# SOCAL NAVHDA





# ON POINT

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY- 2015** 

## **Dental Care and Scenting**

By Joe Spoo DVM



#### Inside this issue:

When six-time Champion Hard Driving Bev started missing birds, professional trainer Joe McCarl attributed the changes to an aging dog starting to lose her senses. "She became really unsure around birds, " McCarl recalled. "This was a dog that always just stuck her birds and now she either wasn't finding birds or was really unsure of where they were when on point." While McCarl wasn't going to turn back the hands of time it was possible that Bev's scenting loss was related to a very treatable condition...advanced dental disease. Dog owners and handlers are a superstitious lot, and for all of the technology and advanced knowledge of canine health and behavior that we have been given over the years, a reliance on old wives tales and a mentality of "that's how we've always done it" still exists. For years trialers thought removing the tonsils on their favorite field trial dog would help increase scenting ability and performance in the field. When this procedure was looked at to determine how it worked, researchers discovered that at the time of the tonsillectomy most veterinarians were also cleaning the teeth. It was this teeth cleaning that was actually causing the increase in scenting ability not the removal of the tonsils. Yet even with the research out there to show dental care can impact scenting, many dog owners are reluctant to spend the money to have their dog's teeth cleaned. Continued on page 2.

Editors Note: The author of this article Dr. Joe Spoo is published in many different national publications on gundogs. He has a website gundogdoc where this article was published. I talked with Dr. Spoo about using his articles for SOCAL NAVHDA ON POINT and found it interesting that he located his practice in Sioux Falls, SD simply because he wanted to specialize in working on gundogs and to be close to great upland game hunting!!

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For a better understanding of how dental disease can impact scenting ability, it is important to take a look at canine anatomy and how closely associated the teeth and sinuses are in relation to each other. The following picture (next page)shows a side profile of Maggie with important structures drawn on the photo. To qualify the drawings: I am neither an artist nor an anatomist, so bear with me. In the accompanying picture, I've outlined in white where this setter's teeth and roots lie and in yellow where the sinus cavities are. For point of reference, the red line represents the gum line, and the blue area is the vomeronasal organ. It is easy to see that inflammation and infection of the teeth and surrounding tissues directly impacts the sinuses, the respiratory tissue and the scenting ability. With very severe dental disease, tracts can develop, forming an opening between the mouth and sinuses. Those foul-smelling, atrocious teeth are not just causing problems at the gum line-often the issues extend much deeper.

Now I can just about guarantee there will be skeptics who believe a veterinarian is writing an article on dental disease to drum up business and perform an unnecessary procedure. Too often we hear the argument that people don't have to be put under for dental cleanings or that we have our teeth for over 80 years without the need for such aggressive measures why is it so important for our dogs? The thing to remember, especially with health issues, is that dogs are not little humans and their medical needs are different than ours, and this includes their mouths. A dog's mouth health serves as a gateway to the rest of the body, and with advanced dental issues we can see the effects on distant organs like the heart, liver and kidneys, in addition to the local problems it causes in the mouth and sinuses. With too many dogs it isn't just an issue of bad breath, but rather, a much deeper health concern.

The vast majority of sporting breed dogs will likely never require a dental in their lives. Dental disease is a highly variable condition from dog-to-dog and is more prevalent in our small and toy breeds. As with all health issues, though, it is important to treat and evaluate the individual dog and not make blanket statements in regards to health care. Many dogs will have staining and tartar buildup as they age, and with most this will not have a significant impact on their overall health. The most important criteria to evaluate with dental health is the gumline and surrounding tissue. Once there is evidence of gingivitis, it is time to consider a thorough cleaning in order to head off more severe problems. By the time this inflammation has started, there very likely has been an impact on scenting ability.



