

AFRICAN PREDATOR ETHICAL CONTROL



*Gary Laubscher
Part 3*

THE NEW AND THE OLD – Latest LED's are taking over from the old Halogen bulbs; here is an example of the new and old technology.

In the previous part we discussed what we try achieve, sounds, identification, calling factors and the moon, this edition covers the red lights, hunting lights, the callers and sound volume and food / vocal sounds.

It is important to know not only that you must use **red** lights but WHY, the reason is it is not a severely bright light and the animals see it as a soft haze that does not bother the retina of the eye, it softens the light and has been used for years, I also use a green light when the air is filled with fog, this seems to penetrate the worst weather far better, but I try stick with RED.

The new LED lighting is by far better than the old 12V systems, they also draw far less power and by using two of these as in the top photo you can scan and shoot at night.

THE OLD The majority of hunters make use of a well known Australian manufactured light, Halogen bulb of 100W and typically a million candle power and more. Avoid rechargeable 12v lights as they tend to die to fast, this older technology was a hit in South Africa, I used one on my shooting chair for many years, and have since gone to LED lights that are smaller and a lot easier to use. However a typical 100W halogen light with a deep reflector with a red filter will be ample, as long as it throws a nice light to hunt with as many SA hunters have found at first hand.



THE NEW!!!!!!



THE NEW The new technology is all LED; Halogen is fast dying out, this is the new rave, LED in a small and compact package, one that throws a mean light and is awesome, the secret to using a light on a chair is the art to shooting fast and a zero on the light is needed to achieve this.

It is super fast to do at every spot you call, see below

THE PLAN

The way to do this is, if the light is on your chair under the barrel or on your gun on the scope, - the same rule applies, put a small reflector in the bush at 80m, fit the rifle in the shooting arm on your chair, then shoulder the rifle, then turn on the light, now look through the scope, now turn the light left, right and up or down to get on target with the reflector so you are dead on.

So, when the critter comes in and you pick him up with the light he is automatically dead centre of your scope, all you need to do is aim finely and squeeze that trigger, **it makes the process easier and a lot faster!**

Some will argue it better to scan with bigger lights with larger 12V car batteries, however the batteries these lights take last over 3 hours on and off, and by far enough power to use a night, especially those of us who use night vision to scan and just red lights to shoot.

LIGHT ROTATION AND TIMES

Remember with scanning, if you turn and scan, count one and two and three and four and... till 8, on the count of 8 you must be back at the starting point again, never faster or slower, and light up every 15-20 seconds NEVER wait longer, or he will be at your truck and you wont know it! When you begin calling scan three – four times full circle before putting it off, in case Mr Predator was close, after about 3-4 minutes you can start scanning twice every time you put on the light, I always go twice in a circle. Before you start the calling stand, always first scan the area with a red light and squeak with your lips, in case a predator is close by.

CALLING SYSTEMS Over the years from when I started to call we used old cassettes and hand calls, then cd's and then the new digital format arrived, and finally mp3 files are now the new ways to call predators, they can be loaded to many machines to play, my one client even uses an I POD with a small speaker from his cellphone to call jackal, everybody has many different methods to make music that appeals to the predators taste buds.

I have used many styles of machines, my recent favourite styles of calling are using our own digital mps calling system, a neat caller with built in amplifier, speaker, mp3, battery and it kills predators.



This is my small mp3 digital we make up, very nice caller that works.

In this exciting and very advanced generation we are getting to see so many very nice new designs, concepts and variations within the digital calling industry, one of my favourites you can use is the Foxpro range, they have far too many models and exciting features to name them all, but the **FURY 2** and **SHOCKWAVE** are two models I can recommend you to purchase directly from Foxpro to save dealer costs, order at sales@gofoxpro.com they have a nice new call at **\$199-00** the Wildfire 2 with remote control, ask them to load my sounds onto the caller for African Predators, the courier takes 4 days to your door, faster service from America than most places within South Africa! Another model that's a good option is a **HELLFIRE** at around \$349-00 - a super dooper caller, very good value. Truth is you will kill jackal with a simple cd player or car cd player hooked to a speaker etc, but by using better equipment, placing callers away from you for jackal will kill more, but if not you will still kill jackal, remember lots of people blow hand calls on a truck and kill jackal, simple...My problem with Foxpro callers is many have crap remotes, the Fury, Shockwave and Fusion are the best.



