

***BSA 60 Minute
Shotgun Briefing***

Orientation Goal

**To provide beginning shooters with the
knowledge,
skills,
and attitude
necessary to shoot a shotgun safely.**

NRA/BSA Gun Safety Rules

- **ALWAYS** keep your gun pointed in a safe direction
- **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot (Indexing)
- **ALWAYS** keep your gun unloaded until ready to use

Gun Handling – Additional Safety

1. Be sure the gun is safe to operate

2. Know how to use the gun safely

Safeties are mechanical devices which may fail! Do NOT trust them – the only safe gun is unloaded and open.

3. Use only the correct ammunition

4. Know your target and what is beyond it

5. Wear hearing and eye protection

6. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting

This includes over the counter drugs – if they have a warning about operating equipment, don't use them or do not shoot!

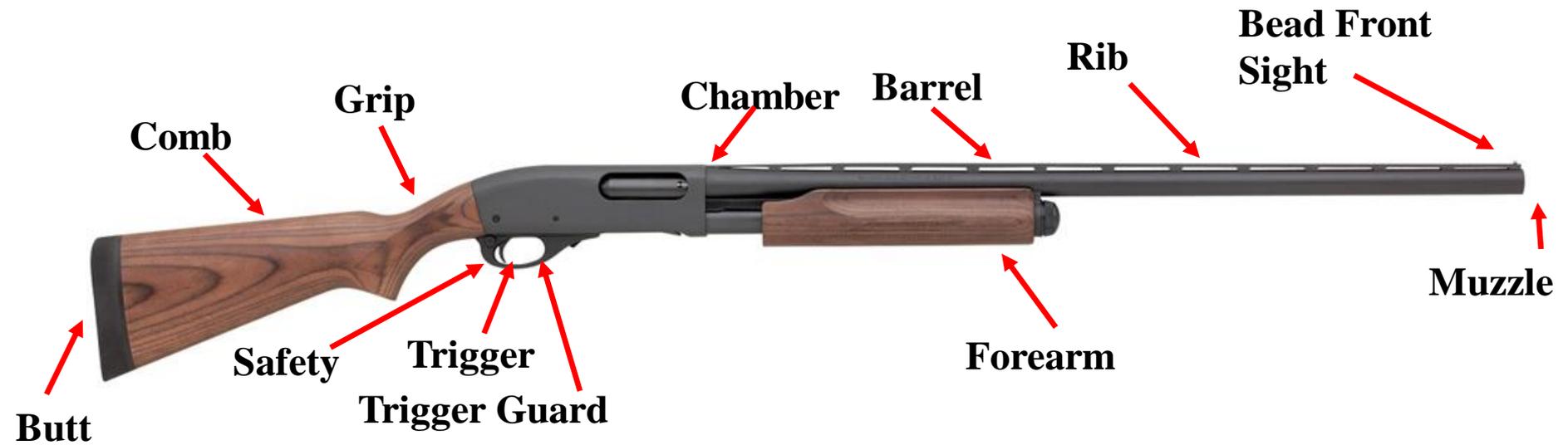
7. Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons

Rifle vs. Shotgun

- Originally, ALL guns were smooth bore
- Rifling are small grooves in barrel that cause bullet to spin – increases accuracy over longer distances
- Smooth bore (shotgun) is exactly that – smooth
- Rifle uses a single projectile called a bullet
- Shotgun uses hundreds of small pellets called shot
- Shot spreads out creating a 'cloud' 30” in diameter
- You AIM a rifle – you POINT a shotgun

