

Elephant Stopping Power: the 500 S&W Caliber

Our ancestors knew something that we in modern times seem to have forgotten. A bigger stick or rock was more effective in bringing down the game animals that kept their bellies full. Buffalo hunters also knew this and used a variety of large-bore weapons to effectively take bison at long and short ranges.

Collectively, we all knew this until the militaries of the world decided to reduce the calibers they used to allow soldiers to carry more ammunition. This fits the military doctrine of the day and continues to current times. This strategy is not effective for hunters.

Hunters usually don't carry more than a few rounds of ammunition. Hunters know that it isn't the amount of ammunition you carry that makes a difference, it is the stopping power of the caliber and the bullet. The [Model 89 in 500 S&W](#) offers up to 4600 ft.-lbs. of stopping energy. This is more than enough for anything you may encounter, anywhere on this planet. Combined with the ½" diameter bullets, it provides an elephant capable Taylor Knock Out factor up to 65.



Forget everything you have ever seen about the 500 S&W Magnum. All of the data listed on cartridge boxes, printed in gun magazines, written on your favorite websites is wrong when

compared with its use in a long gun. It is all derived from usage in revolvers. The 500 S&W becomes an entirely different creature in a long gun. The cartridge is capable of double the power that you have seen and read about.

The ½” diameter bullets of the Model 89 are already at the diameter of expanded .30 caliber bullets. No need to worry if your bullet will expand correctly inside the game animal. It is already there! Every game animal on the planet can be taken effectively with the 500 S&W at that range, including an elephant. Hunters have adapted the smaller calibers by using expanding bullets to get back to the necessary diameter for effective energy transfer to big game. This is unnecessary with the Model 89.

Most hunting shots are taken at shorter ranges, usually 100 yards or less. The Model 89 can solve any problem within 200 yards.