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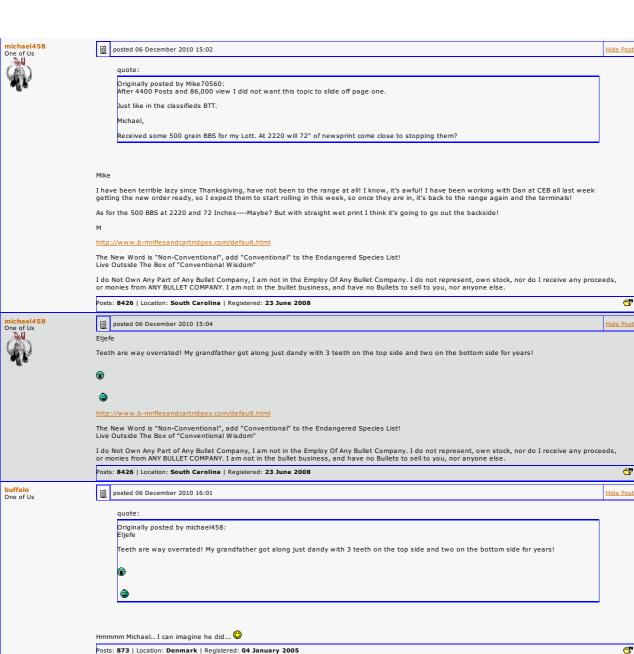


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Moderators: GeorgeS

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Posts: 873 | Location: Denmark | Registered: 04 January 2005

465H&H One of Us

posted 06 December 2010 22:21

I have just returned from an elephant hunt in Zimbabwe where I took three elephant. One tuskless cow, one tusked cow and one old bull with very small







I used the Woodleigh 500 grain .474 diameter Hydro from a 470 Nitro at 2,145 fps. on the tuskless. The shot was very unusual as she was slightly quartering away from me and she raised her head and trunk very high. Therefore, the bullet entered about 3" above her right ear slit. She went down with the typical brain sot head raise and crashed down. We thought she was dead on bullet contact. We went after a second tuskless cow in the herd but she got away and returned to the first carcase after about 15 minutes. Much to our surprise she was gurgling and vebale moving her trunk tip. Another shot centrally to her forehead gave us the rear leg death kick. She was in a very favorable location to get the Cruiser up to her so we took the head back to camp to more thoroughly examine the skull. We skinned the head and then sawed it in half to follow the bullet paths. We removed both halves of the brain and saw that the rear part of the brain was mostly bloodshot mush. What was most amazing is that the first bullet left an entrance hole through the skull the size of a 50 cent piece. This bullet penterated the brain cavity centrally and angled forward slightly to exit the brain cavity about half way forward. Again the holes in the brain cavity were very large and the amount of coagulated blood was assome. We tried to recover the bullet which we knew had to be somewhere in the left portion of the skull to no avail. But we do know that it did not exit the head. If it had exited it would have amounted to 27" of penetration. The frontal shot also penetrated the brain but higher and that bullet exited he skull 3" above the first shots entry hole and was also the size of 50 cent piece. The bone between the two holes was broken out leaving a hole about 4" by 1/12". Amazing destruction the skull. The second bullet then penetrated the neck and was found behind the shoulder blades in the loin meat. That amounted to a little over 40" of penetration.

On the bull I used the CEB 13 deg. 474 500 grain bullet also out of my 470 Nitro. The bull mock charged us at around 10 yards then took a couple of paces towards us and dropped his head as if to charge. I lined up for a frontal just above the eye line but as I squeezed the trigger he raised his head and the bullet hit way to low for a brain shot. He whirled and I lined up for a hip shot as was running directly away from us. Just before I fired he turned 90 degrees to the right and ran behind some brush. I could only see the top third of his back and I placed a bullet just forward of the right ham intended for the spine. I got lucky an broke the spine. He went down in the rear end and tried to pull himself forward dragging his paralyses hind end. He was down as we approached but swinging his head wildly and trumpeting loudly. I placed a bullet into the neck that missed the brain due to his moving his head. It went over the brain and exited the trunk below the eye line, about 34" of penetration. Another bullet was placed directly into the ear slit and killed the bull. That bullet did not exit is should have exited somewhere in the left cheek area. If it had exited it would have penetrated around 36". We could not get the vehicle close enough to recover the head so no post mortem in it. We did recover the bullet that broke the spine in the opposite shoulder bone. Around 39" of penetration.

