

SOCAL NAVHDA



ON POINT

NEWSLETTER APRIL- 2015



Puppy Guidelines

Training Group?

Braque Francais

**Force Fetch
Step 4**

Birddog Vocabulary

**Force Fetch
Step 5**

TRAINING GROUP ANYONE?

At SOCAL NAVHDA our monthly training days are great opportunities to work our dogs and learn some new skills. However, sometimes we want more. We have hunting season or a hunting test approaching and know that we need to have “Ol Faithful” tighten up her hunting skills. It may be time to talk to some of your fellow NAVHDA members and form an informal training group. This can be a little frustrating as people will have different thoughts about what training should take place, how much time spent with each dog, who is in charge . . .if anyone, etc. However, if you can get past these details you can establish some additional wonderful training moments which may expand into future group hunting trips. The following are some things to consider when forming a training group.

- **Are the dogs of similar ability?**
- **Do the handlers have similar training philosophy?**
- **Sharing the work load makes training more manageable and efficient** (planting birds, running the zinger winger, getting birds, etc.)
- **Advantage in learning from the other group members and compare training results.** Members can demonstrate to each other how they train certain skills.
- **Keep dogs rotating in.** Several short training sessions prevent you from creating boredom for your dog.
- **Use chain gang so dogs can watch and learn from the other dogs.**
- **Remember to practice good etiquette and seek camaraderie within group.** Consider the level of each others dogs and make sure each dog receives appropriate training.

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Rattlesnake Avoidance Training

SOCAL NAVHDA'S annual rattlesnake avoidance class will take place on May 17 at our May Training Day. This event occurs at Prado and will be provided by Bud Andrew (Andy). The cost is \$50. Your dog will be exposed to live rattlesnakes and learn how to avoid them. This event will be held on our regular training day and takes 10-15 minutes per dog. Contact Guido at 562-598-3285 or g.deil@verizon.net to pre register.

TRAINING GROUP ANYONE?

- **Be understanding of people's diverse schedules.** Few will be able to make every group session. Try and be flexible.
- **Training groups will not necessarily be faster** as more dogs are training the benefit is the knowledge of the group and the ability to efficiently set up and move from one training area to another.
- **Don't allow training groups to turn into competitions** between member's dogs. This will be counterproductive. All are there to learn and improve.
- **Pitch in. Everyone. Don't let anyone person be overworked.** Arrive on time and be prepared to work. If circumstances make it difficult to be there on time offer to be the tear down person and let others leave early.
- **Respect others time.** If Fieldwork is a 10 minute search do not somehow expand your time into 30 minutes. If you need more practice do so after the group leaves.
- **Leave the training grounds as you found them.** Properly dispose of trash, birds, shells, etc. .
- **Gun handling safety is top priority.** Talk to group about what feels safe to you and what doesn't.
- **Say What?** Use ear protection when shooting. I said . . .

Send your DOG to



**WHERE
MEMBERS
TEACH OTHERS
HOW TO TRAIN
THEIR BIRDDOG**

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TRAINING GROUP ANYONE?

**WHERE
MEMBERS
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HOW TO TRAIN
THEIR BIRDDOG**

- **Drive only on established roads and trails.** There is no quicker way to lose permission from the landowner .
- **If a landowner is allowing your group to train on their land seek how you may in someway compensate them.** This does not necessarily need to be cash. Possibly a gift card to a local restaurant. Tickets to the movies or discounts on services provided by one of your training group members. They may even enjoy hunting with your group once per year.
- **Keep the training moving.** Do not have excess conversation between dogs or when transitioning. Try and keep the dogs near your training area to quickly switch from one dog to the next. What is the most efficient way to plant birds? Possibly use a two-way radio to get efficiency and rhythm while you are working the dogs.
- **Do not let your dog bother other dogs or people.** When not working your dog keep him in crate or staked out. Loose dogs will inevitably bother the others training. Chronic barking dogs should wear bark collar or be kept at a reasonable distance away from the group.
- **What happens in training group stays in training group.** Dogs are going to have good days and bad days. Never gossip (i.e. talk) about others' dogs. Everyone is there to improve , not compete.
- **Limit who may attend training group.** If you would like someone else to attend talk to group members before bringing them and if anyone hesitates do not invite them. Keep the integrity of the group. Do not make it open training day.
- **Be careful with other's equipment.**
- **Birds are costly. Pay your share.**
- **When throwing bumpers or birds be consistent.** Try and make the throws the same for all dogs, unless the handler requests otherwise.
- **It may take a few attempts to find the right group for you.** Be patient. You only need two or three other people to have a great group!