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WHERE
MEMBERS TEACH
OTHERS HOW TO
TRAIN THEIR
BIRDDOG







A big sticking point with many owners is that dogs have to be anesthetized in order for the teeth to be cleaned. Too often owners will want to chip the tartar off on their own or just have the teeth scaled, and unfortunately, this can lead to worse issues. By the time there is evidence of dental disease and inflammation, often times the issues have spread to below the gumline. In order to perform a complete cleaning at tooth level and under the gumline, even the most tolerant dog will need to be put under. As for just scaling or chipping off the tartar, this too is a bad idea, because it can create grooves or imperfections in the enamel, which will give the tartar-forming bacteria a foot hold and can actually accelerate tartar buildup. It is vitally important to both clean the teeth and then to have them polished in order to ensure better dental health. I strongly recommend to dog owners to take a hard look at the teeth and gums every six months, and more frequently if your dog has dental problems. I certainly don't advocate across the board dentals for all dogs over a certain age, and some dogs will indeed go a lifetime without needing veterinary dental care. However, with that being said it is also important to not pooh-pooh the need for a dental. In conjunction with your veterinarian, evaluate if your dog will benefit from a dental. This decision may lead to increased performance in the field and more importantly a longer healthier life. One note on dental care and selection of a veterinarian to perform the procedure: while it may cost more, I would encourage you to find a small animal veterinarian with the appropriate anesthetic and dental equipment. Old Doc So and So down the road might be cheaper, but his level of expertise with anesthesia and dental care may be at the same level as his pricing. I always encourage owners to ask questions and understand what and how things are being done to their dogs. So how did things turn out for McCarl and Bev? After performing poorly in the spring trials due to a lack of finds, McCarl had a dental performed on the Champion. "She almost immediately went back to sticking her birds," he noted, "I couldn't believe the difference and I kick myself for not having her teeth cleaned sooner." The next time you roll back your dog's gums and reveal those foul-smelling, tartar-laden teeth don't dismiss it as just teeth. Think of it as the gateway to your dog's scenting ability and more importantly the major organ systems of the body. Ignoring dental health now can have dire consequences down the road.

What do our SOCAL NAVHDA members do in their spare time away from SOCAL

**NAVHDA?** Of course they do more training, testing and hunting with their dogs. January 31 and February 1 many of our SOCAL NAVHDA members along with members from the San Diego and Inland Empire Chapter participated in a hunt test with the South Coast Vizsla club and the Southern California Irish Setter Club. The test was held in California City. The weather was perfect cool running weather for the dogs (40 to 65 degrees). Saturday night they had a feast fit for a king, roast tri-tip, baked potato, corn, baked beans, several different salads, several pies, cheesecake. I was extremely glad that I forgot to stop for my regular Subway sandwhich in the cooler. Kim Jameson is pictured below as Beau achieved his Senior Hunt title. NAVHDA judges and members Greg and Ruth Weiss tested and titled several of Richard Byrne's Wirehair Pointing Griffon's. Other participants were Garo Missakian, Clint Lager, Gary and Whitney Johnson, Tyler Mitchel judged the first day and tested the 2nd day, Gabby Awbrey and future SOCAL NAVHDA member Kevin and Staci Billy. Testing in other events can be great fun. The rules are slightly different than we use in NAVHDA, but it's basically a field test running with a bracemate (another handler and dog). If running an AKC hunt test you probably will need an orange and green collar (\$5) and some form of starter pistol. It is also interesting to have your dog entered alongside dogs that are basically field trial or show dogs and to see how their handlers approach the hunt test. The judges will probably be on horses or quads





MIKA VS DUKE

DANCING

WITH THE STARS

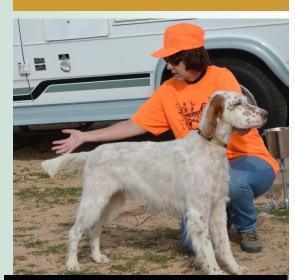
WHERE
MEMBERS
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HOW TO
TRAIN
THEIR
BIRDDOG





Testing your dog can bring out incredible emotions. Joy, happiness, sadness, frustration. Regardless of results a day spent working your dog beats any day sitting at home. Your dog is generally working with enthusiasm to try and do a "great job". They are telling the TRUTH. Sometimes it's difficult for us to accept the truth. We have not mastered steadiness, retrieval, pointing, etc. . Try not to ever be upset with your dog. Our dogs are the most loyal and loving individual we spend time with. . . Probably.