The tusked cow was also shot with the CEB 470 bullet. She was around 20 yards away and quartering to my left. I placed the bullet about 4" behind the left eye just above the zygomatic arch. She went down instantly dead at the shot. An insurance shot was then placed into her forehead from around 8 yards. Again we were unable to recover the head for post mortem. The first bullet should have exited the head near the right ear hole but didn't. If it had it would have penetrated 29". The insurance shot should have exited in the throat region but didn't. If it had it would have been 31" of penetration.

So here was what I learned. But before I go into it I want to say that I try to have an open mind and will change my opinion when new data comes forward. The following is just my opinion based on my experiences in shooting elephant with a pretty wide variety of calibers and bullets.

- 1. Elephant heads are extremely difficult for a bullet to fully penetrate on shots that angle through the head. That is the case no matter what type of solid
- 2. Frontal shots that miss the tusk sockets or teeth are much more likely to fully penetrate the head and depending on the type of bullet will be found somewhere in the neck or between the shoulder blades.
- 3. The cup point of the Woodleigh Hydro seems to make much larger holes that either RN or FN solid in head bones. Typically, the RN and FN solids make holes in the skull bones of caliber or slightly larger size. The Woodleigh Hydro made holes in the skull 1 1/2 to 2" in diameter.
- 4. The small cup on the end of the Hydro seems to cause much more blood trauma than other designs.
- 5. Both bullets gave similar amounts of penetration but not all could be measured.
- 6. We have now proven that an elephant can be hit in the brain and the rear portion of the brain at that, without killing the elephant.

Recoverd Woodleigh and CEB solids from elephant.

[IMGhttp://i173.photobucket.com/albums/w55/465H-H/2010bullets002.jpg[/IMG]

465H&H

465H&F One of Us Posts: 5686 | Location: Nampa, Idaho | Registered: 10 February 2005

Hide Post

posted 06 December 2010 22:30

I neglected to add the following to the above post.

In no way am I casting aspersions on any solid bullet type with the above info. I am simply reporting what I saw. If I was to standardize right now on one bullet type for elephant it would either be the Woodleigh Hydro or the CEB #13 with a small cup point to enhance bone damage and blood trauma. Most likely it would be the CEB as I do like the lower pressure readings that Michael has reported.





posted 06 December 2010 23:45

Wonderful report, very excellent job. Welcome home and glad you made it back safely.

Before I move forward, how about fix the pic of the bullets?

Funny how animals just seem to not want to stand still and let you get the perfect shot in sometimes, eh? Now if that bull had just held position for another millisecond? Then just as you get ready to bust a hip he dares change direction again? Sometimes they just don't seem to want to cooperate with the program I suppose! All of us that have been in the field understand this all too well!

I wish that it would have been possible to do a little more postmortem on those CEB #13s. But it is very difficult to get some of these things done in the field, I very well understand that, and I don't always get my postmortems either. It's nearly impossible to do each and every time. So we do the best we can with what we got! I appreciate you working with the bullets.

I have little to add or talk about concerning your report, other than we are in very much agreement on most all your major points. My little experience on elephant heads is that angled shots are very difficult, I think one of the most difficult shots any bullet can have. Frontal and direct side shots will in fact exit the head much easier.

Seems to me the Cup Point is doing exactly what it was designed to do. Inflict trauma, it does this in the test medium as well.

Which bullet--For Sure--actually went through the brain and did not KILL the elephant????

Now, I know that some folks may think you have completely lost your mind, but not I. The reason is this, I have heard of and read about several, if not many, incidents that have occurred in humans, being actually shot in the head, bullet penetrating the brain, but not kill them! This is documented fact. So if this can happen in human--I can imagine it would happen in other species as well.