TRAINING DAY

TRAINING is simply the process of decreasing uncertainty in any given situation



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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APRIL TRAINING DAY

"When an eighty-five pound mammal licks your tears away, then tries to sit on your lap, it's hard to feel sad." *Kristan Higgins*

Trust
your dog



Several members chipped in on building a picnic table to be placed by the NAVHDA POND. This will be enjoyed by all!! Thank you! Special thanks to Jon Vesely, Jon Auer, and



BIRD DOG VOCABULARY

Creeping: This is the opposite of being staunch. It means that your dog breaks point and tries to creep up on the bird. This is unacceptable behavior and must be corrected immediately. A dog that creeps will flush the bird before the hunter arrives.

Biddable: For bird dogs, we use this term for a dog that takes instruction well and is then obedient.

Blinking: This term is used when your dog becomes bird shy. When it scents a bird and should establish a point, it avoids the bird and will pretend the bird is not there. This is frequently caused by human error due to a bad bird experience.

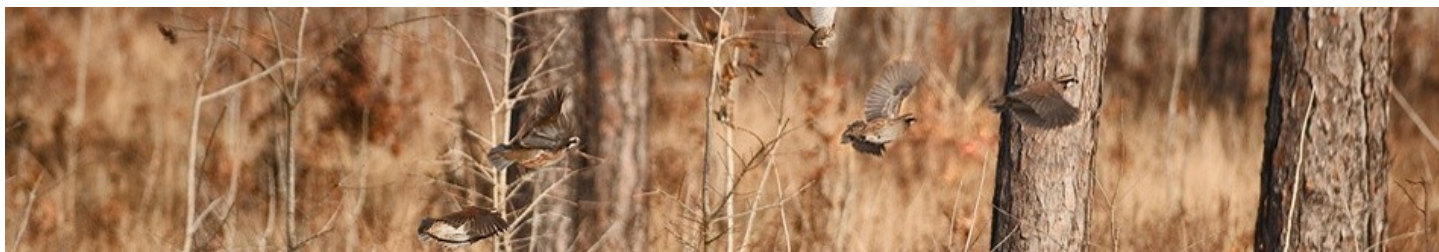
Broke dog: This term is the same as steady to wing and shot. It means that the dog has been broken of his desire to execute natural instincts...like chasing a flushed bird. Some are confused about this term. They say it means breaking a dog's spirit. That's not the meaning of a broke dog. The dog is putting your will above his instincts.

Staunch: This word refers to a dog on point that remains firm. The bird is there and he does not relax until his handler has released him. This behavior is the first step in training a pointing dog. It's also the minimum accepted manners in the field. A dog that is staunch, or firm while on point, is a more natural behavior since most predators pause before attacking their prey. With a pointing dog, we're simply elongating the pause.

Steady: Although often used in the same manner as staunch, it really has a different meaning. Steady means that the dog remains staunch when pressured by outside influences. For example, if a dog remains firmly on point when a bird flushes, he's steady to the flush. Unlike the pointing pause, this is not a natural behavior. It is natural for a dog to chase its prey.

Steady to wing and shot: This behavior is the Holy Grail of bird dog training. It separates the brag dog from the ill mannered or the chaser. This means that your dog remains staunch and steady when a bird flushes and the bird is shot. Since this behavior is not natural to predator instincts, it takes more time to achieve this result. It will often take three to four years to achieve this behavior, however, it's worth the effort. Steady to wing and shot provides a more safe and controlled environment for your dog. There is absolutely no downside to having a dog steady to wind and shot. Make this your goal for the year.

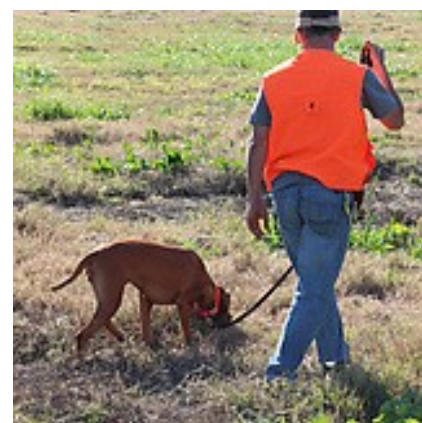
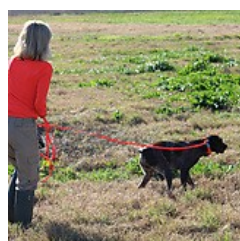
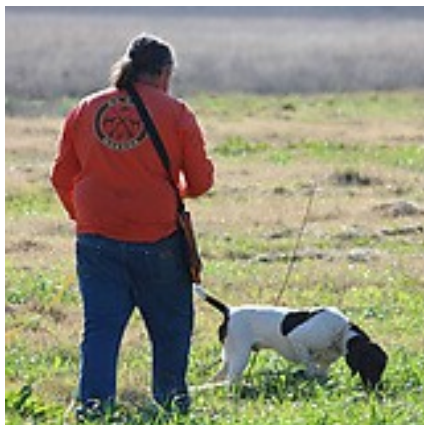
Soft mouth: This means that a dog that retrieves our bird and delivers it in a manner that has not destroyed any meat. A dog that chews on a bird after locating and before delivering it to the shooter has a hard mouth.