Foxpro SHOCKWAVE and FoxPro Wildfire 2 on a recent calling course with students, I use a smaller caller on a tripod for better reception.

Remember the more you try create confusion the more you will call and often this way they make huge errors with the wind. Calling predators is a challenge and after the basics are mastered things do become much simpler and results come much more often, even I sometimes call 3 nights and call nothing, which is just the way it goes, it is always a challenge and every time we go and call we learn something else.

These pointers are all given to students on my 4 day calling course, they all have a very important part to play when we target predators, and because we are targeting them with these ethical practises we can sleep a lot more sound at night, by being target specific and not using poison or gin traps is for me a major issue.

GENERAL ON ELECTRONICS

REMEMBER; don't use a caller that works like this, when you are playing a sound and you MUTE / PAUSE the sound, after you play it again OFF the mute / pause it starts playing from the start of the sound again.

This is not good especially when you are working combos, make sure the caller you buy carries on playing from the place you paused the sound!

The callers you use are only as good as the hunter, if you don't know what you are doing a good caller is not going to help at all, so EDUCATION is key to be successful at night, I use combos with very good success.

Read this link, it explains how success can be achieved

<http://www.africanpredator.com/Jakkals%20Jag%20met%20202%20Roepers%20DECEMBER%202010.pdf>

and this link is explanatory

http://www.africanpredator.com/jackal_hunting_confusion_plan.pdf

FOXPRO HELLFIRE

This is a nice caller, and Foxpro has nice products, however on a personal opinion, the callers although lovely are far too overpriced, and they have far too many models all doing the same thing although they will tell you they all do different things and its aimed at the buyers pocket, the cheaper and higher priced callers, But my opinion is the stuff is overpriced. The remotes on these models, Spitfire, Wildfire are junk and have bad remote range issues, the worst remotes they have made and its not only me saying so, many brave people on forums say so. The Fusion, Shockwave and Fury are the best callers they made with remotes to match, being good, BUT still overpriced, but mention that on some forums and the public will swarm down on you like a plague as many worship and talk of them like gods, but we are all allowed to voice an opinion, and personally it is overpriced and I don't think they are gods.



If you work out in your calling career, lets say over 1 year how many NON target animals you call, it is mind blowing, just last month alone I think I called and had the privilege to watch more than 40 bat eared foxes come into my call, run in, look around in confusion and stood at ranges between 20m and 100m, now if we were using poison, and all these animals are in the areas how much damage are we doing, it's a no brainer, drop the poison, you are simply making the issue a lot worse than it would have been because even if you kill 10 jackal each night you wont make a DENT in the jackal population at all.....

The **VOLUME** we call at is a very important topic, Mr Predator knows that rabbits don't have 600 pound lungs, so don't blow to hard, I have a system I use and it works hand in hand with the distance I travel from spot to spot.

I use a caller with a volume that travels with the human ear about 250m, then a predator can hear it at 350m, this is not a high volume at all on a digital, and remember heat pollution! **In the day a sound will not travel as far as what it does at night, in the night we have less heat air pollution and sounds travel more.** So, I work that I get 250m, this will give me 500m both directions and around me, then when I move spots I move 800m, then the next spot my call travels another 250m and backwards 250, and it covers again all around me and sort of missed the centre of my travel so I don't call two places twice in a row, this allows me to sweep nicely all along a part, so in a night I can cover 800m x 6 stands and it gives me about 600m in width, so I get 4,8 kilometres in about 6 hours plus travel.

