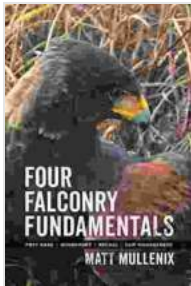


Four Falconry Fundamentals: A Comprehensive Guide to the Art of Falconry

Falconry is an ancient and fascinating art form that requires a deep understanding of both the birds of prey and the natural world. In this article, we will cover the four fundamental principles of falconry: creance, weathering, casting, and retrieving. We will also provide some tips for aspiring falconers who are looking to get started in this rewarding hobby.



Four Falconry Fundamentals by Matt Mullenix

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Creance

Creance is a long, thin line that is attached to the falcon's leg. It is used to keep the falcon under control while it is being trained. The creance is gradually shortened as the falcon becomes more experienced and reliable.

There are two main types of creance: the bow creance and the long creance. The bow creance is a short, flexible line that is used for close-

quarters training. The long creance is a longer, heavier line that is used for hunting and other activities.

When using a creance, it is important to keep the line taut. This will help to prevent the falcon from flying away. However, it is also important to avoid pulling on the creance too tightly, as this can injure the falcon.

Weathering

Weathering is the process of gradually exposing the falcon to the outdoors. This helps the falcon to become accustomed to the sights, sounds, and smells of the natural world. Weathering is typically done in a series of short sessions, starting with just a few minutes each day.

As the falcon becomes more comfortable with the outdoors, the weathering sessions can be gradually lengthened. Eventually, the falcon will be able to spend entire days outside without becoming stressed.

Weathering is an important step in the training of any falcon. It helps the falcon to become a confident and successful hunter.

Casting

Casting is the act of releasing the falcon from the creance. This is typically done when the falcon is ready to hunt. The falconer will choose a spot that is clear of obstacles and hazards, and then they will give the falcon the command to fly.

The falcon will fly out in search of prey. The falconer will then use the creance to keep the falcon under control and to guide it back to their fist when it is finished hunting.

Casting is a thrilling experience for both the falconer and the falcon. It is a moment when all of the training and preparation comes together.

Retrieving

Retrieving is the process of getting the falcon back on the fist after it has caught prey. This is typically done by using a lure, which is a piece of meat or other food that is attached to a string. The falconer will swing the lure in front of the falcon, and the falcon will fly down to retrieve it.

Retrieving is an important part of falconry. It helps the falcon to learn to come back to the falconer when it is called, and it also helps to build a bond between the falconer and the falcon.

Tips for Aspiring Falconers

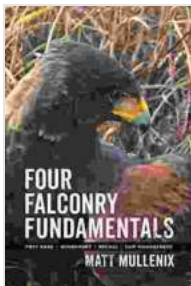
If you are interested in getting started in falconry, there are a few things you should keep in mind.

- **Find a mentor.** The best way to learn about falconry is to find an experienced falconer who can teach you the ropes. A mentor can help you to choose the right bird, train your falcon, and get started hunting.
- **Get licensed.** In most states, you will need to obtain a license before you can own a falcon. The licensing process typically involves passing a written test and a practical exam.
- **Build a mews.** A mews is a place where you will keep your falcon overnight. It should be a secure, weatherproof enclosure that is large enough for the falcon to fly around in.
- **Acquire a falcon.** You can purchase a falcon from a breeder or a falconer. When choosing a falcon, it is important to consider your

experience level and the type of hunting you plan to do.

- **Train your falcon.** Training a falcon takes time and patience. You will need to teach your falcon to come to the fist, fly to the lure, and hunt.

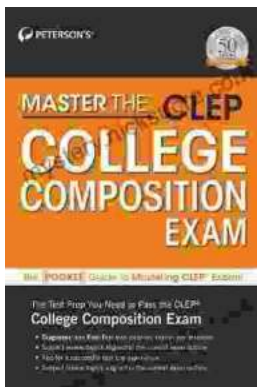
Falconry is a rewarding and challenging hobby that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. If you are interested in learning more about this ancient art form, I encourage you to find a mentor and get started.



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