Thank you to **Shirley Olsen** and **Kevin Billy** for taking these photos. More photos can be seen on [IM-GUR.COM](https://www.imgur.com) search **SOCAL NAVHDA**. Also: **FACEBOOK**





March Training Day photos previously not published. An incredible amount of different training activities happen at each training day. Some attend training days and train in other Prado fields or ponds while dropping back into the NAVHDA POND area for lunch. Training needs are diverse and the Prado facility is perfect for variety!!

**WHERE
MEMBERS TEACH
OTHERS HOW TO
TRAIN THEIR
BIRDDOG**



If you have any unique, memorable moments while training, hunting or when you are in the midst of a local adventure please snap a photo and email it to us. We would love to share that memory with your fellow members. Email these memories to gary_johnson@busdk12.com.

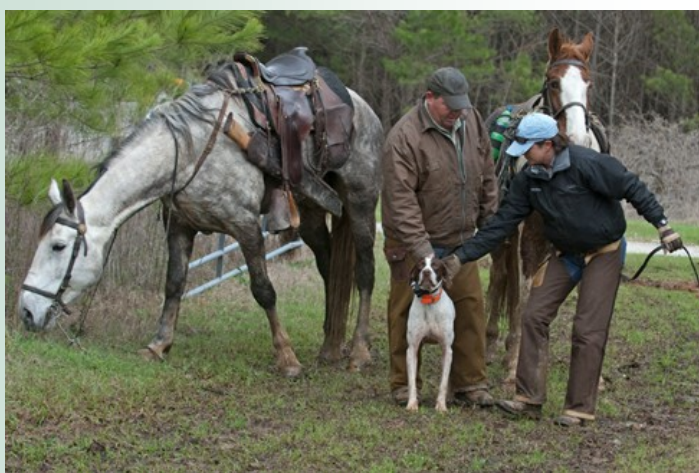
SOCAL NAVHDA says Thanks!

NAVHDA Chapters are composed of people from all walks of life. Young and old, short and tall, everyone is welcome. Many of our members have outstanding skills in areas other than dog training. If you have a skill that you would be willing to share to help the chapter please email one of the officers how you may help. Our group gets better as people give of themselves. This month's newsletter got significantly better as many emailed photos in. Not only is it appreciated by me, but ALL get to enjoy the photos.

Thanks.



Lunch is available at SOCAL NAVHDA events. Visiting with fellow members is strongly recommendedbut not mandatory.



Braque Francais



History of the Braque Francais

The development of the pointing dog style of hunting dates back to the 13th century and continued in earnest into the 16th century. The birthplace of pointing dogs was the Pyrenees Mountains on the France/Spain boarder and the regions north and south. Back in the 13th century, the area was ruled by French monarchy and was known as the Kingdom of Navarre. During the 15th century, the southern area was returned to Spanish rule while the northern area remained under French rule. While many breed historians credit the Spanish Pointer as the origin for today's pointing breeds, there is just as strong an argument for the French dogs as well. Over time, the French Pointers, also known as Braque du Pays (country Braques), were fairly common in France. Smaller populations of Braques became isolated throughout different regions and eventually developed different looks and hunting styles. They eventually became recognized as different breeds; Braque d'Auvergne, Braque du Bourbonnais, Braque St. Germain, Braque de L'Ariege, etc. During the late 1700's and early 1800's, with the advent of the industrial revolution, there was a gradual transition from a rural agrarian society to an urban industrial society. The need developed for a smaller, more compact Braque Francais. The larger original BF was not conducive to living in an urban setting. **In the mid to late 1800's, there was an influx of English Pointers into France. The various French Pointers became less popular but still existed in France.** By the early 1900's, there were 2 distinctly different types of Braque Francais breeds. **The original, larger, closer working BF-Grand Taille was officially renamed the BF-Gascogne in 1975. The smaller, faster, wider ranging BF-Petite Taille was renamed BF-Pyrenees in 1975.** The Pyrenees was preferred by those who wanted a dog that was more agile and better equipped to compete against other breeds in field trials and find game birds which were becoming more scarce.





