

Using a Blank Gun Safely in the Field: A Few Thoughts

It is true that a blank gun is regarded as a non-firearm, however, there are still some precautions that should be taken.



Point the gun toward the ground, away from your leg and your dog. Yes, we know you see starters at track events point into the air, however, they are usually standing away from the crowd and the participants. Now consider a field trial or hunt test judge watching you from horseback. You're on the ground pointing your blank gun in the air (you're not aiming, mind you, you've got your eye on your dog), and you fire--right into the face of the judge's horse. The horse rears, the judge may or may not stay on, and you have one very unhappy judge.



Use extra caution when wearing short pants! Some residue is expelled from every blank pistol, and on your bare leg, this won't feel good. Even pistols with solid barrels expel spent powder or wadding or both. It will come out with some force and may be hot. So always point a blank pistol away from you, your dog, and anyone else present.



In a well publicized incident, an up-and-coming actor cut his career and his life short when he "entertained" other actors on a set by putting a blank pistol to his head and pulling the trigger. He shot himself in the temple with a blank wad, which did indeed kill him. Now, this was an open barrel high caliber gun, and most field trials insist on participants using solid barrel blank guns, however, if you ever find an open barrel blank gun in your hands, always treat it like you would a fully loaded firearm. Clowning around with any pistol, blank or otherwise, is always a bad practice.



It is dangerous, and bad sporting etiquette, to "smoke" a dog by firing near its face--a nasty tactic used by trainer/handlers with little regard for their animal. They might do it to block a dog from breaking toward a bird--or if the dog does break, it is punished by getting a face full of smoke. Unfortunately, the dog also gets all the other stuff--wadding and spent powder--too, which can put its eye out or make it gun shy. And it's just downright cruel. There are many ways to steady a dog. This should never be one of them.



Point toward the ground and away from animals and people. Smoke and residue are expelled from every blank pistol. Even those with solid barrels.



A blank pistol is a convenient way to simulate a hunting situation and, when used properly, is very safe. All it takes is a

little common sense to avoid any possibly dangerous situations. As with all firearms, a blank pistol should never be left where it will find its way into the hands of children

