



Insights from Dave Holt's 2024 African Bow Hunting Expedition.

By Eric Newman

This paper contains data on 34 of the animals Dave Holt harvested during his 2024 six-month bowhunting trip to South Africa.

PNL TESTERS has been blessed. Once again, my good friend Dave Holt has permitted me to share data on his most recent Africa hunt. This is the third year I have shared some of his hunting data. The information he has provided contains data on 96 animals taken with a bow. This report contains data and photos on 34 animals.

This information helps hunters understand what it takes to harvest animals with well-built arrows.

Dave has a wealth of knowledge about bow hunting. The animals taken in 2024 put Dave in the range of 2600 animals taken during his bowhunting career.

The shot and recovery information below was gathered from the animals I shot during our 2024 meat harvest and culling project. The travel distance is sometimes estimated by pacing and/or sight. The arrow weight is the average, as is the kinetic energy (KE).

1. **Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar – Shot distance – 19 yards – Shot Angle – broadside - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 30 yards - Blood trail - excellent. Note: This was the first animal taken with my Mathews LIFT.
2. **Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar – Shot distance – 20 yards – Shot Angle – quartering away - Pass through – no - Travel distance - 45 yards - Blood trail - excellent. Note: As you may notice in this and my previous reports, I have

considerably fewer pass-through results on quartering away shots. This is because the scapula and leg bone on the offside often stop the arrow's penetration. There are also more broken shafts in this angle shot, and the animals often travel a bit further.

3. **Impala ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - the new T-2 100-grain from G-5 - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 115 yards - Blood trail - fair. Note: This was the first animal taken with the G-5 T-2. It functioned well, but after disassembling it for sharpening, it was exceedingly difficult to reassemble in the blind. Under the same conditions, the Rage heads are easy to assemble.
4. **Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 18 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 120 yards - Blood trail - excellent.
5. **Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - the new T-2 100-grain from G-5 - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 40 yards - Blood trail - fair. Note: I am now out of the new T-2 from G-5. I only have three, and I used one to check the point of impact issues. I cannot sharpen them to my satisfaction without disassembling them; they are too difficult to reassemble.
6. **Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 45 yards - Blood trail - good.
7. **Duiker ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 85 yards - Blood trail - good.
8. **Oryx bull** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 115 yards - Blood trail - good.
9. **Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 424 - broadhead type - the new 100-grain EXO RD2 TI T-2 from B-3 - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - slightly quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 85 yards - Blood trail - fair. Note: The EXO created a large entrance wound and broke the offside shoulder. The blades held up well, but the ferrule was bent. I cannot disassemble this head for sharpening or blade replacement. Consequently, it is not a broadhead I will continue to use.

10. **Duiker ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar – Shot distance – 17 yards – Shot Angle – quartering away - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 30 yards - Blood trail – good.
11. **Eland cow** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar – Shot distance – 19 yards – Shot Angle – broadside - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 145 yards - Blood trail – good.
12. **Eland cow** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar – Shot distance – 19 yards – Shot Angle – quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance – 55 yards - Blood trail – excellent.
13. **Impala ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type – 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar – Shot distance – 19 yards – Shot Angle – broadside - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 60 yards - Blood trail – good.
14. **Large baboon male** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type – 125-gain QAD Exodus – Shot distance - 18 yards – Shot Angle - steep quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 0 yards. Note: The QAD broadhead was in excellent shape, so I cleaned and sharpened it for reuse.
15. **Guinea fowl** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - head type – 125-grain HTM rubber blunt – Shot distance – 17 yards – Shot Angle – facing- Pass through - no - Travel distance - 0 yards.
16. **Eland bull** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type – 125-grain G-5 Striker Magnum 1 1/2 inch cutting diameter – Shot distance – 19 yards – Shot Angle – quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance – 160 yards - Blood trail – excellent. Note: I do not think the G-5 Striker Magnum is currently available. The new Striker is available in 1 1/4 cutting diameter. The strikers are one of the best replaceable fixed-blade broadheads I've used.
17. **Oryx bull** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type – 125-grain G-5 Striker Magnum 1 1/2 inch cutting diameter - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 170 yards - Blood trail – good. Note: This was a broadside ribs-only hit, but two blades were bent. One rather seriously, which is unusual.
18. **Eland bull** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type -125-grain G-5 Striker Magnum 1 1/2 inch cutting diameter - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 280 yards - Blood trail - good. Note: The hit was about halfway back in the ribcage, and

the broadhead hit the offside leg. It did not exit the hide. I was surprised that the bull traveled such a long distance.