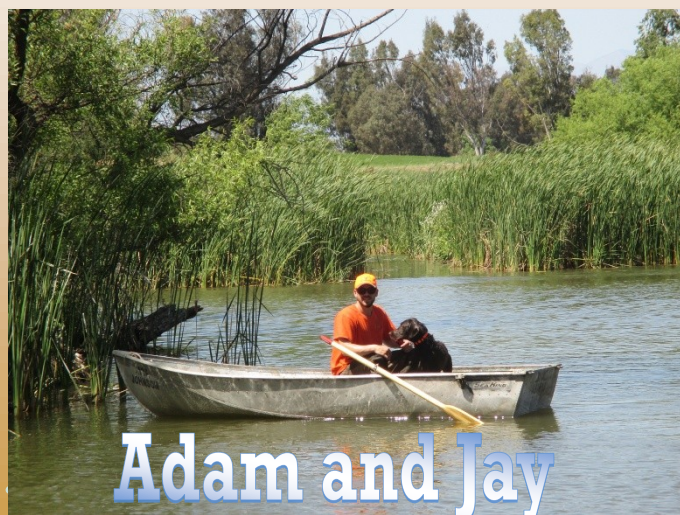
The Club du Braque Français (CBF) was formed in 1919. There were discussions as to which BF the club would support. While some preferred the original Braque, others felt the newer Braque should be promoted. Eventually, a compromise was made and the club decided to recognize both types and established 2 breed standards. World War II had a devastating effect on the breed, as it was almost completely wiped out. It took until the the 1960's for the breed to become re-established. Part of the re-establishment involved back breeding of English Pointers into the Bf-Pyrenees. **The BF-Pyrenees is by far the more popular today in France, and has a small but devoted group of breeders in Italy, Canada and the United States. The number of Gascogne in France is waning and although there are a few in North America, it has never developed a serious following. The Gascogne gene pool is dangerously narrow and its future is uncertain.** Both types of Braque Français are built for work. The Gascony type is more muscular, has a larger head, longer, lower-set ears and a more pronounced dewlap. The Pyrenean type can resemble a German Shorthaired Pointer in some ways, but has a different head shape and is generally smaller than the average GSP. The main difference between the two types of Braque Français is size. A male Gascony can be as much as 22 cm taller than a Pyrenean female, at least on paper. In reality, the difference is not that great and the preferred sizes for both differ by about 10 centimeters. **Coat and Color** Both breeds are short-haired but their standards mention that the Gascony type should have a coat that is rather thick and well-furnished, while the coat of the Pyrenean type is described as finer and shorter than that of the Gascony type. The coat color for both is usually a brown and white roan or white with brown patches. The standard also permits what is effectively a tri-colored coat: chestnut brown marked with tan (above the eyes, at the lips, and on the legs). Traditionally, the brown and white roan coat was the most common, but over the last 20 years the trend has been toward a white coat with large brown plates, or spots.



TRAINING DAY

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**WHERE
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TRAINING DAY

"Every dog has his day, unless he loses his tail, then he has a weak-end."

June Carter Cash (singer)



After dropping a pigeon on the retrieve Mojo gets a little special attention from Rodge with a force fetch ear pinch and the pigeon quickly put back in her mouth. Below Mojo gets a much needed drink on the 90 degree day after making a successful retrieve on the next pigeon.



"The Most Elusive Duck of March"

After Jim McDonald's Ryder searched for 60 minutes and Gary Johnson's Mojo searched for 30 minutes Raffi Barbarian turned his DD ELLY loose to find the duck. After about 30 minutes ELLY returns to present to his proud owner the "most elusive duck of March". Raffi primarily tests in the German system so you may see him using training drills slightly different than the typical NAVHDA trainer.