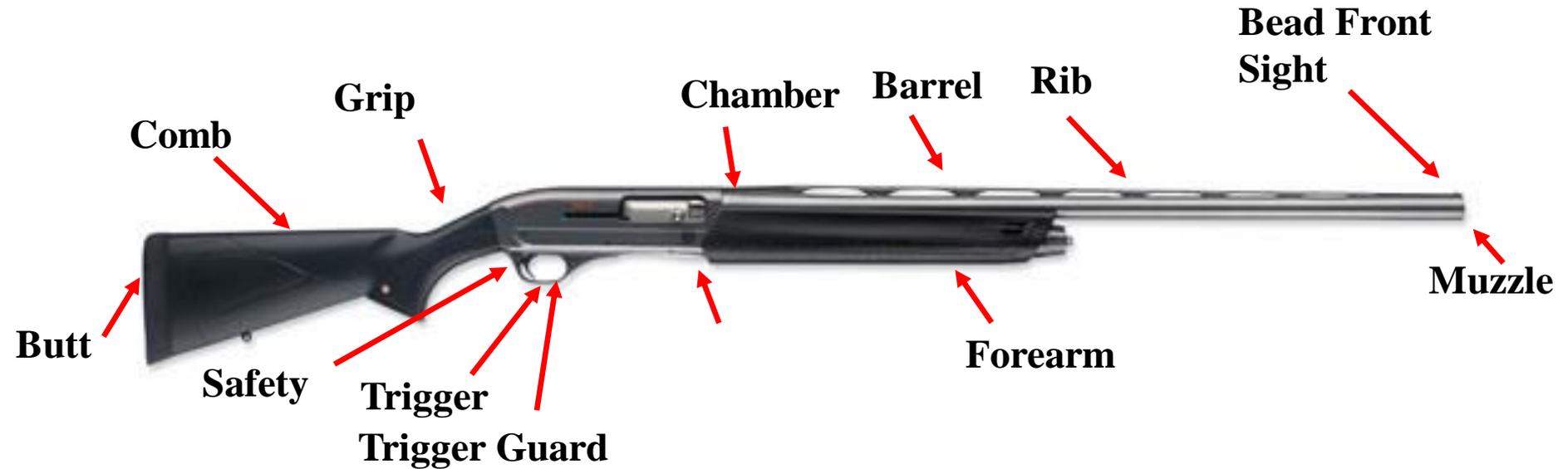
Shotgun Parts

Pump



Shotgun Parts

Semi-automatic



Shotgun Parts

Break Action



The Shotgun - Gauges



Almost never shot

Most common gauge – Trap & hunting

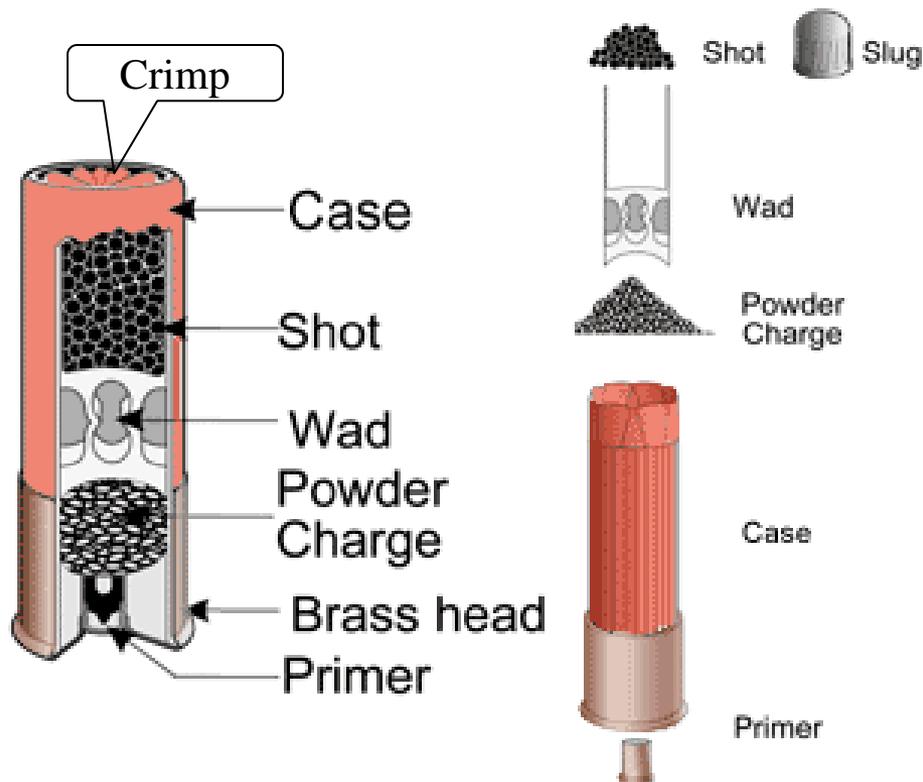
Not very common – hunting mostly

Nice for beginners/small shooters –
great for hunting

Skeet shooting & hunting

