

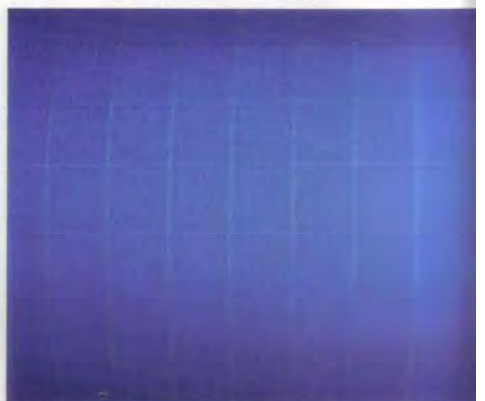


Article & Photography:
Matt Klement

PRODUCT REVIEW

Hello, My name is Matt Klement and I have been hunting pigs for 8 years with a rifle and 6 years with Bull Arabs. I was introduced to dogging by my best mate Ken Millard. Ken had Bull Arabs in Normanton where he drove the Gulflander train to Croydon and I got to see how good Bull Arabs were and how enjoyable dogging was. In the early days Ken did not run his Bull Arabs with breastplates and they would occasionally get rips. Then one day he saved up and bought a Bacon Bouncer Breastplate from Toms Tarps in Goondiwindi. Not only was I impressed by his dogs, but now was impressed by the Bacon Bouncer breastplate. The original breastplate had 6 layers of shade cloth. They were water proof, lightweight, had

reflective tags to see dogs in the dark and fitted beautifully allowing the dogs to stride out and not be inhibited when chasing over long distances. I eventually bought my own Bull Arabs from one of Gary Andersons mates, Rob Mills in Coonabarabran. He has been breeding awesome Bull Arabs for some 25 years or so and has been designing and making his own breastplates out of leather and other materials. Rob Mills and I put our heads together whilst I lived on his Bull Arab Dog farm and got some plates made locally in town but they turned out to be no good for many reasons. I then purchased 2 plates off Kurt at Toms Tarps and never looked back for 12 months. Then I went on my honeymoon to where some



of the largest most powerful boars live in Australia - the NT Savannah country. The boars were all over 100kgs and had perfectly ground tusks at 1- 1.5 inches sticking out from their jaws - perfect weapons against dominant or careless lugging dogs that get up the front and not swing of the side out of harms way. I returned from that trip shocked! These boars punched holes right through the old design of Bacon Bouncer plates. When I returned from our Honeymoon, I rang around Australia to my other mates and asked them about their thoughts and personal experiences of using these plates. Many said they had not experienced this and were very happy with the plates although some of my mates hunt sugar cane and the same situation happened to them on fighting 90 - 200kg boars with ground tusks. I immediately rang Kurt from

Toms Tarps and suggested that a new design had to be made to better protect the dogs that we love and hunt with. He said he had already been discussing this with his staff and they wanted to make a stronger design anyway. He kindly offered to make two prototypes for me to road test on the next hunt in the NT. I received the plates and was very impressed with the new design and finished product. They still had all the good stuff that makes Bacon Bouncer Plates No 1 - their flexibility, their lightweight design, awesome shape that moulds to the dog and allows it to run at full speed without being inhibited. I could not wait to test the old plate against the new design in a head to head contest. Up to the NT we went and we were hunting a 500 km2 brumby sanctuary for a month. I put the old plate on my bitch Chewy and the first new plate on Duke (the backbone of my pack). What I saw surprised me. Boar after boar, the Bacon Bouncer new design of plate with the extra strength poly mesh held up. NO piercings straight through anymore. I tried the second Bacon Bouncer plate with Rip Lock Canvass and saw the same outcome.

NO Piercings through.

Toms TARPS
PTY LTD

5 Boodle Street,
Goondiwindi, Queensland
Phone: (07) 4671 2634
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I look forward to continuing to use the new designs of Bacon Bouncer breastplates and getting the benefits of this breastplate with the increased protection for my dogs. After all, we hunters want to protect our dogs at all costs whilst allowing them to work properly under varying conditions. These plates really do save on Vet bills, injuries and are in line with ethical hunting with dogs.

You can contact Toms Tarps on 1800 021 116, or call into their showroom and factory at 5 Boodle Street GOONDIWINDI QLD 4390

Design Summary

Breastplate	Layers of Shadecloth	Layers of Poly Mesh	Layers of Rip Lock Canvass
Original Bacon Bouncer	6	0	0
New Design with Poly Mesh	4	4	0
New Design with Rip Lock Canvass	4	0	2

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