TRAINING DAY

"Looking for birds? Be Quiet, let your Dog work. He's smarter than you! " Jerry Seinfeld



Thanks to Clint Lager, Kevin and Staci Billy for sending in some photos from a recent training session with Duke and Mika



puppy guidelines

TEACHING CHECKLIST FOR THE NEW PUPPY OWNER

Basic commands are the building blocks used to train the complete versatile hunting companion. Every dog is different and training time will vary with age, mental maturity and trainability of each dog. **Single word commands (with consistency) are important to be taught before a correction is made.** These commands are commonly taught during yard work and are most effective when the only thing that changes is the yard (new location). Teaching each of these commands should start with using a verbal command. Progressing then to a visual command and then a silent command is very useful. **A command is never given unless it can be enforced.** This is primarily meant to be a general checklist and should not be thought of as a comprehensive training protocol. Use your NAVHDA training days, fellow members and mentors to provide a more thorough list. **This is to be used as a good starting point.**

Sit (stay): 8 to 12 weeks. This command is very important for control and obedience. Owning a pointing breed some would say to never teach sit. Yet it is VERY HELPFUL. **You may want to just wait until your dog has established a good solid routine in handling birds (pointing, etc).** It is difficult to be a good pointer when everytime there is pressure the dog defaults to sit.

kennel: 8 to 12 weeks. By teaching this command, your dog will learn that it is invited to enter or exit his living quarters. The command should be followed by praise after successful completion.

Here or Come: 10 to 12 weeks. **This command is the most important command we teach.** The timeliness of the response dictates the level of positive praise or correction required.

Whoa: 4 to 6 months. **The “whoa” command is the second most important command for pointing breeds.** “Whoa” provides a foundation from which to build future training.

Heel: 4 to 6 months. **This command teaches your dog to follow,** by your side and at your pace and direction, with their leg beside your leg and focused on you.

Hup (Quartering): 6 to 8 months. For pointing dogs, this command is used to teach forward motion and to remain in a windshield wiper pattern, from 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock. Use your checkcord and turn the dog repeatedly to help him understand “pattern”.

Down: 8 to 12 months. **This command is often used for duck hunting in a blind...**which, if properly trained, the versatile breed will excel.

Trained Fetch (Hold): 8 to 12 months. This command is used for the **prompt and proper retrieval of game and deliverance to the handler.** **This is mandatory and not an option for the dog.** It also establishes that ownership of the game is with the handler and not the dog.

puppy guidelines

Automobile: As soon as possible! Proper introduction to the automobile will help assure enjoyable (for both owner and dog) trips in the future. **Start with short rides and then lengthen** as the pup becomes more comfortable. Also, **do not feed or water for several hours before the trip**. Avoiding sickness will be more pleasurable for every one. Keep pup in the crate while traveling for his safety and peace of mind. The kennel is a “safe place”.

Kennel/Crate: 7 to 8 weeks.. When you go visit your pup, ask the breeder if you can simply introduce the puppy to a kennel. Start immediately with your pup. **This is their “den”. It is not a place to discipline. It is a place of comfort , safety and security. A happy place.**

Check Cords & Leads: 10 to 12 weeks. **These tools are the most underused (and least expensive) equipment available to the trainer.** Start using at ten weeks and continue through e-collar training.

Stake Out and Chain Gangs: 10 to 12 weeks. Start in a safe and shady area. **They learn while watching other dogs train.** They learn to cooperate with a lead. They learn patience and submission to the chain. Some trainers will not begin formal training until a pup learns to accept and “give in” to the chain. The theory is that they will not “give in” or accept the trainer until this happens.

Live Birds: 10 to 12 weeks. Yes, this is what it's all about. **Our goal is to activate the nose and turn on the light.** Introduce in a manner that will not scare the pup. Chasing the bird at this age is permitted. Liberated quail or pigeons work well.

Water: 12 to 16 weeks. **Make it enjoyable. Go in the water with them and play!** Use a ball, bumper or bird. Start with warm shallow water. If it is summer wait until the day heats up they will be eager to cool off.