Well it is not a big issue to put a cup point design in a CEB BBW #13, that can be done easy! Sam used some Cup Point BBWs on his trip in the 577. Myself-well, I would like to see more cup point info coming from the field I think.

Thanks for an excellent report!

Michael

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Posts: 8426 | Location: South Carolina | Registered: 23 June 2008

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465H&H One of Us

posted 06 December 2010 23:52

Hide Pos

Sorry that I didn't notice the pic of the bullets didn't make it. Here it is.



Posts: 5686 | Location: Nampa, Idaho | Registered: 10 February 2005

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srose One of Us

posted 07 December 2010 00:21

465 H&H.

Hide Pos

Great report and congradulations on your hunt. Got to be lots of fun to be able to shoot 3 elephant on one trip. Good tests of bullets and I'm happy to see you had good luck with the BBW #13 as well as the Hydro. I agree with you that the cup point nose causes much more tramua than a RN or FN. I really like the cup points I used and think they are a good choice when you might need a solid but want a soft point. Best of both worlds.

Posts: 2823 | Location: NC | Registered: 08 July 2006

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srose One of Us

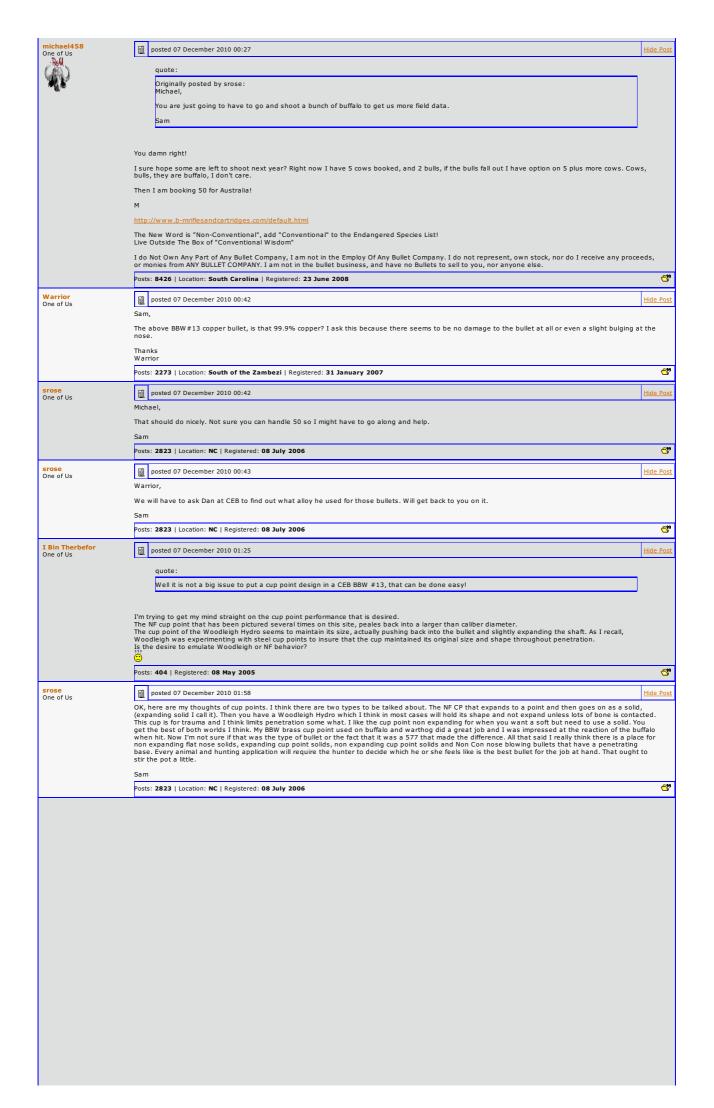
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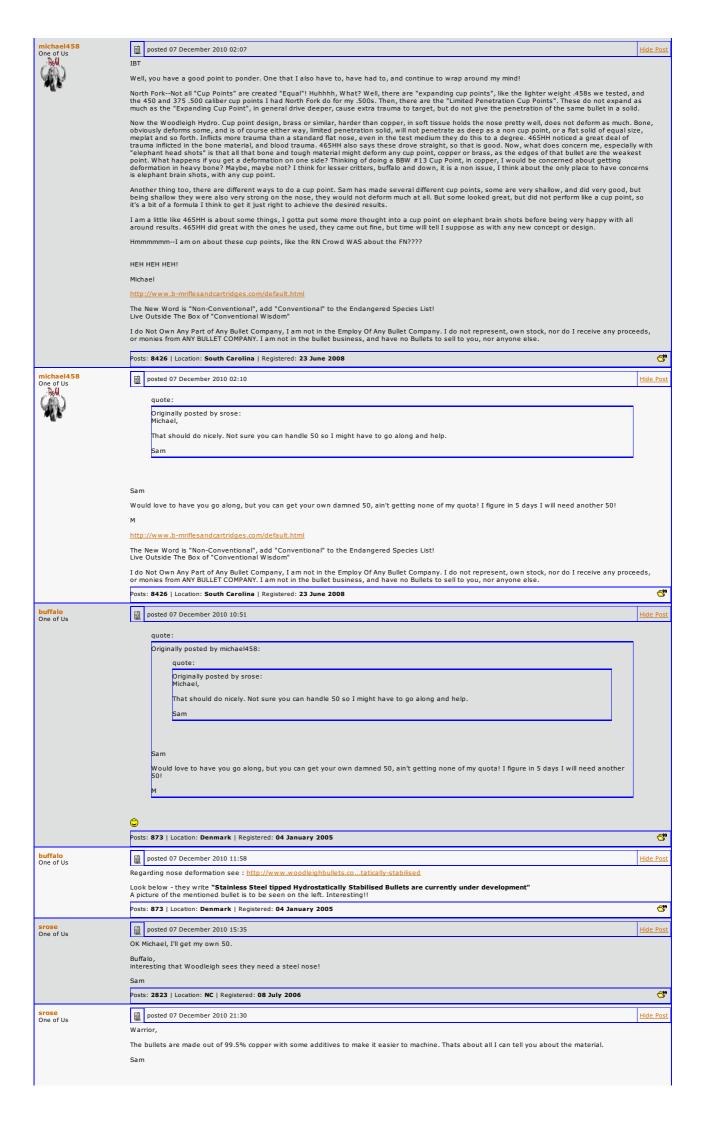
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You are just going to have to go and shoot a bunch of buffalo to get us more field data

