

# Using Your Pigeon Wing Strap



*This device prevents the birds from flying as you*

*Steady your dog using a walking pigeon    Train retrievers and versatile breeds to track birds*

The wing strap does three main things:

- makes a pigeon resemble a skulking pheasant or wounded duck
- prevents damage to the bird,
- helps a young dog work a running pheasant with patience.

Probably the most popular use for this device is to teach a dog to work a moving bird.

## TO USE:

Fasten the hook strap to the loop strap as shown here in figure 1.

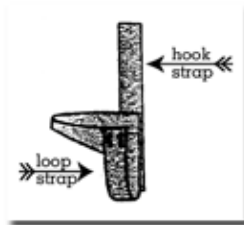


figure 1.

Then place the other end of the hook strap around either of the pigeon's wings as shown here in figure 2.



figure 2.

Fasten the other end of the hook strap to the loop strap snugly. This will keep the pigeon from operating its wing, making it unable to fly; it will have to find a place to hide.

In figure 3 below, the wing strap is in place.



figure 3.

While it's not necessary, some trainers use a strap on each wing for added insurance should one wing slip loose.

Figure 4 shows the strap with a cord attached.

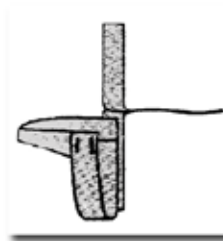


figure 4.



figure 5.

If you're planning to put any stress on the strap, then it's prudent to apply a half hitch with the cord around the bird's wing as in figure 5.

Now with the combination of the bird on a string and your dog on a check cord, you have control of both elements of the training exercise.

## APPLICATION:

Once the strap is fixed to the bird to your satisfaction, place it on the ground near a pond or some brushy cover and let it wander off to hide (you can also give it a little "encouragement" if need be). It's a good idea to pull off a few breast feathers to mark the start of the scent trail.

Now bring up your dog and put him on the trail. The dog will follow the trail, find the bird, and retrieve the wounded "duck" or "pheasant." This can be enhanced by using some duck or pheasant scent on the pigeon.

This exercise will better prepare the young dog for what will be expected of him in the field when he's asked to locate wounded game which will be trying to escape.

You can also duplicate a skulking pheasant. When the pigeon starts to walk away, the dog is encouraged to follow cautiously (you have hold of the check cord), and a command like "e-a-s-y" is spoken softly to reinforce caution.

When the bird stops, the dog is restrained by the check cord and told to whoa in a soft but firm tone.

In time, with repeated effort, the dog will make the adjustment without command. And now you have a dog who has a chance to pin a moving pheasant.