

Pellet Guns and Children

By Joseph Parish

When a child grows up some of their fondest memories stem from the various events and activities they did with their parents. You can readily create one of these heirloom experiences for your child by merely taking them for a day of exciting air rifle hunting. There is plenty of small game available to hunt, and at the same time it will provide an evening meal for the entire family.

Such trips serve multiple purposes other than merely a time to bond with your child. It is not only a great method of establishing a family type entertainment, but also a wonderful way to introduce your child to the world of outdoor adventure. Using a pellet gun is less expensive than employing a regular weapon, and just as much fun for the child. However, if you are like many parents your major concern is centered upon the safety of your child. This is normal and we will cover this issue first.

If you take a pellet gun box, and glance closely at the warnings which the manufacturer has placed on it, you will clearly notice it states, "a pellet gun is not a toy". The makers of this product placed the notice on the box to let parents know of the seriousness in using a high-power pellet gun. You would never let a young child play recklessly with a .45 caliber pistol and in the same sense they should not be "toying" around with a pellet gun either.

With that said it only seems reasonable that you insist upon your child attending a state sponsored hunter safety course. Most states offer these valuable classes at little or no charge to the participants. In fact, some states even have specifically child orientated classes which younger children can enroll in. The classes are fun, and extremely informative. They also offer you an opportunity to meet fellow hunters, and to gather valuable information on where to hunt, and what you will find there.

Pellet guns are serious business, and hunting with them is likewise a serious venture, so you can rest assured that you will be required to attend this safety training in order to obtain the required hunting license. Yes, there is generally a state requirement for being a licensed hunter even for small game such as rabbits or squirrels. Usually the fee for a child's license is a fraction of that for an adult. As an example, here in the state of Delaware the cost of a child's hunting license is a mere \$10 dollars. Some states have stipulated that the child must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter.

Provide your child an opportunity to practice with their new pellet gun prior to heading to the woods for their first hunt. Set up some targets in a safe location, and let him or her get accustomed to the weapon. Don't wait until you get to the hunting grounds to teach them the operational features of their new pellet gun.

Finally, it is time to find a logical place to hunt and then to obtain permission to use the land from the rightful owner. Once these initial operations are completed it is time to get up early, dress accordingly with some inexpensive camo clothing and the traditional

hunter orange vest, and visit your target location. This would be a good time to instruct your child in the value of conservation, and to observe the beauty of our great outdoors. If done properly you can be sure that you have provided your child with something more valuable to them than a session at the video game, or an hour or two in front of the television set.

There you have it, the perfect way to introduce you child to hunting, and all at the low cost of several inexpensive pellet guns, and hunting licenses. Plan well, and enjoy your next hunting expedition.