Posts: 2823 | Location: NC | Registered: 08 July 2006

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Sam

posted 07 December 2010 21:38

Thanks a lot for coming back. The modest velocity of 2,145 fps obviously also contributed to its near perfect form. A great design and distribution of mass ensuring straight-line penetration.

Warrior

Posts: 2273 | Location: South of the Zambezi | Registered: 31 January 2007

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Warrior One of Us

posted 07 December 2010 21:57

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I believe the BBW #13 Nose Profile to be "Robust" one might say--while any bullet can and will deform on some things, ball joints are typically pretty hard on a bullet, elephant heads are tough on them too, the nose profile of some is not quite as good as others, and depending on the materials. The #13s, in copper hold up very well in the T'Rex Test I do.





I will be doing some more testing of the copper and brass CEB BBW #13s this week and next.

Michael

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Posts: 8426 | Location: South Carolina | Registered: 23 June 2008

Warrior One of Us

posted 07 December 2010 22:59

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Thanks for posting these - it is as good as it gets. With pure copper in concrete I would have expected more bulging at the front, but it held up well. The bullet recovered from the elephant and displayed by 465H&H is testimony of what a great copper bullet it is, and at the same time being softer on the barrel as well.

Posts: 2273 | Location: South of the Zambezi | Registered: 31 January 2007

Hide Po

michael458
One of Us

NEW ARRIVALS!!!!!!! Yippie! NEW ARRIVALS!!!!!!! Yippie!

Here is the NEW .474 500 gr CEB BBW #13 Solid and it's Companion .474 470 gr CEB BBW #13 HP. They look great! Hopefully Sam will get his run, and we are getting geared to test the first of the week barrel strains. I might test the HPs with the Capstick in between.