19. **Duiker ram**- Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type -125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 18 yards - Shot Angle - steep quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 50 yards - Blood trail - fair. Note: No photo taken.
20. **Eland bull** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type – 125-grain G-5 Striker Magnum 1 1/2 inch cutting diameter - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 95 yards - Blood trail - good. Note: The hit was very close to the hit on the Eland Bull covered in #18 above, except that the angle was slightly less severe, and the exit was about two inches rearward on this bull. I am still surprised that the results were so different.
21. **Springbok ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 55 yards - Blood trail – excellent. Note: The hit was a little low.
22. **Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 40 yards - Blood trail – excellent. Note: The hit was on the shoulders, and three-quarters of the shaft exited. The shaft broke, and the back quarter of the shaft remained inside the chest cavity.
23. **Large baboon male** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type – 125-gain REK 4 blade (fixed) - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - slightly quartering away - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 20 yards. Note: The REK broadhead was in excellent shape and easy to disassemble and sharpen. The tip screws on and off to lock the blades in place. It features a rather large steel tip and an aluminum ferrule.
24. **Impala ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 17 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 55 yards - Blood trail - excellent. Note: The shot placement was a few inches forward of perfect, and the broadhead hit the offside scapula, so there was no exit wound. I observed him fall in less than 10 seconds.
25. **Red – Billed francolin rooster** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - head type – 125-grain HTM rubber blunt - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - no - Travel distance -5 yards.

- 26. Duiker ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - yes - Travel distance - 120 yards - Blood trail - fair.
- 27. Eland cow** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain G-5 Striker Magnum 1 1/2 inch cutting diameter - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 155 yards - Blood trail - excellent Note: The broadhead passed through the offside rib cage and lodged in the shoulder. The broadhead did not exit the hide.
- 28. Impala ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - yes - plus 30 yards - Travel distance - 90 yards - Blood trail excellent. Note: The blood trail did not start until 15 yards beyond the hit location, but it remained heavy from there on.
- 29. Impala ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 140 yards - Blood trail - poor for much of the distance. Note: The blood trail started out good but turned poor at about 40 yards.
- 30. Oryx bull** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain G-5 Striker Magnum 1 1/2 inch cutting diameter - Shot distance - 19 yards - Shot Angle - quartering away - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 185 yards - Blood trail - good but quickly changing to poor. Note: A small wound on the off shoulder, but the broadhead did not exit. It took the bull more time than usual to succumb to the shot, even though there was massive damage to the offside shoulder. This longer recovery time is more common on quartering away shots.
- 31. Impala ram** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 15 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 120 yards - Blood trail excellent to fair - it changed as the ram hit full speed. Note: The broadhead made a full-size exit wound, but the arrow fell out of the entry side at about 25 yards. In about 10 minutes, I had that shaft and broadhead ready to shoot without changing the blades; however, I sharpened them as always.
- 32. Warthog boar** - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 15 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - yes - plus 15 yards - Travel distance - 105 yards - Blood trail - poor. Note: the blood trail would have been better if the shot placement had been slightly lower and more forward.

33. Duiker ram- Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 20 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - no - Travel distance - 0 yards - Blood trail - Bleeding a lot. Note: The shot was a little high, or he started to duck the arrow. The broadhead broke his spine and hit the top of both lungs. He died in about 20 seconds.

34. Injured springbok ewe - Mathews LIFT- KE 58.5 - Black Eagle Deep Impact - arrow weight - 449 - broadhead type - 125-grain Rage Hypodermic w/collar - Shot distance - 23 yards - Shot Angle - broadside - Pass through - yes plus 2 yards - Travel distance - 40 yards - Blood trail - excellent. Note: This animal was limping badly with no hope of recovery. She was incredibly thin. The hit was through the shoulders.