Catherine Michel and her English Setter. This dog was completing his Master Hunt title.



Soon To Be SOCAL NAVHDA Members Kevin and Staci Billy



LESSON LEARNED: Training for steadiness with some cooperative pigeons in tipups and launchers is nothing like testing with several running chukar and quail.

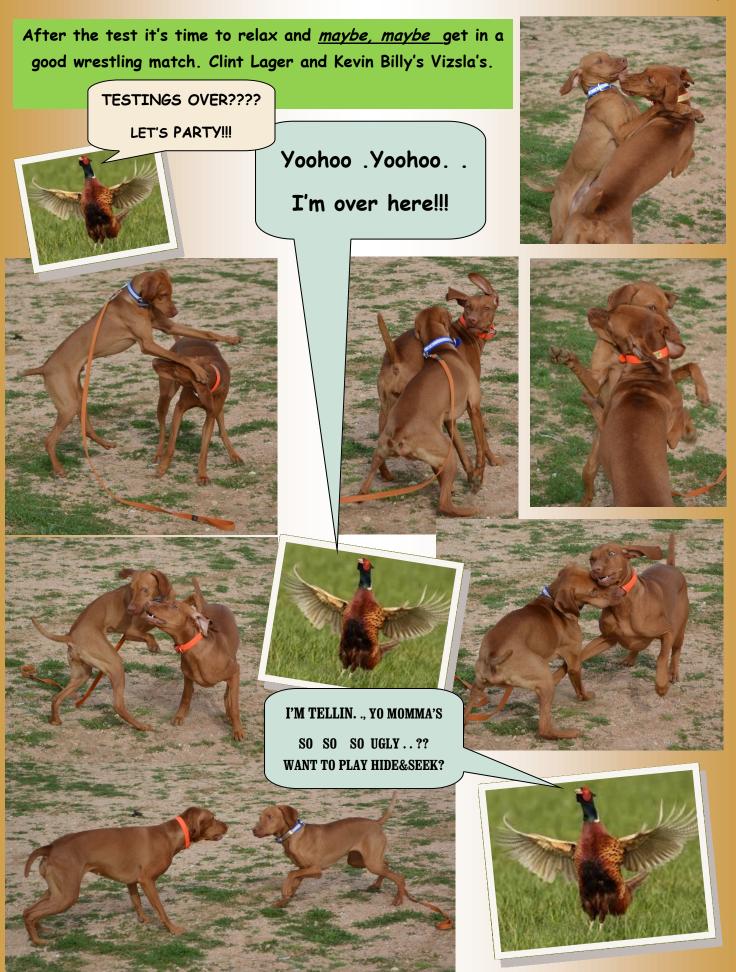
Ty Mitchel readies for his field test. Take notice of the other handler, judges on quads and size of grounds.

















New SOCAL NAVHDA members Clint and Duke ran in the AKC test and were 4 for 4 in the field and won the Junior Hunter title. I had the pleasure of being in the gallery during one of Duke's braces. It was sheer joy to watch Duke run at full tilt for the entire brace. He not only covered the 5 acre bird field but probably 100 acres extra!! It's hard to tell exactly HOW FAR as Duke disappeared across the countryside a few times in his search for chukar and quail.



**GARO MISSAKIAN** 

#### **RICHARD BYRNE & GREG WEISS**





## Training Days Guidelines & Procedures

- (1) Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly when he/she is not working on a drill.
- (2) Everyone in the field must wear blaze orange hat, t-shirt or vest. **Members holding a gun in** the field must have completed a hunter safety class or have a hunting license.
- (3) Children are to be supervised and remain in the designated parking area at all times.
- (4) No alcohol on premises.
- (5) "Boat Safety", persons under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket when in the boat.

