

Cowboy Mounted Shooting Helpful Hints for the Beginner

Cowboy Mounted Shooting is one of the fastest growing equine sports in North America.

Mounted on horseback, contestants compete in this fast actioned, timed event using two .45 caliber, single action revolvers. Each are loaded with five rounds of specially prepared black ammunition. With 60+ patterns to choose from, the action is non-stop for both contestants and spectators alike!

In order to compete or practice with a restricted handgun, mounted shooters must show a valid Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) WITH RESTRICTED PRIVILEGES, and have a current membership to an approved mounted shooting association. Perspective members should attend an approved practice and ask questions before making the investment in training and purchasing a firearm. Licenses can take up to 8 weeks or longer for new shooters.

Beginner riders, new shooters and horses that have not yet been exposed to gunfire usually start at a walk or trot with toy cap gun to learn and understand the basics of this great sport. You may already know how to ride a horse and you may have shot a gun a few times, but combining the two can be a very exhilarating experience that can quickly turn into an out of control situation. Take the time to understand what Mounted Shooting is all about, ask questions, learn the rules, and always put safety first.

FIND A MOUNTED SHOOTER IN YOUR AREA

Come to one of our organized practices and ask when and where the next **New Shooter Clinic or Approved Club Practice** is scheduled. This is the best place to learn how to desensitize your horse. We love to help new shooters get started. Email us if you would like to find a mounted shooter in your area.

ORGANIZED PRACTICES

All practices must be conducted by an experienced Mounted Shooting Club Member at an approved facility or property. You must have waivers signed for the year and a log book for every practice. A safe practice checklist is available and must be reviewed at each practice. Contact the club for more information.

Practice hosts must conduct a short evaluation with every potential new shooter and their horse. The host shall walk the new shooter through a course and then have them ride through it with a cap gun. If new shooter has a valid PAL and their own/borrowed guns then they should walk the pattern on horseback and show that they can manage a pattern in a safe and controlled manner.

All mounted shooters should understand the basics of gun handling in a safe manner. Practice without ammo so that you learn how to un-cock your gun should you slip hammer. It happens to all of us and you must be able to safely holster your gun.

The sport of Mounted Shooting is a BLAST and we want to keep it that way. This is just a candid reminder that one careless accident could end this sport very quickly for all of us. Don't let someone talk you into moving faster than you are ready for. Don't be afraid to ask for help! Take clinics from proven mounted shooters. But most of all have FUN!

MOUNTED SHOOTING ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA:

CCMSA – www.canadianmountedshooters.ca

AMSA – www.albertamountedshooters.ca

BCMSA – www.bordercowboymountedshooters.com

SCMSA – www.saskcowboymountedshooting.com

INFORMATION ON THE CANADIAN RESTRICTED FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE:

http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/safe_sur/cour-eng.htm#a3

WHERE TO TAKE THE COURSE FOR YOUR RESTRICTED PAL

- Find an instructor in your province to take the 2 day Restricted Firearms Course.
http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/safe_sur/cour-eng.htm#a3

FACEBOOK

- Canadian Mounted Shooting Info, Clinics, Horses and Gear
- Prairie Mountain Mounted Shooting Supplies

IN THE UNITED STATES:

We are affiliated with CMSA – www.cowboymountedshooting.com