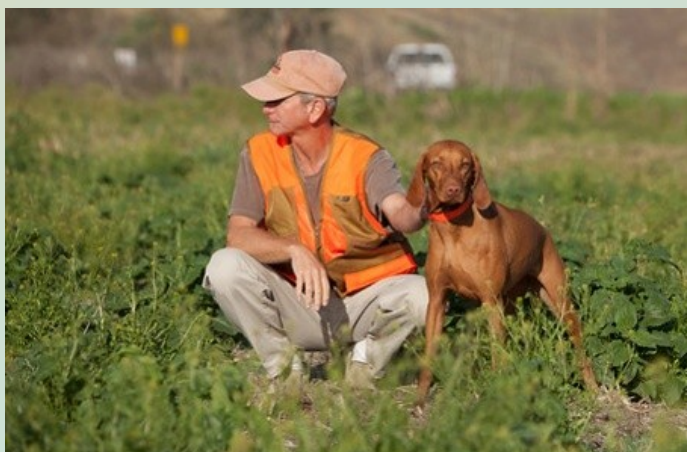
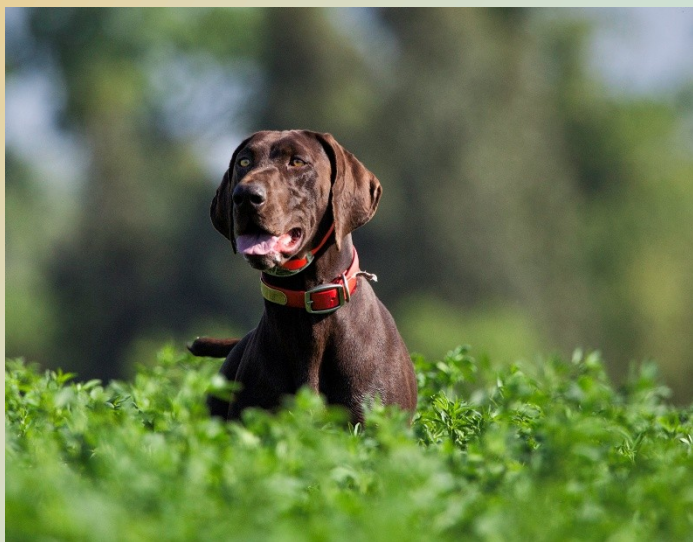
Gun: 4 to 6 months. **Dogs are not born gun shy or gun sensitive! It's usually improper exposure to guns that creates gun shyness...and takes a long time to fix. Do it right and avoid gun shyness.** Eventually, you want your dog to associate a gunshot with a falling bird. Careful planning is necessary. Talk to fellow NAVHDA members for ideas. Possibly associate food or birds with gunfire. Start far away (300yards) with a 410 or 22 fire a shot and move 50 yards closer then 50 yards closer. If dog shows fear do not continue try a couple weeks later. Have someone give pup a treat after each shot. A few days later progress to a 20 gauge and finally a 12 gauge.

E-Collar Training: 6 to 8 months. **If properly used, the e-collar can reduce the training time significantly.** Get some training with the e-collar before using it. One can seriously damage their dog misusing this tool. **Used correctly it is wonderful. When in doubt don't stimulate. Never stimulate to punish.** Do not teach with the e-collar. Use the checkcord. Once the behavior is learned transfer your corrections to the e-collar for convenience and mobility.

TRAINING DAY

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."

—Roger Caras (photographer and writer)



Do not give a command you cannot enforce

Litter Announcement!

If you are a SOCAL NAVHDA member and have a litter announcement we would be happy to share that with our members, just give us the details and we will spread the word. These 2 dogs are **BOTH SOCAL NAVHDA VERSATILE CHAMPIONS**. The sire is owned by Carlos Hernandez and the Dam by Guido Dei.

V.C. Miracle Mio vom Beaver Creeks X V.C. Alba vom Dei-Haus

Whelping Date:

Apr. 2nd, 2015

Our goal is to produce elite Deutsch Kurzhaar super dogs.

Imprinting of the Puppies will be done from day 1 to 8 weeks of age.

Imprinting really works. It "levels out" the whole litter. All puppies are consistently strong and confident. At the 49th day each puppy will take a PAT (Puppy Attitude Test); this will help to give the proper puppy to the proper customer.

This is a cross breeding with Pöttseipen and Hege-Haus blood lines. This is the third breeding of our kennel.

The first breeding of 5 puppies has produced 4 NAVHDA NA Prize I; 4 NAVHDA Utility Prize I; 2 NAVHDA Versatile Champion; 3 NADKC Derby Prize I, one Derby Prize II; 4 NADKC AZP Prize 1.

The second breeding has produced 3 NAVHDA NA Prize I, One NAVHDA NA Prize II pups ran the NA Test from 6 months to 8 months of age.

Alba has a beautiful search in the field and water; beautiful pointing style with a very high intensity: she received twice a "4H" in pointing. "H" stands for excellent in the German system. At age of 3 years she received the Versatile Champion title. At age of 5 she has very wide hunting experiences from ducks to pheasant to sharptail to Huns to quails and chukar.

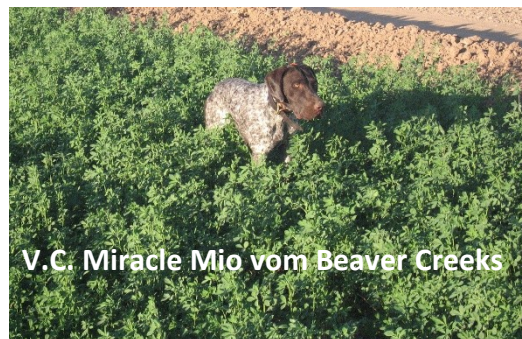
Mio is a proven stud that has generated a lot of very nice and talented puppies. Mio received a "4H" in nose and was awarded with the highest score in the 2011 AZP in North America. At age of 2 years and 10 months he received the Versatile Champion title.