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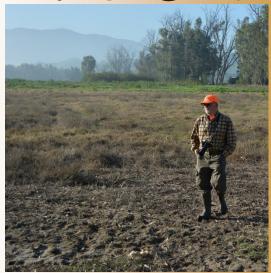
# FEBRUARY TRAINING DAY



SOCAL NAVHDA monthly training day was held Sunday, February 8 at Prado Dog Park. Many new puppies were in attendance. At one point over 30 vehicles were in the parking lot. Puppies were trained on tracking, building prey drive, birdiness, pointing and water acclimation. Adult dogs were introduced to the training table and the force fetch process and did field work, drags and steadiness. Looking forward to seeing you at our next session!



If you would like to
test your dog in the
Natural Ability test
or Utility Test this
spring please
email Guido or Pat
to let them know.
Register ASAP
TO ENSURE A
SPOT.







# SOCAL NAVEIDA

Don Sandler and Heidi Hunt Chukar near Ridgecrest



Don Sandler sent in this recent photo of Heidi while they were on a Chukar hunt in Short Canyon west of Ridgecrest. She wears an orange vest so that Don can see her in the rocks and brush.

Thanks for the photo Don. We love to share your hunting moments with our fellow SOCAL NAVHDA members. The Joy of Nature. Please email your photos or stories to gary\_johnson @ busdk12.com



# MOURNING DOVE

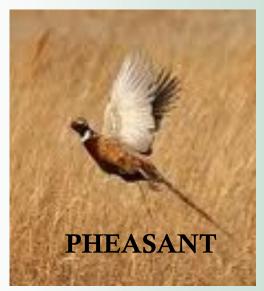






# EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE









# BREED OF THE MONTH

# ENGLISH SETTER









From the best authorities on the subject, it appears that the English Setter was a trained bird dog in England more than 400 years ago. Evidence points to the English Setters origins in crosses of Spanish Pointer, large Water Spaniel, and Springer Spaniel, which combined to produce a superb bird dog with a high degree of proficiency in finding and pointing game in open country. Major credit for the development of the modern setter should go to Edward Laverack, who about 1825 obtained from the Rev. A. Harrison, "Ponto" and "Old Moll," two specimens of the breed the Reverend had kept pure for over 35 years.

The English Setter's function as a partner to the human hunter caused the ES to develop a particular type of personality and temperament. Because he works so far away from the hunter, an English Setter makes independent decisions in the field. The hunter casts them out, and the ES range the countryside working manageable territory and investigating the most likely places where birds might be found, following hand and whistle directions from the hunter. ES scent the birds, they figure out what kind of bird they have scented, how close they can get (right on top of the wily pheasant, farther away from more timid birds such as quail and grouse), they strike and hold a point with such boldness and confidence as to pin the bird(s) in place with their power, and wait as long as it takes for the guns to be within range. Some hunters think the term Setter comes from the ability to pin the birds or "set" and hold them in place, but breed history buffs know that it is a historical term for the way ES indicated the birds' location in earlier times. lish Setters have always been among the most popular gun dogs in the world. The earliest reference to the breed extends back to the 1500s. One of the interesting points about this breed, is that lines of English Setters exist to meet diverse needs.







