

# HRC FIREARM SAFTY POLICY

Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. adopts the policy of the International Hunter Safety Association.

HRC strongly recommends that all participants at a HRC, UKC Licensed event have an approved Hunter Safety Course.

**Basic Safety Rules** – Safe handling of firearms begins with the four basic rules listed below.

An easy way to remember these rules is to ACTT responsibly around firearms. ACTT stands for:

1. **Assume every gun to be loaded** – Consider any firearm you have not just unloaded to be loaded and treat it accordingly.
2. **Control the muzzle- pint guns in a safe direction** – You must decide what the safest available muzzle direction is and keep your firearm pointed in that direction. Never point a firearm at yourself or others.
3. **Trigger Finger-keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire** – The natural instinct when picking up a firearm is to put your finger in the trigger guard. **DON'T!** This could cause an accidental discharge if the gun is loaded.
4. **Target-be sure of your target and beyond.**-Never point your firearm at something you do not intend to shoot. Make sure you positively identify what you are shooting at and know what lies in front of and beyond it. Do not use telescopic sights as a substitute for binoculars when identifying persons, animals or objects.

**Accepting a Firearm:** Any time you pick up or are handed a firearm you must **PROVE** it is unloaded and safe to handle. Grasp the firearm with both hands, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and **PROVE** it safe.

<b>P</b>	1. Point the firearm in the safest available direction. Normally this is at the ground in a direction away from other people including you. Maintain constant control of the muzzle direction.
<b>R</b>	2. Remove all ammunition. If the firearm is a semi-automatic with a detachable magazine, remove the magazine from the firearm first. Open the action to remove any cartridges from the chamber. Removing the magazine first prevents a semi-automatic from chambering another round if the action closes.  For virtually all other actions, open the action to remove any cartridges from the chamber(s) first. Remove any detachable magazine and all other cartridges from the firearm. If your firearm does not have a removable magazine, it may be necessary to activate a latch button or other device, or work the action several times to remove the ammunition.  Once all ammunition has been removed, leave the action open and if possible, locked.
<b>O</b>	3. Observe the chamber. Check your firearm's chamber to ensure no ammunition or empty casings are present and if so remove by hand or by working the firearm's action.
<b>V</b>	4. Verify the feeding path. A firearm's feeding path is the route by which ammunition stored in its magazine is moved to the chamber where it will be fired. Only repeating firearms will have a mechanical feeding path. To verify it is free of ammunition, you must work the firearm's action and visually check the feeding mechanism and magazine.
<b>E</b>	5. Examine the bore for rust, excessive oil, or any obstructions. If present, the firearm must not be fired until it is properly cleaned.

**All HRC Judges are required to PROVE each firearm used in their Hunt Test.**

## Loading Firearms

Follow the steps below to safely load a firearm. Keep in mind that a firearm should not be loaded until you are able to safely and legally discharge it.

1. Make sure there is no ammunition in the firearm or any obstructions in the barrel. **PROVE** it safe.
2. Point the firearm in the safest available direction. Know the location of other persons or dogs around you.
3. Determine if the firearm can be loaded with the safety on. If it can, apply the safety.
4. Make sure to use the correct cartridge(s) or shell(s) for the firearm by matching the data stamp on the firearm with the head stamp on the ammunition.
5. Load the firearm. How you do this will be determined by the type of firearm you are using. As a general rule:
  - Single shot firearms: place the ammunition directly in the chamber and then close the action.
  - Lever action firearms having a tubular magazine: make sure the action is closed, load the magazine, and then cycle the action to bring a round from the magazine to the chamber.
  - Firearms with a removable box magazine: load the magazine first and then insert it into the firearm. Close the action to load the chamber.
  - Firearms with a non-removable box magazine: load directly into the magazine and then close the action to load the chamber.
6. If you were not able to do so before, **put the safety on.**
7. **Always keep your safety on until ready to fire your gun.**

**The firearm is now loaded and ready to use. It requires continuous care and attention until unloaded.**

During an HRC test, when placing the gun in a gun stand or handing the firearm to an approved designated person, the individual must insure that the safety is on and the breach is open. It is strongly encouraged that after insuring the gun is safe that individual announce “the gun is safe” or “breach open; safety on” or “open and on”.