DETAILS AND THOUGHTS ON MY 2024 AFRICAN HUNTS

As my 2023 Hunt Report predicted, I reduced my draw weight before my 2024 cull hunt in Namibia. Because I was shooting a bow and arrow combination that produced less KE, I chose to use fixed-blade broadheads for large animals like eland and oryx. I used the G-5 Striker Magnum 1 1/2-inch fixed three-blade head on several animals. That broadhead is no longer available in the 1 1/2-inch offering.

As you will notice in the above report, I tested a few new broadhead designs on small and medium-sized animals. But for the most part, I use the Rage Hypodermic heads on animals of that size. As expected, the fixed-blade broadheads provided excellent results on large animals.

BROADHEAD AND ARROW REPAIR

People testing and reviewing broadheads seldom consider or even mention the repairability aspects of broadheads in their reports. Broadhead reparability is tremendously variable and a monster consideration for me. After quality and function, the ease of repair is next in my broadhead selection process. Broadhead repairability should be a consideration for most bowhunters.

Here is an example of the advantage I enjoy by repairing my broadheads. A few years ago, I shot 22 animals with one arrow. Technically, it was the same shaft, fletching, and broadhead ferrule. The broadhead on that arrow was a Rage 125-grain Hypodermic with a multi-use collar. While using that arrow to shoot those 22 animals, I replaced seven blades, five collars, and three nocks. I sharpened the blades after every shot. That is the most animals I have shot with a single shaft and broadhead ferrule combination. I retired that arrow and have it in my shop.

In most cases, the arrow shaft is broken by or before the number of kills reaches 10. But good broadhead ferrules usually last longer. Rear deploying non-locking broadheads pull out more frequently (while the animal is fleeing) without damage. I estimate that my arrow shafts are about 20 percent less likely to be broken when shooting that type of broadhead.

For those 22 kills, I calculated the difference between the retail price of shooting a new broadhead for each animal and the purchase price of the components I used to repair that arrow. The retail cost of a new broadhead for each animal would have been about \$330.00, while the retail cost of the mentioned repair parts was about \$12.00.

I may shoot more animals than the average bowhunter, but the percentage of the savings is relevant to all of us. Again, broadheads vary tremendously in their ease of repairability. Many, otherwise, good broadheads are nearly impossible to take apart, sharpen, and reassemble in the field. Saving money is important, but my ability to sharpen and repair my broadheads (my arrows, too) is a source of pride.

CHOOSING THE BEST BROADHEADS

Expandable broadheads: For years, my first choice of broadheads for my style of bowhunting was the 125-grain Rage Hypodermic with a multi-use collar and the 150-grain Trypan with a single-use collar. As you can see from the above Hypodermic story, they are strong, functional, and easy to repair. I have found that the Rage Hypodermic is the easiest expandable broadhead to repair. Although I have not shot many animals with them, the Dead Meat broadheads from G5 function well and are reasonably easy to repair. I found the new G5 T-2 difficult to repair.

NOTE: Large expandable broadheads do not penetrate as well as some other designs because they generally cut more square inches of tissue. This fact is often overlooked by those conducting penetration tests.

Fixed blade heads with replaceable blades: My choice for replaceable fixed-blade heads is the G5 Striker and the QAD Exodus in 125 grains. This basic design has several good offerings, but the two mentioned heads are among the best in that style. I will continue to use these broadheads on large plains game animals unless I am able to increase my KE.

I do not like fixed two-blade heads except for buffalo, giraffes, pachyderms, and low-KE-producing setups. I also do not like solid three-blade heads because they are challenging to get razor-sharp, and the damaged blades are not replaceable.

SHOT PLACEMENT AND RESULTS

Without a doubt, shot placement is more critical than the broadhead we use. However, our broadhead choices remain important. For example, I have shot over 1000 animals with Rage broadheads and keep good records. My results of those 1000-plus shots show that the blood trails are, on average, heavier and shorter when shooting large rear-deploying broadheads. And large rear deploying broadheads pay the most dividends on marginal, non-major bone hits. Regardless of the benefits, expandable broadheads are not for all bowhunters, all hunting situations, or all animals. As mentioned, they may not be the best for low KE-producing setups and some animals. Also, knowing what shot angles you might be tempted to take should be a consideration when choosing the best broadhead for your situation.

