

Training Handout Shoot Hunt Course

Introduction.

The course is designed to ensure that you are fully compliant with safe practices and have a good working knowledge of what to expect on a variety of shoot 'types' and how to deal with game understand when to shoot and when not to shoot, lastly we like it to be fun and we do expect you to ask questions with our knowledge and experience over many years we hope you go home with confidence and have good safety protocols to consider, as well as respect for your game.

Safety procedure and etiquette.

1. Never point your gun at anyone at anytime.
2. Never hold your gun at an angle across your arms (demo)
3. Never put your gun pointing behind shoulder (demo)
4. When negotiating any obstacle please remove cartridges and pocket them gun should remain broken.
5. When handing gun to anyone break and remove cartridges.
6. When putting guns in vehicles break and remove cartridges.
7. Never leave gun in a car without supervision. Take it in pub with you in gun sleeve. Its 2 years in Jail.
8. Never ever be drunk in charge of a gun 2 pints is your lot while you have the gun, if police stop and search and your over limit your in trouble locally a farmers son although inebriated received 5 years term for this!!!

Rough Shooting Days.

This type of shoot is done singly or in small group of 2-3 persons maximum normally with your own dogs, always pay attention to the area around you also be aware where your companions are at all times if you cant see them don't shoot. Keep to a strict line It's a good idea to have a two way radio system. Note when a bird gets up its first to the target in front all can shoot at the bird even when it crosses left or right birds gong back let it clear the line turn and shoot be aware of terrain and footpath areas, a bird getting up going left – the outside left gun should only shoot same on the right side. Keep clear sky above you where necessary, note on woodcock snipe and ground game this can be wishful thinking as they may fly low and drop down a distance in front.

In a small woodland 2 should stand outside 1 working inside with dogs, outside guns shoot only with clear sky above and be aware where your companion is. Inside gun again should only shoot high birds and never shoot out of the wood.

Lastly its rough shooting its low numbers and for the pot only.

If you go over a fence climb a wall always take cartridges out of your gun and hand gun to companion where possible.

Walked up days.

Small groups up to 8 person's constitutes a walked up team. Keep an eye on your companion's keep a disciplined line shoot forwards and use common sense if a bird peels off and goes right and away to the front let the guns on the right take the shots, and visa versa for left side, also applies to ground game any cover you walk through i.e. dense tall gorse banks be aware roughly where your companion is I prefer to put the guns out and drive this type of ground methodically and slowly for maximum results. The key here is to ensure no one is in danger. Birds game going behind turn carefully with your gun down barrels pointed to ground or upwards and take aim on balance please.

Grouse Days.

Walked up grouse is similar to any walked up day but note heather can be tiring to walk over at best, ensure a good line birds will often allow you to walk over them the temptation to shoot can overtake your safety thoughts (On the spur of the moment) grouse get up and fly like lightning I feel the grouse moor is a safer environment in general just ensure you go at your slowest guys pace, take regular breaks.

Woodcock and Snipe days.

Probably the most dangerous type of hunting for bird's? Why woodcock jink and turn fly high fly low in fact you cannot expect anything but a different flight pattern per individual bird be careful here the best rule is clear sky above you or shoot only low when you have good long distance vision remember at 40 yds pellets still have energy and can kill at 60

yards low energy but enough to really hurt. Snipe are equally problematic but they do fly away jinking left and right gaining height as they move. In my opinion these two birds are the hardest game to kill.

Driven Pheasant.

This is a formal day dress accordingly in smart hunting clothes, depending on cost anything from 50-500 bird days are common enough 100 being standard, normally a draw for pegs is taken which is rotated you will be put out by the shoot captain on a peg on which you must stay on until horn is blown or whistle blown. Collect your spent cartridges and mark any birds killed or injured so they can be retrieved usually the dogs and handlers stand well back from the gun line at the rear.

Be aware of beaters at all times in front and to the side of you.

Driven Partridge.

As driven pheasant accept the birds fly much lower temptation is to turn back and shoot be aware of picker-ups behind.

Duck Flighting.

This can be driven, standing on peg or under cover, usually last thing at night as they flight in to feed on the ponds. Note at night or in poor light (cant say blue sky so clear sky above you only) choose good targets at height never shoot across or onto any pond or river as the ricochet of your pellets can be fatal.