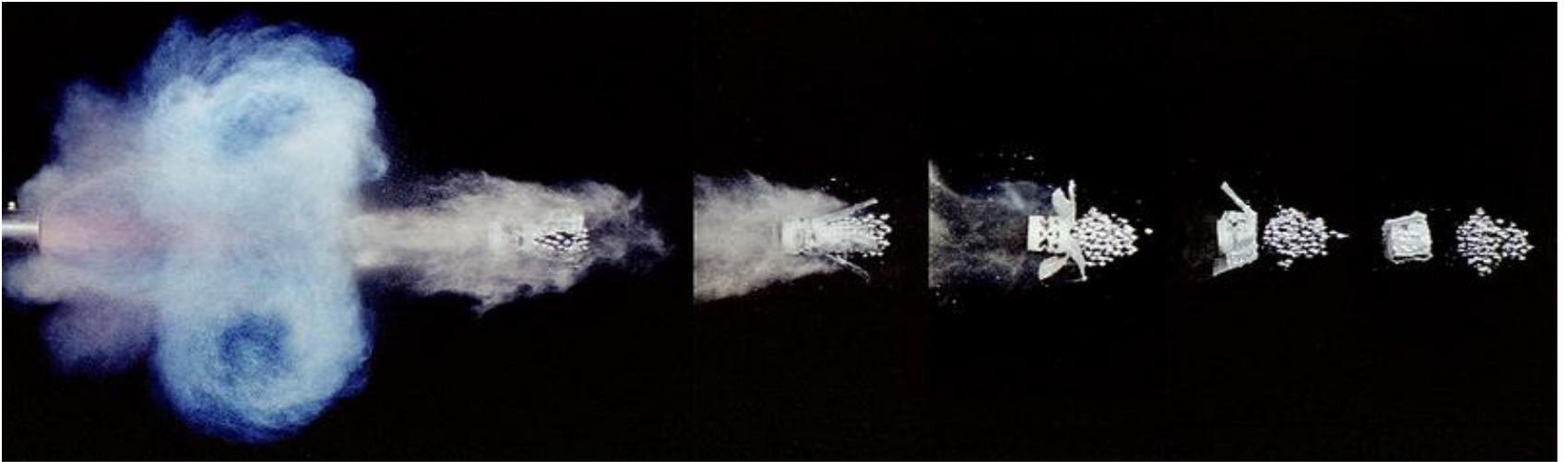
Skeet shooting & hunting

The Shell - Anatomy



- Number of BB's depends on size
 - Typically 450-500
- You will see wad when you shoot – it has no meaning as far as where your shot goes
- It can mis-fire (especially reloads)
 - If it mis-fires, wait 30 seconds before opening gun. Open and remove shell.
 - Dispose of properly.

