

TRAINING TIPS

It seems like forever but here it is Quail Season once again. The shotguns are clean and we have plenty of shells. We've remembered to buy that new license and all the other little things we will need.

Yet through out this fall ritual among bird hunters perhaps the most important thing on the list has been overlooked. Yes we forgot to consider our buddy the bird dog we all depend upon. First and foremost is the fact that he has turned into a couch potato right there beside us. So now it is too late to take it easy and get him back into shape for the upcoming year.

Well now it is too late for that exercise program we had planed so now we must remember to apply a little common sense to the whole thing. The old boy will have to start slow and care will have to be given to all his aches and pains until he is in condition again. Our dogs unlike us are very athletic and it is easy to pull muscles or blow pads on there feet in a matter of minutes. Due to the amount of running he will do across that first weekend without your supervision he can easily suffer from dehydration or other problems.

I recommend that you only hunt for a one hour session and then take at least one half hour off to rest. Don't exceed more than two hours in total. Call your buddy in and frequently water him and inspect his feet. If there are signs of injury beginning to show immediately put him up. Carry with you some tuff pad and cut heal so that you can treat you dog immediately on site to begin the recovery process.

Those of us with multiple dogs should try to follow the same routine by frequently rotating our dogs. Trust me my fellow couch potatoes if we hunt all morning long we will also be wore out. Oh yes, have some baby aspirin available for your dog when you get home and some for you too will help with those sore and stiff muscles as well.

If you get a chance to have a refresher on snake breaking please due so. It is the one thing that we really should not take for granted.

The last thing I would advise you to remember is that for those of us with young dogs that have been introduced to the gun and we plan on hunting for experience is that Cox's army opening fire over the unsuspecting pup is how most dogs become gun shy. NOW GO HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!