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Posts: 8426 | Location: South Carolina | Registered: 23 June 2008

ichael458 a posted 09 December 2010 00:13 hide P



We made a test run of the brass 416s CEB BBW #13s. Notice how small the Hollow Point is, how thick the blades will be? I will test these tomorrow and see what happens. I am thinking there is a possibility that the blades/petals will hang on just a bit longer before shearing? Either way--Really?



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Posts: 8426 | Location: South Carolina | Registered: 23 June 2008

One of Us

posted 09 December 2010 00:20

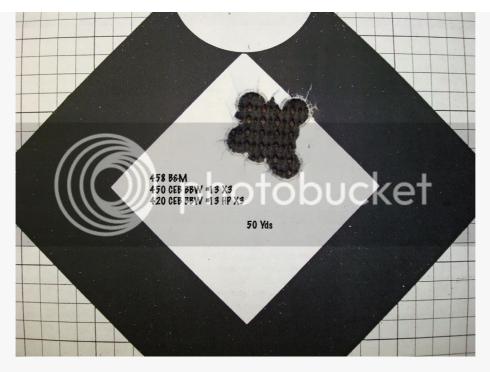
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Recall how I have been telling you guys that I feit like both the HP and the Solids would have the same POI at 50 yds--Dangerous Game, Long Range? 458 450 gr CEB BBW #13 Solids-perfect 67% meplat, excellent radius, matched with a 420 gr CEB BBW #13 Hollow Point--both brass in this case. Excellent for 458 B&M and 458 Winchester--will be hot rods in a Lott and larger case. I went conservative on these loads, a grain light on powder just to be safe, 77/AA 2520. Runs the solid at 2210 fps, and the HP at 2221 fps-in an 18 Inch 458 B&M. Tomorrow I plan on doing pressure traces to see where this is, and also terminals.





Now if I could shoot a little better this would be a much tighter group! But, today, with that 4X Nikon on the 18 inch English 458 B&M, this is as good as I could do at 50 yds. Maybe I will keep practicing like Shootaway, and I will get better!