The Shell - Firing



This is an actual picture of the shot leaving the barrel

Shooting Fundamentals

Determining the Dominant Eye

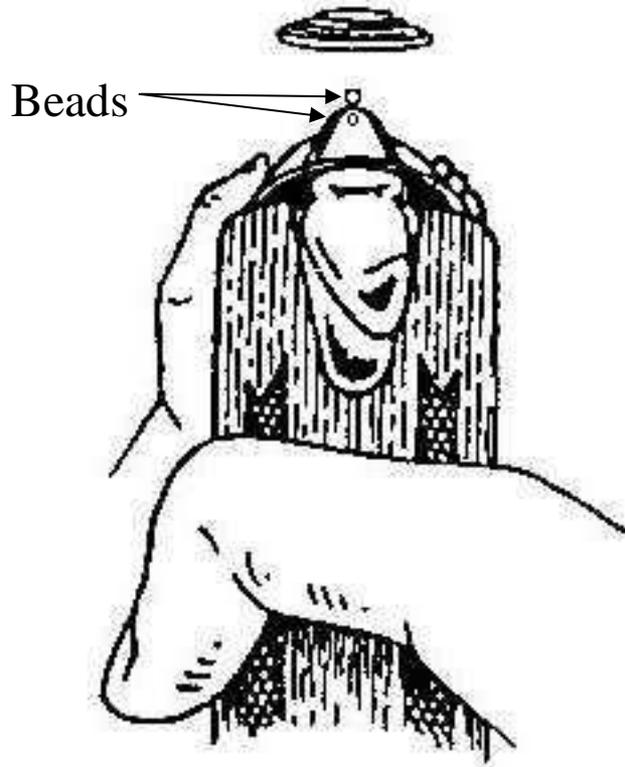


- **Extend arms forward and form opening between the hands**
- **With both eyes open, look at a distant object through opening**
- **Bring hands to face while looking at object – Opening will be aligned with the dominant eye**

Shooting – Optional Eye Dominance

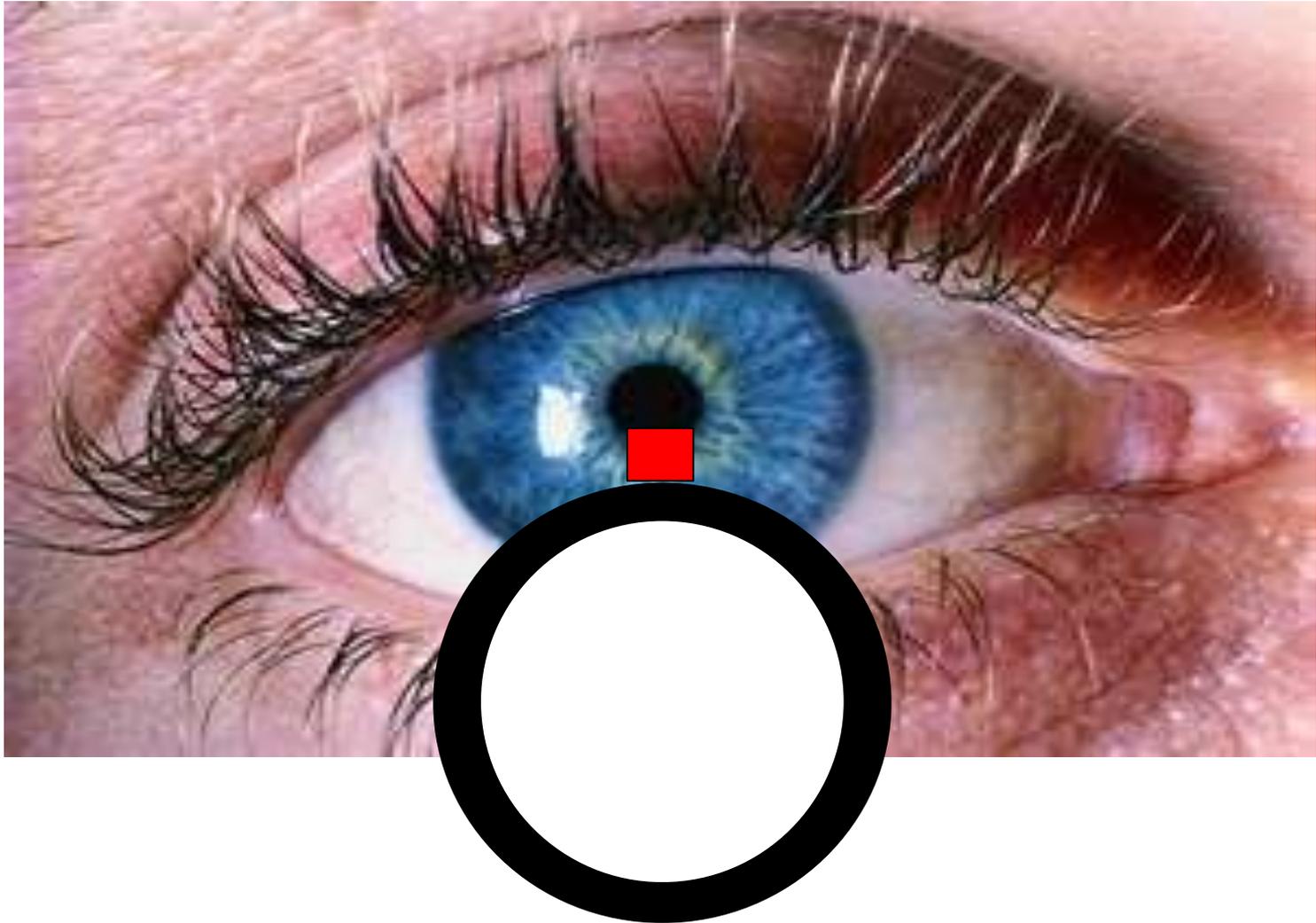
- Determine dominance as follows:
 - Point at a distant object – both eyes open
 - Close one eye
 - If finger is still pointing at object, the open eye is your dominant eye
- This is VERY important – it is how you point the gun
- One eyed – close non-gun eye – this works good in the beginning
- Two eyed – both eyes open – best way to shoot