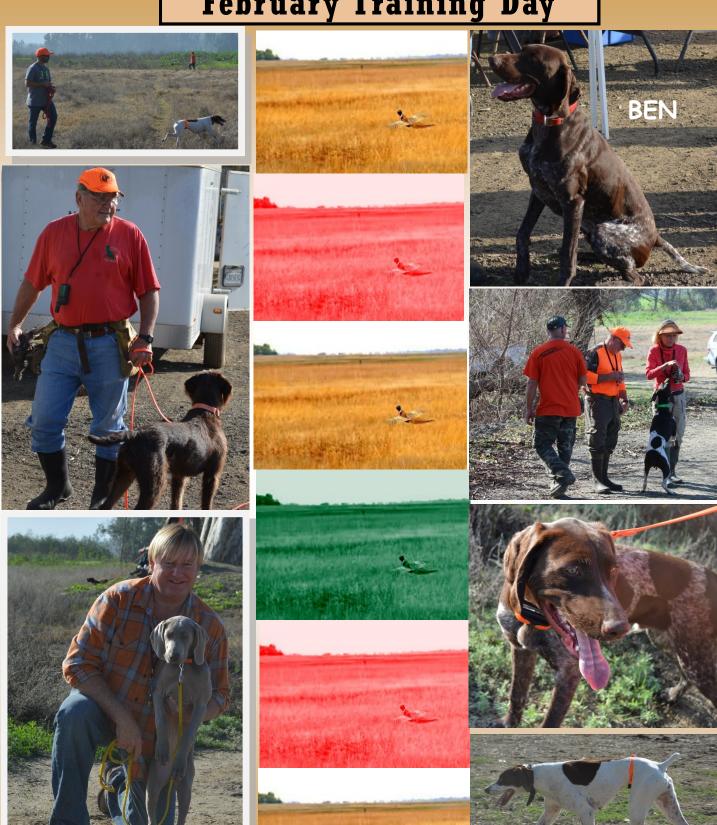




Whether your preference is hunting, field trialing, or bench showing, or whether you want a dog to hunt on horseback or on foot, there is a line to meet those needs. As a result, very distinct lines of English Setters have evolved over time. Field setters are bred with hunting or field trialing in mind (they are not the same thing), Bench setters were bred for conformation and bench showing in mind. That doesn't mean that bench setters can't hunt nor does it mean that field setters have bad conformation. Its simply a matter of which characteristics the breeder desired." While there are many lines/strains of English Setters, we will now focus on the Llewellin Setter. "So what exactly is a Llewellin Setter?" It's a very specific, pure strain of "English Setter with bloodlines tracing back to the breeding program of nineteenth century sportsman R. L. Purcell Llewellin. Llewellin and Edward Laverack played a key role in the development of the breed. Llewellin's name has been irrevocably associated with those English Setters bred for field work." It should be noted that not all field-type English Setters are FDSB Registered Llewellin Setters, and "Llewellin-type" setters are not FDSB registered Llewellin Setters. The generic use of the term 'Llewellin' for all field-type English Setters does NOT mean that the dog is a registered Llewellin. If the dog is not registered as Llewellin with the Field Dog Stud Book (FDSB) of Chicago, then, it is not technically a Llewellin . In the mid-1860s, R.L. Purcell Llewellin of Pembrokeshire, South Wales, began his breeding program utilizing dogs obtained from Laverack. Llewellin was primarily interested in developing dogs for field work, and he experimented with various crosses before discovering the nick that would ultimately establish his name as a synonym for topnotch field-bred English Setters." As an aside, confusion also stems from the fact that the AKC does not recognize the Llewellin separately from English, and they refer to all "field-type" English setters as "Llewellin" which is technically incorrect. Llewellin's breakthrough occurred when he purchased two dogs, Dan and Dick, while attending a field trial at Shewbury in 1871. Dan and Dick were sons of a dog named Duke, owned by Barclay Field, and a bitch named Rhoebe (Rhoebe's dam was half Gordon and half South Esk, a now extinct breed). Both of these dogs were out of northern England stock noted for outstanding field work. Llewellin bred Dan and Dick to his Laverack females, and a new era in bird dog history was begun. The Duke, Rhoebe, and Laverack crossing produced exactly what Llewellin was looking for, and the offspring quickly attracted the notice of sportsmen in both England and North America. Dan proved to be especially preponent, and it was he who sired Gladstone, one of the most important Llewellins of all time. Gladstone quickly established himself as a top field performer and sire. His achievements contributed greatly to the surge of popularity the Llewellins were soon to enjoy.

The types of English Setters is quite varied, from show dogs to SERIOUS hunters, There is a strong hunting gene pool that may