Know your gun. (Types/Costs)

You should be able to strip and assemble a gun and name the parts – Clean effectively with a variety of tools (Demo)

Side by side 20 bore and 12 bore.

Over and Under 20 bore and 12 bore

Automatic 3 shot legal and 5 shot (you need a firearms certificate) they should never be used on formal shoots and are classed as a wild fowling weapon only usually banned from formal shoots.

Choke values.

$\frac{1}{4}$ choke

$\frac{1}{2}$ choke

$\frac{3}{4}$ choke

Full choke

Cartridges and game to be shot with sizes

1. Usually a slug for wild boar or large game.
2. Similar but for driven deer in close proximity.
3. Geese and Hare (Magnum)
4. Geese and Hare (Magnum)
5. High pheasant and Duck Geese at reasonable range
25-30 yards.

6. Duck /pheasant to 40-45 yard's, Rabbit
7. Pheasant Partridge small duck, Rabbit, Wood pigeon, Dove.
8. Woodcock Partridge Snipe. Golden Plover
9. Woodcock snipe
10. Snipe & Golden plover.

Your Game.

Identifying game is important as seasons are different

Grouse 12th August – 10th December

Black Game

Duck, Partridge, Geese accept Canada as classed as vermin – 1st September - 31st January

Pheasant, Woodcock, Snipe, Golden Plover, Waterhen, coot. 1st October – 31st January

Rabbit Fox and Canada Geese Wood pigeon Dove – vermin no closed season.

Hare

Dog's and training and choosing a suitable dog.

All rough shooting requires a dog the springer being the most versatile always buy from a reputable trainer, note a pup usually will cost £300-400 an half trained dogs £650-800, ¾ trained £900-1100 and fully trained £1200-

£2000 depending on quality of dog, cockers pups to trained similar cost.

There are many great videos on the market and I recommend Nick Ridley's school and videos –easy to follow and if you stick to the methods described you cant go far wrong.

Demo of dog and

1. Sitting, heel, lead training, obstacles, going back , sending out, bringing game back to you. Understanding doggie needs –injuries, ticks and fleas checking for same.

Cockers are a little tougher to get under control they have a different speed to Springer's.

Pointers – usually used on grouse and woodcock hard to train and some breeds are a nightmare stick to English setters or English pointers I've seen decent dogs in both breeds everything else has been poor

Whistles and there values

Depending on what stage you get your dog depends on whistle value – demo 3 different types of whistle.

Ancillary Equipment

Good waterproof over jacket and trousers with good sized pockets depending on weather thin or wool shirt I advise buying breeks they are easy to move in good Wellingtons

and comfy socks a must always take a change of clothes in case of severe rain.

I have yet to find waterproof boots and clothes even at the highest cost!!!! Wax your boots every few months it does keep water at bay.

A good cartridge bag or belt is useful belt on walked ups and bag is usually for driven shoots.

Scarf and gloves in extreme weather.

Decent waterproof cap if geese flighting very early start normally in dark - am a Russian style hat is a must – I've been there in wrong gear and its no fun.

Programme and Timings

Meet for 9.45-10am at the goat car park for briefing.

Safety talk – hand outs 10 mins

Gun and parts – types of gun – cleaning/ wear etc. 45 mins.

Dog handling – how to start your training of with your dog. 1 hour. 45 mins

Heel procedure

Stay procedure

Sending out – dummy procedure

Calling back double whistle and hand action.

Going back

Single whistle stop.

Local search. Bird down technique.

Coffee – Tea, (questions from students)

12.30

Move to do clay area note shooting position and eye dominance.

2pm break for lunch at .

2.45pm to pheasant area – till 4-4.30

Cup of tea at farm

5.30 duck flight.

Pint at pub and any questions.

1st day

10am Individual walk around on rough ground meet at Goat Inn car park for shoot details of the day.

4pm on to duck flight area.

Finish by 5.30 ish.

2nd day

10 am start

Walked up /semi driven day for pheasant/ partridge/woodcock etc

Finish by 3-4pm.

Summary of course (questions and points).

