



Nebraska Airgun Shooters (N.A.G.S.)

THE AIR GUN CODE

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Air guns can be extremely dangerous and should be treated with the same respect as you would treat any gun. As a general rule of thumb, you always want to make sure you handle the air rifle with caution and awareness. Like any gun, it is quite common for accidental shootings to occur that could have otherwise been avoided.

There are many types of air guns available today and the first and foremost cautionary tool is to consult with the dealer or the manufacturer of the gun you will be purchasing as mechanisms and methods vary as well as the types of ammunition. Always read your owner's operation manual completely before using your airgun.

Awareness

With an air rifle or any gun for that matter, being alert to your gun is just as important as surveying your surroundings. Simple steps and actions like making sure that you never direct the muzzle in the direction of a person, and being conscious of the location, position and maintenance of your gun can prevent many unwanted accidents.

Be aware of the state of your weapon. A standard precautionary method is to always treat your gun as if were loaded. It is not recommended to load or cock a gun until it is ready to be used. Leaving a loaded gun of any kind around is not only stupid, it's a liability.

On picking up or being handed an air rifle, check immediately to ensure it is not loaded e.g. that it is uncocked and that there is no pellet in the breech. Be particularly careful when checking pre-charged pneumatic air rifles.

Precautions

When you are target shooting, always be certain that your perimeter has been fully inspected, that the target has sufficient backstop to prevent pellets from striking unintended people or objects. Dress appropriately and with the intention of target shooting. Don't wear sandals or open toed or loosely tied shoes. Comfort in stance is important not only for accuracy of shooting, but no one wants to miss a target due to tripping over their own feet. Also be prepared to wear the proper protective eyewear. Alcohol should never be allowed or consumed on the range. children should not be

allowed on the firing line without adult supervision.

Positioning & Handling

Prior to shooting, check your target and the area surrounding your target. Make sure the target area is unobstructed and that people or other unintended targets are not in line with the primary target. When you are using the air gun on the move, take note of what you are shooting at. Be alert to objects that may cause ricochet and try to keep the muzzle unobstructed and free from foreign interaction.

Keep it clean, off the ground and in good working condition. This not only improves performance, but reduces the chance of unnecessary accidents and misfires from happening.

Respect of Airguns

Air guns are still guns and of course they deserve to be treated with the respect that any other gun needs. Always keep safety and precaution at the forefront of recreation. Always keep control of your muzzle and never leave an air gun loaded. Practice utilizing the safety mechanism and get in the habit of setting the gun to safety after each use. Don't just shoot to shoot, have a target, be controlled and calm in your method. This not only aids in your target practice, but minimizes accidental shootings.

After shooting, ensure your air rifle is dry and free from dirt before storing it. Metalwork may benefit from a wipe down with a lightly oiled rag or a silicone cloth. The barrel should be cleaned using a proper barrel cleaning kit, and again lightly oiled. Only use the correct lubricants in accordance with the rifle manufacturer's instructions. Always carefully wipe the oil from the bore before shooting.

Respect of Others

Be respectful to recreational land, private property and even open space. Respect the owner's property, crops, livestock and fences. Always leave your shoot in the condition in which you would like to find it. Leave no trace, leave it as you found it or even go the extra step. If you come across trash or debris, whether its yours or not, pack it out and dispose of it appropriately.

Remember that all shooters will be judged by your actions and ensure that your conduct is always above reproach. Encourage the same attitude in your shooting companions.

Above all, be safe and be sensible.