# February Training Day

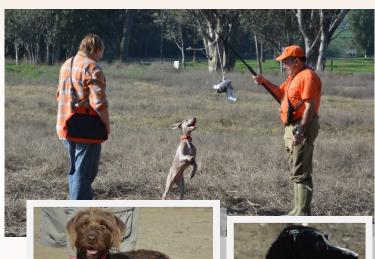


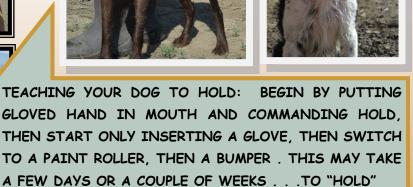
# FEBRUARY TRAINING DAY













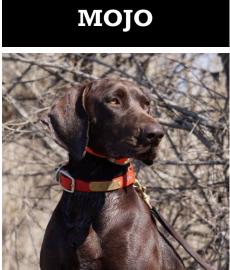




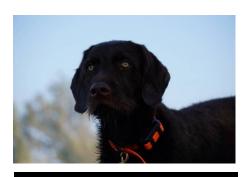






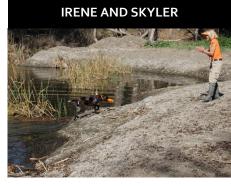
















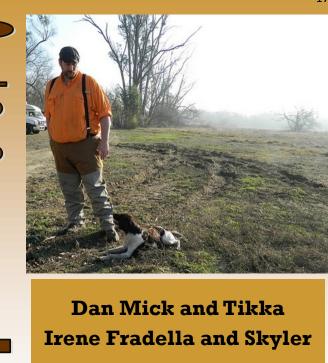
















# ON POINT

Olivia Martinez gets her favorite bird for dinner

"MALLARD!"

Ralph Martinez and Citori, his GSP (UT Prize 1), went hunting this fall and Olivia met them in the driveway to inspect the hunt. She was thrilled to find "Mallard" her favorite bird, and one pheasant, Citori's favorite bird!









All of the photos on the outer edge of this page were taken by Dan Mick. You can see more photos on Facebook So.Cal.

NAVHDA hosted by Dan.









The Duck Search is one of the more challenging aspects of the Utility Test. The accomplished dog will do a thorough search of the pond and not return until a duck is found and retrieved to hand or his handler calls him back. The search is for 10 minutes and the better dogs will search every during group reeds islands the pond the allotted time. Find these and other photos on IMGUR.com Search So.Cal. NAVHDA



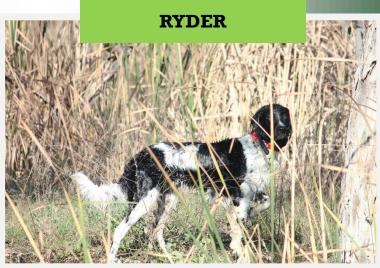






### Vladimar













I have heard more than a couple of professional trainers say that the pointing breeds are not meant for the water and it's not something they are good at. You may have heard the statement, "If you want to go duck hunting get a lab!" Don't tell that to SOCAL NAVHDA dogs. You only have to attend one training day to see that our dogs LOVE the water. With a little bit of training they will look forward to every trip with you just hoping for that opportunity to retrieve in the water. Still skeptical, just check out the wagging tails at the water.

They never tell a lie!!

Many birddogs actually need to practice carrying and retrieving birds. Some get so used to man made bumpers and toys they start to forget they are "birddogs". Don't forget to use some birds in your training and your dog will not forget he is a "BIRDDOG".















Many of our members with younger dogs that have passed the NA test are now beginning to train for the UT. In the UT test your dog must retrieve to hand every time. Many people use the force fetch process to train this. There are several different theories on "which force fetch process" you should use. It is important to not interchange them but to pick one and see it through. Be prepared though that this is one of the more difficult training challenges for YOU and YOUR DOG. You will have to transition from friend and loving guide to more like a drill sergeant. Thankfully it only is for 10-15 minutes per session. You should expect your dog to resist but you must persist through their resistance. Once they are successfully through it you will have a retrieving machine that will not question your judgement. Doing the force fetch process for the first time with my 2 German Shorthairs was emotionally challenging for me on several nights, but my dogs never held a grudge. I would feed them afterwards and they could not wait to finish eating and run in the house and joyfully greet me. I am not a dog psychologist but I believe in some way it more firmly established me in their world as a stronger alpha leader and wanted them to draw closer to their master. Guido has supplied a method of force fetch that has worked for many dogs. We will publish it here in the February and March issue. Good luck on your journey!