IMPORTANT

IF you call 2-3 places and it is dead, GET OUT OF THE AREA, leave it, move +- 2 kilometres away.

Now, we will discuss **FOOD AND VOCAL SOUNDS**, these again are important to understand, and remember it's not a disco out in the bush, we need to play the actor, we are calling a survivor towards us, and any weird happenings will spook him into his afterburner over the hills! We need to play the correct top 20 hits to lure him in.

Jackals don't bark over and over forever, so you need to mimic his calling style, I will give you a system that has worked for me for years. I play at the start of any hunt a very soft food sound, on for 5 seconds and off, I scan much more in the start of a hunt in case a critter is real close, after 1 minute I replay the scenario, then after 5 minutes I up the volume more, for jackal I then give a bark after about 5-7 minutes, say two social barks, this creates interest and gets attention, sounds like a critters and jackals around a kill or so, create a story, **that is the key!** & it often works.

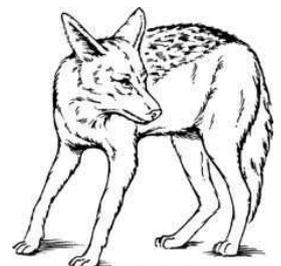
If jackals bark back, wait say 10 minutes and try again. For cats if they hear a jackal vocal bark it will NOT put them off approaching, a Caracal is not afraid to approach a distress sound when he can hear jackal in the area, I have called a lot of cats while using sequences with food and barking vocal stuff, it makes no difference to them, those felines are not scared!

We will later discuss call layout and sequences. These are important, if you create a story it works, **I called my biggest jackal thus far, played food and barks etc, after I saw eyes we played a fight and in ran the big boss man of 8-9 years old, he thought others in his area were killing a rabbit and then started fighting over it, he came rushing in to kick butt and we killed him, so creating a story works very well. Evert Van Staden took the shot.**

TRAINING THE YOUTH

For the training of our youth these bat eared foxes offer good practise, you take a youngster with you, he can blow a hand caller and learn, it don't take much to call bat eared foxes, then with a rifle with an open bolt he can focus and while they run in he can follow on the chair and aim, they offer lots of opportunity to aim, I love them, very cute critters, good practise for young hunters learning to call and shoot, just keep the bolt open! I love to call BAKORE to practice, good fun.

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GENERAL SOUND CHAT AND TIPS

QUOTE; Try this style, use a food sound on and off – play distress for 5 seconds, and off for 30 seconds, do that then after 7 minutes give a jackal social bark, then food again as before, then 15 minutes straight away a jackal bark and then a fight sound, it sounds like jackals fighting over food, and brings in other jackal, it works well for me!

Many hunters have a caller with hundreds of sounds, you don't need lots, all you need is a hand full of good working sounds, most of my calling stands over 3 nights are 8-9 sounds in total, you don't need tons, you just need a few good ones.

HERE are a few of my favourite styles to use this past 3 years, first a hand call on bakkie, and a barking call downwind 150m away, play barks every 15 minutes. Use a social bark Jan – March, a territory April to June. OR I use a combo, food in wind 100m away and play 5 seconds on every 30 second, after 7 minutes a ALONE jackal, and food on and off till 15 minutes then an agro bark and a fight, and food on and off etc. I have had a lot of success around 20 minutes with this combo.

I kill a lot with a dying jack sound and it has killed many in Free State. If in a Blesbuck camp, I use that combo with an antelope fawn food sound, and that bark and fight on those times, again had success.

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Link regarding ROTATION OF THE CHAIR

<http://www.africanpredator.com/Jackal%20Calling%20if%20you%20are%20only%20able%20to%20hunt%20once%20a%20year,%20but%20want%20success!.pdf>

<http://www.africanpredator.com/2012%20Jakkals%20en%20Kat%20Wenke%20oor%20nagskiet.pdf>