

# DOGS & DEER



By John Roberts

If you are one of those people who, by virtue of time, place or inclination likes to hunt alone – stop for a moment and consider a silent partner who could improve your success ratio a hundredfold. Imagine always having venison in the freezer and a hunting mate who doesn't need you, except to carry the pack and rifle and eventually take the shot.

This mate of yours has hunting skills you can only dream of, never argues with you about which way to go and keeps his comments to himself. Mind you he's pretty useless around the campsite and can't cook for toffee, but I think you'll find his benefits exceed the deficits.

Of course if you haven't guessed by now I'm talking about getting a dog to help you out. They come with excellent credentials – a nose that is 40 or 50 times more efficient than yours and the ability to track and lead you to your fallen quarry. And it will know where there's a big stag looking at you through the undergrowth long before you're ready to engage him. As if this wasn't enough there are side benefits.



English Pointers are another top scenting/tracking breed. Here, an English Pointer, is about to go onto full point at a frozen wallow.