

for the past 80 years. They bring in new blood and keep the breeds up on their feet and going. Same holds true for the people interested in springers and cockers, in fox and coon hounds, or beagling, for that matter. Any kind of dog trials helps keep the respective breeds up in good shape and guarantees the American hunter a good supply of well bred dogs that know their business."

Cotton blew his whistle. A dozen eager, loose-jointed black Labrador pups swarmed over him. Patiently he stored them in their respective niches partitioned off in his dog trailer, to haul them to a lake for an afternoon of work, work and more work. He gave me but one more parting shot.

"Sorry, I got to get going on this 'fine' job. If

anyone ever reads that stuff you write you might tell 'em that we folks in the retriever trial business will help them cut the loss of pheasants and ducks from 20 to 40 percent, and much the same holds true with other breeds of hunting dogs." The Cotton Top started his truck.

"One thing I can't ever understand," he said. "Why is it that people buy just any kind of dog because they all make fine pets—as good as the best, and if you do want a hunting dog in addition, you got one. If you spend just a little time in training the pooch you will be surprised at the results. That is you will so long as some of us keep raising good trained blood. You can't let the breeds run out."



Some 22,000,000 quail are taken each year by American hunters who describe the popular bobwhite as tops of all feathered game. One of the reasons for this popularity hinges on the fact that a quail lies readily to a pointing dog.

Birds lie better to the fast-working dog who brakes quickly into a point.

Most popular dogs for this work are English pointers and English setters. Gordon and Irish setters and the German short-haired pointer have their backers, too.

It's better to have a poor dog along when you go hunting than none at all. Every real sportsman is interested in conserving game and a dog can retrieve a downed bird which otherwise might be lost.

To insure success on your big game hunt, a pre-season warm up with a box or two of cartridges for your favorite rifle is good business.

It is surprising how rusty one gets from one fall until the next. Probably you spent considerable time wing shooting after your last big game

hunt. You lose the feel of a high-powered rifle. You are most apt to pull or jerk the trigger instead of squeezing it. Don't forget, either, it is well to know your sights are in proper alignment. Also you should zero in your piece for the particular bullet weight you plan to use at about the yardage you expect to be shooting.

Rifle ammunition is probably the smallest expense you have in connection with a big game hunt, unless it is your shoe laces. Transportation, guides, boots, bedrolls and good outdoor clothing, all cost considerable. Sure, so does your rifle, but a Winchester will last you a lifetime if you take any care of it. That is not much to write off each year, is it?

Although the clay target for trap shooting first came into use in 1880, a substitute for live birds for practice shooting was in use in this country as early as 1836. T. E. Hall, curator of one Winchester museum, reveals that a glass ball was introduced to the sport of trap shooting in 1836 by Charles Portlock of Boston.