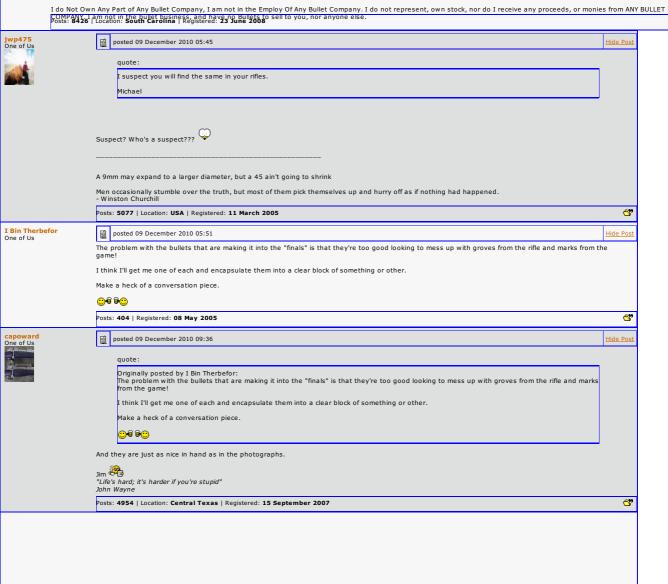


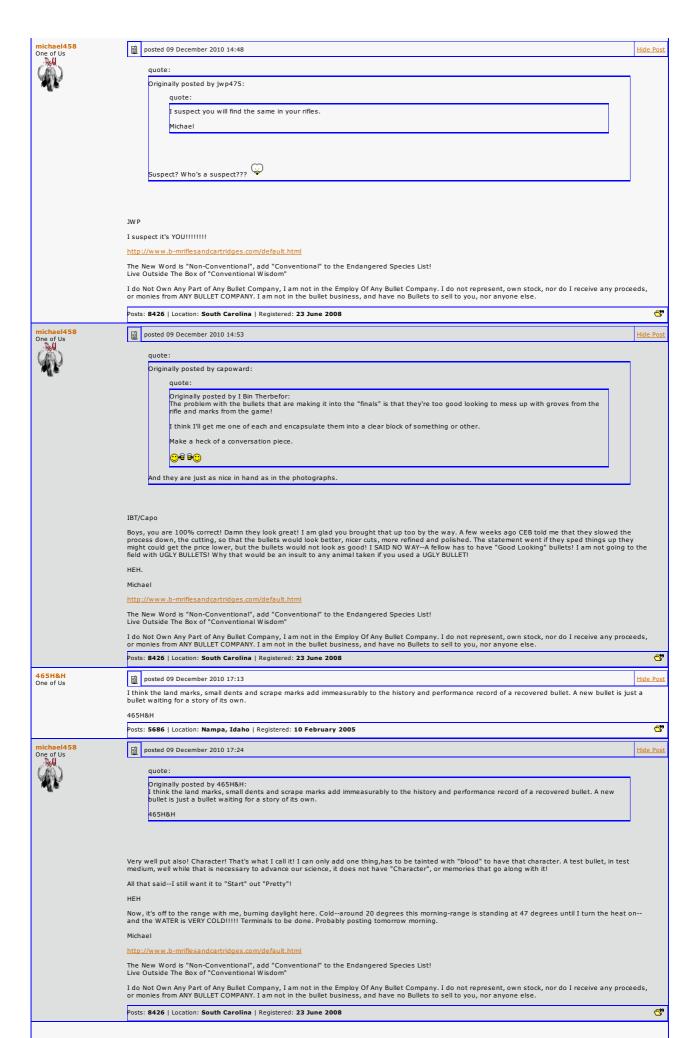
So far, in all the .500 caliber rifles and now this one 458, the HPs and the Solids have the SAME POI at 50 yds. I suspect you will find the same in your rifles.

Michael

http://www.b-mriflesandcartridges.com/default.html

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You mean like this!

Posts: 2823 | Location: NC | Registered: 08 July 2006

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posted 10 December 2010 13:48

I venture to say that the bullet you recovered above is and will be a very treasured bullet, and that you will never have a bullet that has more meaning to you than that one!

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Posts: 8426 | Location: South Carolina | Registered: 23 June 2008

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michael458
One of Us

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Now, that being said, the experiment with the 416 NonCon did not go well. Small hollow point, thick blades/petals.





While penetration was fine, blades did shear, but not evenly. Blades did not shear at once, but along the wound channel. They were heavy, twice the weight of normal, did damage no doubt. But by shearing unevenly they did cause instability and inconsistency as you can see. I come up way short of calling it a failure, more like just not exactly what I am looking for. Maybe a little too unpredictable for me. Would they do the job--Oh yes, they are very effective and cause lot's of trauma. On predictable shots--broadsides, fine. Tough shots, like

Another experiment I have requested along these lines is coming, maybe today. Remember the .500 caliber 460 CEB BBW #13 HP? Perfect in 50 B&M and 500 Mby be along the hammers! Well, a few days ago, I got to thinking about thin skinned cats and bears and LOTS of trauma. I asked Dan to make up a 100 of the brass Noncons in which we have a carry as opposed to the .400 cavity in the 460 gr. 500. I am thinking massive explosion inside the body cavity, long blades and petals going in 6 different directions, remaining slug

Accuratereloading Coming The Accordate Wile leading Forums that Heller Body Interest and LOTS of trauma. I asked Dan to make up a 100 of the brass Noncons in which we will be a cavity as opposed to the .400 cavity in the 460 gr. 500. I am thinking massive explosion inside the body cavity, long blades and petals going in 6 different directions, remaining slug

Accuratereloading Coming The Accordate Wile Heller Body Interest Body

Now what got me to thinking this is Art Alphins "lion God a think in the bullet is not good enough, and can blow up on bone or muscle before iteting misside by vitals Aperfect short broads lide yes maybe--explosive effect, massive transfer of trauma is exactly what you want on kitties! But not at the "sacrifice" of penetration. Community Statistics

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