



Before You Start Mounted Gun Training

As a horseman entering into the mounted shooting sports you should have at least average horsemanship skills before you begin.

Mounted Shooter Basics

- You should be comfortable around your horse.
- You should have general knowledge of your horse's good health. You would be able to identify any obvious health problems like, lameness, stomach ache, loose shoe, ect.
- You are able to saddle, bridle and prepare your horse for riding.
- You are able to ride and control your horse in all three gates under saddle. Walk, trot, and canter.
- You are able to back your horse up with out a big fuss.
- You are not abusive to your horse.
- As a horseman you take responsibility in the care and treatment of your horse.

Fire Arm Safety Basics

- **KEEP YOUR GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES**
- You are responsible for your gun and every shot fired from it.
- Never leave your guns unsupervised.
- Never threaten or point your gun at anyone.
- Keep your gun unloaded when not in use at practice or a competition.
- Clean and inspect your guns routinely.
- Observe all safety rules and regulations set by KCMS and CMSA.

If you are planning on competing in any KCMS or CMSA sanctioned event you must meet all the above basics and confirmed by the Match Director and or the Range Master before entering the stage or course of fire. Wrangler's class is exempt from some basics. Check with the MD or the RM for details.

Prepared by the Kentucky Cowboy Mounted Shooters club

Rod McCracken
Match Director



Series One

Bull Whip Mounted Gun Training

Think safety above all other thoughts at all times.

1. Lunge your horse just enough to get the fresh off. Don't wear them out lunging, just get the excitement off and establish your leadership roll with the horse.

2. Start out with your horse in a rope halter with a 12 or 15 foot lead line standing 12 feet from your horse. Take your bull whip and pop it while observing your horse's response. If the horse reacts with fear or anxiety, go to the shortest distance where the horse accepts the noise of the whip and pop it again then reward. Keep moving closer while popping the whip and reward only when you can see the horse is trying to contain their fear. Repeat the process till you can pop the whip standing next to the horse. Don't rush this folks! **This will prove to be the most important step to the whole process of gun proofing your horse.** Don't be afraid to retreat and give your horse more distance while doing this. Be patient, this is new and scary for your horse. Let your horse except this at their own speed. If you force it, plan on spending a lot more time. Let your horse tell you when this is working. Remember: **reward the slightest try from your horse. Be patient, work slowly, be consistent, wait for your horse to accept before moving forward.**

3. Now that you are successfully popping the whip while standing next to your horse, you can now start moving around the perimeter of your horse while popping the whip with one hand touching your horse. Remember: reward the slightest try from your horse. If you succeed at this then drape the lead line over the back of your horse and let him stand freely while you proceed to pop the whip while walking all around the perimeter of your horse. **Do this from both sides of your horse.** If you can not accomplish this, start over with #2. Yes at the beginning.

4. After you have accomplished tasks 1, 2, and 3 you can now start over from #2 with no halter or lead rope. **Repeat the whole process free horse.**

DO NOT SKIP ANY STEPS DURING THE GUN PROFFING PROSESS.

Work and master steps 1 through 4 before continuing to the next step

Prepared by the Kentucky Cowboy Mounted Shooters club

Rod McCracken
Match Director



Series One

Starting with the .22BPB Mounted Gun Training

Think safety above all other thoughts at all times.

1. Lunge your horse just enough to get the fresh off. Don't wear them out lunging, just get the excitement off and establish your leadership roll with the horse.

KEEP YOUR GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES

2. Start out with your horse in a rope halter with a 12 or 15 foot lead line standing 12 feet from your horse. Have another person shoot a .22 black powder blank from 30 to 40 feet away. Watch the horse's response. If the horse stands unconcerned reward them and have the shooter move closer by 5 feet. Repeat the process till you can shoot the blanks while standing next to the horse.

If the horse reacts with fear or anxiety, go to the shortest distance where the horse accepts the noise of the gun and fire then reward. Keep moving closer while shooting and reward only when you can see the horse is trying to contain their fear. Repeat the process till you can shoot standing next to the horse. Don't rush this folks! This will prove to be the most important step to the whole process of gun proofing your horse. Don't be afraid to retreat and give your horse more distance while doing this. Be patient, this is new and scary for your horse. Let your horse except this at their own speed. If you force it, plan on spending a lot more time. Let your horse tell you when this is working. Remember: reward the slightest try from your horse. **Be patient, work slowly, be consistent, wait for your horse to accept before moving forward.**

3. Now that you are successfully shooting the .22 BPB while standing next to your horse, you can now start moving around the perimeter of your horse while firing the .22BPB with one hand touching your horse. **Remember: reward the slightest try from your horse.** If you succeed at this then drape your shooting arm across the horses back and shoot while in that position. Do this from both sides of your horse. If you can not shoot while draped over the hoses back start over with #2. Yes at the beginning.

KEEP YOUR GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES

4. After you have accomplished tasks 1, 2, and 3 you can now start this over from #2 with no halter or lead rope. Repeat the whole process free horse.

DO NOT SKIP ANY STEPS DURING THE GUN PROFFING PROCESS.

Work and master 1 through 4 before continuing to the next step

Prepared by the Kentucky Cowboy Mounted Shooters club

Rod McCracken Match Director



Series One

.22BPB Mounted Gun Training

Think safety above all other thoughts at all times.

1. Lunge your horse just enough to get the fresh off. Don't wear them out lunging, just get the excitement off and establish your leadership roll with the horse.

2. Saddle and bridle your horse as if you were going for a ride. **Next repeat the exercises from page two.** Even though your horse is dialed in from the first series of training, **you may see differences in your horses comfort level now working under saddle.**

KEEP YOUR GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES

3. Now that your horse is comfortable with the .22BPB in ground school under saddle, you can now mount your horse. You want your horse relaxed and soft before continuing with the gun. With your horse standing still, now bend your horse to the right just enough so your horse's head is on a right shape. Point the gun at a 45 degree angle and fire. **IMPORTANT: do not hold the gun high or low, just straight out with your arm level.** Now if you have done and achieved all the objectives to this point your horse shouldn't do much more than flinch at this point. If you're horse bolts or other wise freaks out from the gun going off while you're mounted, go back to the ground schooling and practice more ground school. **Be patient, work slowly, be consistent, wait for your horse to accept before moving forward.**

4. Ok now you're on your horse and you can shoot a .22BPB from the mounted position. Next you will want to walk your horse forward and to the right and shoot the gun just the same way you did with the horse standing still. **Reward your horse often with praise and even a treat if applicable.**

5. Your next step is the shoot the gun at different positions while mounted. Examples: over your head, low aiming at the ground, behind as if you were shooting an Indian warrior chasing you. Do this while stationary, then when your horse is ready repeat this at a walk.

KEEP YOUR GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES

DO NOT SKIP ANY STEPS DURING THE GUN PROOFING PROSESS.

Work and master all of series one before proceeding to series two.

Prepared by the Kentucky Cowboy Mounted Shooters club

Rod McCracken
Match Director