

Starter kit gives black powder novices everything needed

Black powder shooting is one of the fastest growing sports in America today for many reasons. Many states have special black powder or muzzle loader seasons for big game, and those permits are usually easier to draw, since there are fewer applicants. Some shooters simply enjoy the process of the age-old tradition of muzzleloading.

Vast advances have been made in muzzleloading technology resulting in guns that shoot accurately and reliably out to 200 yards. Fling lock guns require a steady hand and eye - these guns have a delay between pulling the

trigger and the gun firing. The newer caplock guns use percussion caps that result in immediate detonation, more like a modern center fire cartridge.

Although the law of supply and demand has seen to it that there are many companies making very accurate and advanced muzzleloaders, there are still accessories that black powder shooters need - stuff you don't take along if you're shooting a centerfire firearm.

Remington has made it easy for beginners by providing a Black Powder Starter Kit, which has just about everything a newcomer to

the sport will need to get going. The kit includes a Short Starter with brass tips, a powder measure, capper, ball puller, a supply of pre-lubed patches and a camouflaged belt bag to carry it all. Those who want to be prepared to make quicker follow-up shots can get the Remington Cyclone Quick Starter Kit that enables the shooter to pre-assemble complete charges for fast reloading.

Keeping a firearm clean is the number one way of assuring its accuracy, and this is even more true for a black powder gun. For the best accuracy, a muzzleloader barrel should be swabbed after every shot. Remington's Black Powder Cleaning Kit includes a brass cleaning rod that can also be used as a field ram rod - a very handy item. The kit also includes a bronze brush, clear lube cleaning patches and an all-natural cleaner/lubricant.

Muzzleloader shooters can't afford to be lazy. If you don't clean your weapon thoroughly after every outing, the result can be rust and corrosion that will ruin the

gun. For really serious cleaning, Remington offers the Black Out Flush Cleaning System that thoroughly cleans the barrel from muzzle to nipple. They even have a bullet lubricant and barrel protectant called All-Natural Wonder Lube that makes loading easier and eliminates the need to clean the barrel after each shot.

Hunters are always worrying about smells and un-natural odors, especially if hunting conditions require you to take shots at close range. It's difficult to sneak up on wary prey, no matter how stealthy you are, if the scent of petroleum is preceding you. All-Natural Wonder Lube is perfect for muzzleloader hunters because it is made of all natural cover scent for the gun and the hunter.

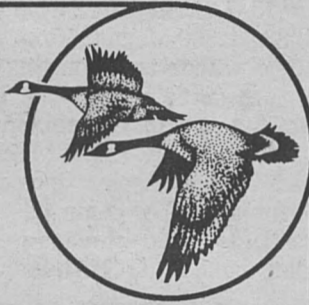
Although this may sound like a lot of stuff to carry around with you in the field, the components are actually very compact. Those buckskin "purses" you see in the pictures of early American settlers are actually "possibles" bags where the shooters kept their

ammunition, powder, patches, etc. Modern technology has made some improvement over the traditional buckskin construction. The Remington Possibles Bag is made from camouflage fleece to be extra quiet, and has a weather-resistant interior to keep your powder and other equipment dry. It has enough space for everything you could "possibly" need, and is adjustable at both the shoulder strap and on the flap buckle.

Remington's Cyclone Belt Bag has two zippered pouches to hold your gear and a fast-release elastic holster for your Cyclone Quick Starter (for those fast follow-up shots). The Cyclone bag is also made from camouflaged fleece with a weather-resistant lining.

If you're thinking of joining the ranks of hunters and shooters who relish the tradition and advanced technology offered by today's black powder guns, check out Remington's line of accessories; they've got everything you need for your muzzleloader.

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Slam the door on flea, tick and mosquito season before it arrives

If you're one of the nation's 36 million dog owners who scratch your head and wonder if there's a better way to control those pesky parasites, here's some good news.

Veterinarians advise dog owners to rethink their flea and tick fighting strategy by shifting from a defensive reaction to a more aggressive and proactive protection-oriented program.

With advances in flea and tick control, veterinarians say that waiting until there's a problem on the dog or in their home or yard is a critical mistake.

Fleas and other bothersome insects reproduce the best when temperatures are above 70 degrees and when humidity levels are 50% or higher.

So follow these tips three to six

weeks before the weather in your area approaches the right conditions:

1. In most parts of the county, flea, tick and heartworm season coincide. Therefore, when you bring your dog in for its annual heartworm check, ask your veterinarian for advice about which products are best suited for a flea and tick protection program tailored for you.

2. Have your veterinarian help you identify an easy-to-apply insecticide with long-lasting residual effectiveness. Easy application reduces stress to the dog and increases the likelihood that the product has been applied properly. Long-lasting effectiveness helps ensure that the dog has some protection every time it goes outside. Permethrin-based products tend to work longest, with some lasting up to 28 days.

3. Avoid products that work systemically (those that introduce high levels of insecticides into the dog's bloodstream) if at all possible. These products require fleas to feed on the blood of the dog before the insecticide can work. They also do nothing to combat the allergic reactions many dogs suffer from flea bites.

4. When you bathe your dog, use a flea and tick shampoo and cream rinse to kill any fleas that may have gotten on the dog. Because most shampoos don't provide long-lasting protection, apply a product like Defend Exspot Insecticide for Dogs to your dog after its bath. One or two small squirts on the dog's skin (depending on your dog's weight) will protect for up to 28 days. If you bathe your

(See Insects, Page 21)

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