Shooting – Eye Alignment



- Shooting eye looking down the rib
- Beads lined up on top of each other
- Bird will be on top of the bead when you pull the trigger

Proper Eye alignment – Non-Ribbed shotgun

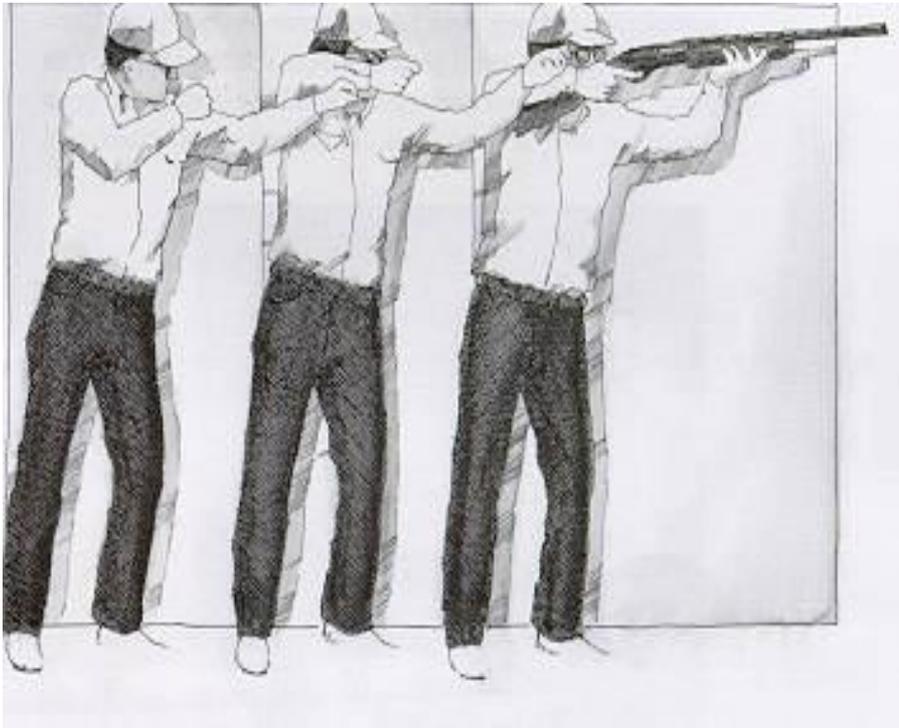


Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

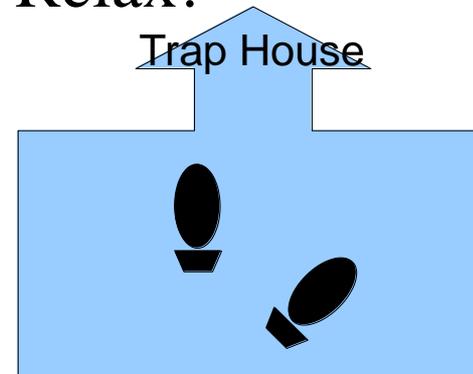
- 1. Shooting Position - Stance**
- 2. Shooting Position - Mount**
- 3. Shot preparation - Hold Point**
- 4. See the Target**
- 5. Swing to Target**
- 6. Trigger Pull**
- 7. Follow-Through**

You will be shooting straight away targets

Shooting Position - Stance



- Feet about shoulder width apart
- 45° angle to target
- 60% of your weight on the front foot
- Lean into the gun/target
- Relax!



Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

Ready to Mount

- **Know where the target will first appear and the direction it will be traveling.**
- **Your hold point will be aligned just under the flight path of target to allow a clear view of where the target will first appear.**
- **The shotgun is pointed at the hold point, but the eyes are focused on the area where the target will first appear.**



Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

Mount

- The shotgun is brought **up** to the your face to keep the **head erect** level.
- The cheek is pressed firmly against the stock.
- The **head is as far forward** on the comb as possible without straining the neck.
- The butt of the shotgun is in the pocket of the shoulder.



Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

See the Target

- **The target must be seen clearly at the earliest point possible.**
- **You must be looking past the beads and focusing on the field of fire where the target is in focus.**
- **The Sight Picture is the visual relationship of the shotgun muzzle to the target.**