Both Sire and Dam have great nose and great personality, with huge field desire and prey instinct whether upland or waterfowl hunting. They are both loving companions and very strong hunters. Sire and Dam have a DNA certificate for your peace of mind. Both of the dogs in this breeding have superior versatile qualities in field and water: all the attributes that you want in your hunting companions. This litter should have strong conformation, extremely high desire, and high prey drive with excellent nose.

Every puppy will be sold with it a Puppy Diary from day 1, which includes daily weight, photos, and notes on attitude, health, de-worming and vaccination.



V.C. Alba vom Dei-Haus

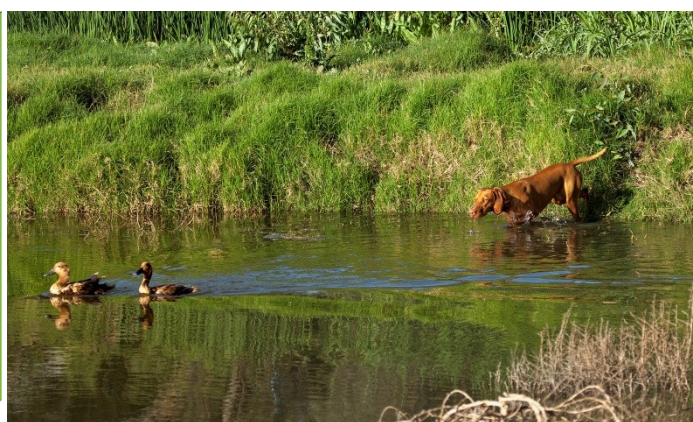


V.C. Miracle Mio vom Beaver Creeks

BIRD DOG VOCABULARY

Relocating: This term describes a dog's action, which is often confusing for the beginning trainer. It means that after a dog has gone on point, the dog encounters a fading scent cone and decides to break point and try to locate the bird again. The bird either flushed before the dog arrives or the bird became a runner. However, there was still enough scent to make the dog initially think the bird was there and should be pointed. Here's the confusing part for beginning trainers. They don't know if their dog is creeping or legitimately relocating. This is not meant to be a training column, however, my advice is to get to know your dog. If he frequently leaves his point and flushes birds, then he's creeping or chasing and he needs to be corrected. If he doesn't immediately flush a bird and runs forty yards and reestablishes a point, then he legitimately relocated and that's permissible. For a hunter, it's not only permissible but also desired. Pointing stale scent is a waste of time.

We love to share your hunting moments or dog outings with our fellow **SOCAL NAVHDA** members. Please email your photos or stories to **gary_johnson @ busdk12.com**



Thank you to **Dan Mick, Rodge Fradella** and **Kevin Billy** for the terrific photos this month



FORCE FETCH STAGE 4

by Guido Dei

Once you are confident with his table retrieving it is time to take the dog to the floor in front of the bench and make him sit at heel position with a dragline and a choker on him for control. Take a bumper or dowel with your free hand and put your other hand through the dog's collar and ask him to fetch as you offer him the object and he should take it without any trouble. **Once he has it in his mouth keep him at the heel position and keep his head up high and pet him as he is sitting there next to you holding firmly. Now grab the object and give the out command, put your hand through the collar and be ready to pinch the ear if he tries to drop the object. We have to get the dog to realize that just because we are not on the table anymore that we must have the same manners on the ground with zero tolerance for sloppiness or any refusal.** This is totally a new position for him because he has been facing you all of this time. **Ask him to heel with the object in his mouth for a few feet and then ask him to sit and hold.** Do this drill further and further having him sit a few times with it in his mouth. **Take it from him from time to time then ask him to take it from you and hold.** This drill will make him realize that the old days of running around and doing his own thing are a thing of the past. **This floor drill should be as near the training bench as possible just in case things start to go downhill.** We can start moving the dog outside for training after we get him retrieving a thrown dummy from a few feet away inside. Up until now for the past few weeks we have not thrown anything for the dog to retrieve. Sit the dog at heel with the drag rope and choker on and throw the bumper ten feet in front of you and command the dog to fetch it. As he picks it up, have him return to the front or heel position and sit down. **Hopefully he holds the object firmly until you slowly grab it and give him the release command.** If all goes well maybe you just got your first retrieve to hand for the first time ever. Keeping that drag rope on at all times is a must now when you train him out in the field or the yard. It only has to be about fifteen feet long or so to be effective for controlling the dog from a short distance. I know that this part of training is tedious and sometimes boring for both of you, but the end result is well worth the effort. Your dog will do what maybe only few other dogs can do out there in the field, and that is retrieve to hand proudly anything that you or your buddies have shot. Next lesson we will really get going on retrieving out in the field. Once your dog is confident at retrieving everything to hand from land and water, it opens up so many other training possibilities for future dog work.



