP ☐ R 100.- ☐ R 190.-

3. I also wish enroll in the Dedicated Hunter Course

and/or Dedicated Sport Shooter course:

Dedicated Hunter Manual & Test: R 570.- ☐
Dedicated Sport Shooter Test: R 570.- ☐

TOTAL R .- R .-

Payment Method:

EFT ☐ Bank Deposit ☐

You can also pay in person with a card at our offices.

Your Signature

Date

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.

Title (Mr,Mrs,Dr)

Full Names

ID Number

Postal Address

Postal Code

Residential Address

E-Mail *

*(we email members with news regularly)

Office Tel No.

Fax Number

Home Tel No.

Cell Phone No.

* 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 R280.- (VAT incl), and for persons 70 and older is R903.- Incl. Family memberships & Student rates available – Contact us

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