- **When acquiring the sight picture, the focus must be on the target.**



Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

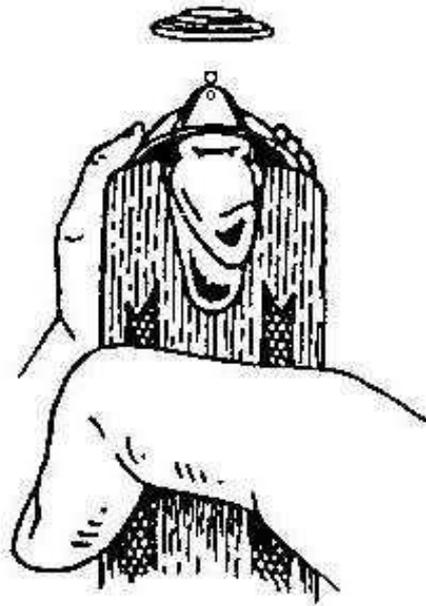
Swing to Target

- **The swing begins with the shotgun already mounted on the shoulder.**
- **When the target is clearly seen, the shotgun is pointed at the target.**

Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

Trigger Pull

- **The trigger must be pulled the instant the sight picture is correct (the target and the muzzle meet) for straight away targets.**



Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

Follow Through

- **Follow-through means continuing to do everything that was being done at the time the shot was fired.**
- **The swing must continue if the shot pellets are to hit the target. The trigger is pulled while the shotgun is moving, and the gun must continue to move after the shot is fired.**
- **Don't stop the gun!**
- **Don't lift your head off the stock!**

Most Important Fundamentals!

The most IMPORTANT shotgun shooting fundamental is.....

See the Target **“Focus on the target”**

You must learn to concentrate on the target not on the beads.

Range Safety Briefing

NRA Safe Gun Handling Rules

- **ALWAYS** keep your gun pointed in a safe direction
- **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- **ALWAYS** keep your gun unloaded until ready to use

Range Safety Briefing

Other Safety Rules

- **Know your target and what is beyond**
- **Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate**
- **Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting**
- **Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions**

Range Commands

- **“Cease Fire”**
- **“Pull”**
- **“No Bird”**

Questions

Do you have any questions before you move to the
Range Area?