

Don't forget to pick up your empties

Guns should always use degradable wads where possible and all cartridges cases and litter should be removed after each shoot.

Retrieval and handling of game

Gundogs

Before embarking on any form of live quarry shooting, Guns must ensure that adequate provision has been made for the retrieval of the game they shoot and shooting should not be conducted where it is not possible to retrieve shot game. This means Guns must own or have access to a trained gundog on the day.



Guns must ensure that adequate provision has been made for picking up. © A.Hook

Pickers-up

On a driven day, shoot managers must ensure that adequate provision is made to retrieve game as soon as it is shot. Making sure there is a big enough team of pickers-up is an essential part of this process. The larger the bag the greater number of pickers-up required.

Marking birds

Guns have a responsibility to mark the fall and assist in the retrieval of every bird they shoot. This includes checking with pickers-up that all

their birds have been collected and helping them where practical to do so. Guns should also help in the retrieval of game shot by others.

Humane despatch

Guns and pickers-up must ensure that they despatch any wounded quarry without delay and in a humane manner. Never shoot wounded game as it is dangerous and may render it useless for eating. A sharp knock on the back of the head with a stick or priest is the best method.



Dogs are an essential part of helping shoot managers to ensure that adequate provision is made to retrieve all shot game. © GWCT

Follow the Code

Picking-up during the drive

“On driven days, any wounded game should be retrieved during drives whenever it is safe and practicable to do so”

Adequate provision for retrieval of game

“Shoot managers must ensure that adequate provision is made to retrieve all shot game and dogs are an essential part of this process”

Practice on clay targets

“Inexperienced Guns should improve personal shooting skills through practice on clay targets and must be accompanied and supervised by a suitably experienced person.”

Leaving enough time for pickers-up to do their job

“A day’s game shooting should finish early enough to allow time for pickers-up to complete their task before the birds start to go to roost”

Respect for the quarry is paramount

“It is fundamental to mark and retrieve all shot game which is food and it must be treated in accordance with the Guide to Good Game Handling”