If your drills are short and tough, dogs love them as long as you teach without punishment. Dogs thrive on challenge and reward and this will continue for their entire life. Keep it interesting, keep it challenging, keep it fair.

FORCE FETCH STAGE 5

Let's assume that if you are still with me that your dog has become totally crazy about fetching from short distances both dummies and dead birds with no hesitation. It's time to move outdoors to extend everything that we have accomplished thus far inside. We are always going to use this dragline of about 15 feet until we can totally trust the dog to come to heel every time he makes a retrieve. Start by airing him before you begin the heeling drill. Now heel him without a dummy and then with one in his mouth. Start and stop frequently and be sure that the dog sits as soon as you stop and holds the object firmly. If the dog gets sloppy or starts to mouth or play with the object, deal with this right away by heeling him up and grabbing his ear giving him a good firm pinch as you throw the dummy about ten feet while keeping the drag rope in your other hand. **Take it from him and toss it a few feet and command fetch or his name, whatever signal you will use when hunting to release the dog as he leaves your side for the retrieve. As the dog is picking up the object, step back a few feet and command heel as he returns to you to the heel position and sits at your left side. If he is doing well start throwing the bumper a little further each time you take him out for a session. By the fourth or fifth time out, you should be throwing the bumper or bird as least 50 to 80 feet (not yards) on short grass. We don't want to get into an extended hunt at this stage in heavy cover, this is strictly singles thrown by you in different directions on flat ground. Remember that you and your dog are becoming a team and he now realizes the object is yours and he is being asked to retrieve it for you. It's important that there are no distractions so the dog can stay focused on the exercise. These sessions are only going to last about 15 to 20 minutes which adds up To 15 to 20 retrieves in a good honest session. Allow the dog to take a drink, especially if it is warmer weather. This is where we are going to employ someone to throw the birds or bumpers for us at further distances. The dog is going to be a little confused at first because of the distraction of another person out there. It might be a good idea to find a place that has a fence, and have your helper throw from the other side onto your side. Keep this distance short at first and extend only if things are going well. Stay away from the water retrieves right now for the next little while until we are confident in the dog's ability to carry all objects firmly to the heel position. Start making the dog stay longer and longer before you release him for the retrieve. Keep In mind that he has to focus on where the bird fell, so send him before he tosses his head in another direction. The dog will learn to focus more and more on that fall location as time goes on. Start having your helper use a duck call to get the dog's attention before he throws the bird. This gets a young dog enthused about locking into the call in anticipation of the thrown object. Start putting duck decoys on the grass and walk your dog through them to get him used to them.**



FORCE FETCH STAGE 5

by Guido Dei

If he sniffs too long or tries to grab one, tell him to **leave it** as you give a good hard correction on lead. Now step back and throw a bird into the decoys and command the dog to fetch it up. If all goes well, throw it through the decoys to the other side, so that he now travels right through them to get the bird and returns through them with it. **You can start using the starter pistol around your dog as long as he is not gun sensitive. Have the dog at heel (on a drag rope of course) with your primer pistol in your right hand. Have a few decoys spread out about thirty feet from you and be sure that they are spread far apart. Have your partner blow his call as he throws the bird. Shoot at the bird at the top of the arc and send the dog a few seconds after it hits the ground. Here is the scenario that we have been working so hard for. The dog hears the duck call, looks out front and sees the bird in the air as you shoot it. He is sent on command through the decoys and picks up the bird cleanly, returns back through the decoys and comes to heel position holding the bird firmly prouder than a**

peacock. Dogs from six months to ten months old should be able to grasp this training. The only place not to train is in your own yard. That is a definite no no. Load the dog up and go anywhere but his leisure or play area. You might set up some low hurdles and have him jump them with the dummy in his mouth, or go up and down stairs. All this is to get him used to carrying the dummy over obstacles, up banks or down, through brush and never releasing it until you tell him to. It also keeps the exercise from getting boring and tedious for the dog. The hard boring work is behind you now, and from here on in training will be a lot more enjoyable because of this new control that you have. I know that it is only the start but the foundation is good and strong and can now support the dog that we will continue to build.





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