



# Teaching an Old

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**Y**ou can, and you should, teach an old dog new tricks. In this particular case, the old dog was me. I was thumbing through an old forest products magazine the other day and ran across an advertisement. The company was advertising the latest technology used in chain saw chaps. The ad's catch phrase was "Cut Wood, Not Legs." The magazine was dated August 1976. So this technology is nothing new; in fact, it has been around the entire 40 years that I have been using a chain saw. I am one of those old-timers that didn't think I needed safety protection while using my chain saw

because I had never had an accident. Never, that is, until this past October.

I was cutting a shooting lane through a thicket so that my son, Joseph, could get a clear shot if a buck were to pass his newly positioned ladder stand. I was busy cutting down small saplings and privet hedge that block our view along the Tallapoosa River bottomland we hunt. Everything was going as planned until I pulled the chain saw back a little too fast and hit my left knee about an inch below my kneecap. The saw was still revved up fairly high, and it ripped through my Carhartt jeans leaving a



# Dog New Tricks

## Chainsaw Safety

jagged cut about an inch long and a quarter inch wide in my knee.

My first thought was, “Wow, that’s never happened to me before!” Then, my second thought was, “I should have known better.” The fact is, I do know better. I always thought I would just be careful and nothing would ever happen to me, but it did!

My wife encouraged me to let the doctor take a look at it and I finally conceded a few days later. Thankfully, there was no nerve damage, but I did walk with a limp for about two weeks.

So, I began pricing chain saw chaps. I found out that they are not cheap! However, I can attest to this: the doctor’s co-pay, the

tetanus shot, the prescription ointment, extra-large band aids, and the iron-on patch for my Carhartt jeans cost about the same price as my new chain saw chaps.

A couple of weeks ago a neighbor asked my Dad and me if we wanted to cut up a tree that had fallen in his driveway for firewood, and help him get it out of the way. We did, and was I ever so proud to put on my new chain saw chaps and demonstrate how this old dog had learned a new trick!

The catchy phrase in the advertisement was right: “Cut Wood, Not Legs.” Take the advice of this old dog . . . get all your safety equipment first; then go cut wood!🐕