1-Warthog boar



2-Warthog boar



3-Impala ram



4-Warthog boar



5-Warthog boar



6-Warthog boar



7-Duiker ram



8-Oryx bull



9-Warthog boar



10-Duiker ram



11-Eland cow



12-Eland cow



13-Impala ram



14-Large baboon male



15-Guinea fowl



16A-Eland bull



16B-Eland bull



17A-Oryx bull



17B-Oryx bull**17C-Oryx bull**

18A-Eland bull**18B-Eland bull**

19-Duiker ram
No picture

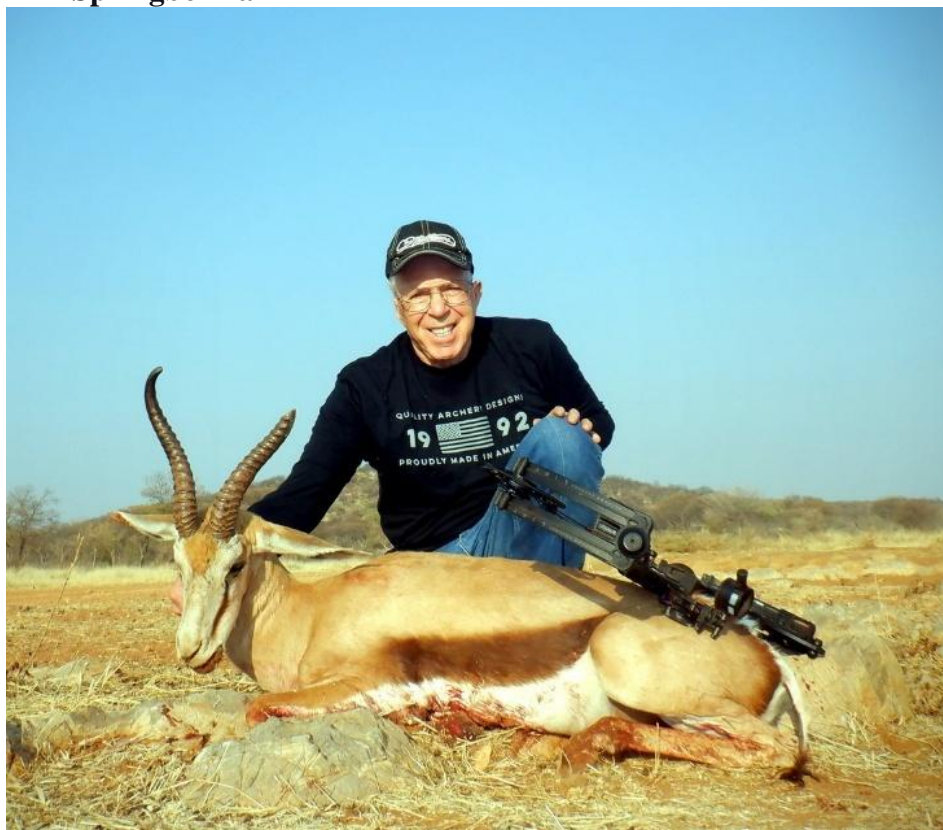
20A-Eland bull



20B-Eland bull



21A-Springbok ram



21B-Springbok ram



22-Warthog boar



23-Large baboon male



24A-Impala ram**24B-Impala ram**

25A-Red – Billed francolin rooster



25B-Red – Billed francolin rooster



26-Duiker ram**27-Eland cow**

28A-Impala ram



28B-Impala ram



29A-Impala ram



29B-Impala ram



30A-Oryx bull**30B-Oryx bull**

30C-Oryx bull**30D-Oryx bull**

31A-Impala ram



31B-Impala ram



32A-Warthog boar



32B-Warthog boar



33-Duiker ram



34A-Injured springbok ewe



34B-Injured springbok ewe



34C-Injured springbok ewe

