

# SPRING GOBBLER TUNE UP

By Ron Benjamin

The PA Spring gobbler season runs May 1-31, 2021. We all have various stages of cabin fever since our ground has been snow covered since December 17, 2020. I have been practicing with my turkey calls in my den to the excitement of my 40-pound Blue Heeler female named Nikki.

In the Spring season, rifles are not allowed. We are mostly using shotguns; I prefer the 12-gauge, but many folks have good success with their 20-gauge guns. Turkey loads run the full spectrum from field loads to very pricey premium turkey loads up to \$2 per shot, or more. Whatever loads you choose; I suggest you spend some time at the range and pattern test various loads to find the best for your shotgun.

Pattern testing on wide paper at 40 yards will indicate which loads are best in your gun. Not many hunters pattern test their guns, but all should to learn if the load hits where they are aiming. My favorite turkey guns are a Mossberg 500 and Winchester 1300 and both prefer different loads. I did buy some 3-inch loads, but have yet to shoot any since my 2.75-inch magnums has been enough for turkeys so far,

Range time will indicate to each hunter whether small shot or larger shot serves them best. Look for an even pattern of shot distribution on the target. Keep good records of range results. Spring Gobbler Season is coming. closer day by day. Hang in there and practice your calls and pattern your shotguns.

Good hunting