## FORCE FETCH—STEP 1

Bring your dog to the table on lead and lift him up on it gently. When he is up there he may act very nervous and may even crouch or lay low. Do not allow him to jump off of the table by any means. Sit the dog in the middle of the table and pet him to get him to relax, you may even give him a few pieces of his dog food. Don't be surprised if he doesn't take it from you and eat it because he is now intimidated. Have that eyebolt handy in the ceiling and snap a piece of swing chain to it and allow it to hang down about two feet towards the table. The links on the chain will allow you to move the dog's collar up and down to the height that you require. I always use a double snap on the eyebolt at the dogs collar to give more versatility in heights. The first two or three sessions on the table are only to get his confidence up. Always end each session by feeding his morning or evening meal up there to gain his trust. Most big dogs have good appetites so use that to your advantage in your training. Never allow the dog to get the food until you give him the OK signal at the end of each session. By the third or fourth time up there secure the dog as high to the eyebolt as possible so that he cannot lower his head or pull away from you. Make sure he has enough slack so that he can breathe. Put a leather glove on your right hand and open his mouth with your other hand. Place the gloved hand into his mouth gently and close his bottom jaw a bit to see his response. Now if he is like most dogs he will resist this by trying to spit the glove or shake his head from side to side to get this gloved hand out. Whatever you do, stay with it until he settles down for a few seconds, then remove the hand and pet him saying "Good Boy".





RESISTING THE GLOVE

#### **ACCEPTING THE GLOVE**





It won't take long for him to realize that if he stays calm the gloved hand will be removed. Open his mouth and do this again until he is not fighting you quite as vigorously. Stay calm and don't yell or raise your voice or say too much at this point. It is the action of what you are doing and the body language you use rather than your voice at this time. When you take the gloved hand out, say the word "out" or "leave" at the same time. Lay on loads of praise, and let him know that he is the best dog in the world. After doing this repeatedly for 15 minutes call it quits and give the dog his morning feeding as a reward up there on the table.

Set the dish down at the end of the table and only allow him to eat it on command with an OK.

Rub his ears gently as he holds the objects so that he gets accustomed to having your hands around his head. Staying calm is very important, or the dog will get very uptight and will lose his focus on his lesson. We are not saying too many commands yet until he understands what we are asking of him. Once he is holding the glove without our hand in it, start moving around a couple of feet to the right and left and tell him to hold always watching that he doesn't try to spit it. Gently raise your hand to him and grab the glove and give him the command out to let go. Again, give him tons of praise on a job well done. When he understands the holding of the glove we need to switch to a paint roller at least nine inches in length and ask him to hold it in the same manner that he held the glove. When he is holding it, tap the ends lightly saying the word "Fetch" as you tap it. You want to see a conscious effort on the dog's part not to drop the roller even when you tap it on either end. Try to walk back a few feet and now tell him to Hold with a good firm tone. Watch him closely and if he drops it, pick it up and put it back in his mouth and say the word Fetch again until you can trust him. When we are force training a dog, we never do retrieving at all off the bench, or you will undo everything that you have worked for so far. The above process will take the beginner approximately 1 week to 10 days to complete. Lets work on this stage of training first and we'll move to the next level in approximately 2 weeks.

# SOCAL NAVHDA



WHERE MEMBERS
TEACH OTHERS
HOW TO TRAIN
THEIR BIRDDOG

#### **SOCAL NAVHDA MEMBER BENEFITS**

- 1. Receive Monthly newsletter from February to October.
- 2. Have your unlimited webpage site within the www.SoCalnavhda.com website for 10.00\$/year.
- 3. Access to the Members Forum in the Chapter Website Password: "best dogs" with a space between the two words.
- Choose a trainer mentor out of a list of professional and very experienced trainers.
- 5. Participate in a monthly training day.
- Be first in line to enroll your dog in the Chapter's NAVHDA Tests before all other NAVHDA national members.
- Have access to the So.Cal. NAVHDA Trailer packed with versatile hunting dog training supplies for \$20.00 key deposit, refundable if you'll leave the chapter.
- 8. So.Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

# NAVHDA SPONSORS













