



SOCAL NAVHDA

ON POINT

NEWSLETTER January 2018



Ted Lauver & Kona



**Guido Memory
Accountability & Consequences**

**Pack Order
Puppy Pointers**

A Guido Memory

by Gary Johnson

Putting together the newsletter, I occasionally, okay frequently, draw a blank as to what content we should try to put in. Some months it is easier as we have just finished a test or hunting season is starting so we can throw in a few hunting thoughts. However, I frequently drive to work thinking, "What in the sam hill can we share with our 120 members this month?" We have members at all different levels of dog training so our audience is diverse. Generally my goal is to have at least one article on young dogs or puppies and one on adult dogs. However, this doesn't always happen. Young dog or senior canine I hope you can find one idea in each article that may apply to your situation. Usually an articles premise results from something observed while training or hunting. Going through the routine of training something unusual or unnoticed before occurs and the thought occurs that we should have an article on *that*. What qualifies me to be the author? Not much actually. Three years ago when asked to take over the newsletter, I commented that I may be the least qualified person in the chapter. Thinking about it later, my qualifications to lead my own dogs were equally unimpressive. But, we were going for it anyway!! Jumping in with both feet and hoping for the best, I began. Initially, Guido Dei wrote many of the articles and was very helpful sorting out my computer woes. Once he was in the middle of a Montana field hunting grouse and took my phone call to try and sort out my technological problems with the newsletter. This giving spirit demonstrated the giving volunteer aspect of a NAVHDA organization. Guido always gave me enough help to "get the job done". My realization about the problem with written content was that people were rarely eager to write articles for me. If we were going to have articles consistently I would have to learn to write about dogs. This meant I would need to learn more about our hunting dogs. . . And of course training them. Unqualified, I pushed forward anyway and started trying to write. The surprise was that as I focused on writing about a dog problem it seemed as if I began to understand my own dogs better. This taught me **the important lesson that frequently the dog cannot improve until the handler improves.** We alone are the solution to our problems. So how do we improve. **Become a sponge for dog training information and try to train regularly. The importance of a mentor cannot be overstated.** Much of dog training cannot be learned in a book as you need to "read" the dog and try and fit your solution to his unique problem. My Mojo had a problem with the water retrieve of dropping the bumper immediately after exiting the water. This is a common problem. I had been working on this for weeks.



Inside this Issue

A Guido Memory

Page 2,3

So You Bought a Puppy

Page 4

Accountability & Consequences

Page 5,7,8,10,13,14,15

Being the Alpha Leader

Page 9,11,12,16,17,19

Puppy Pointers

Page 20

Training Day Guidelines & Officers

Page 6

Sponsors

Page 21

The Winger Zinger & the Vault

Page 26,27,28

Scheduled Events

Page 22

A Guido Memory

by Gary Johnson

Guido had patiently watched Mojo and I struggle time after time. One week he finally came over and watched Mojo drop several retrieves as I tried repeatedly to fix the problem. He then walked over and asked if I had ever given her a stern NO as she started to drop it. I responded with a meek NO. He told me to throw the bumper again and he would demonstrate. As Mojo came out of the water and began to drop the bumper Guido responded with the harshest Italian American gangster "NO!" that I had ever heard. He then quickly picked up the bumper and pushed it into the shocked Mojo's mouth. He then looked at me and commanded "Again!" Into the water the bumper was thrown and Mojo exploded into the water. Exiting the water Mojo started to dip her head to drop it and Guido responded with his Italian gangster "NO!" again and Mojo quickly picked up the dropped bumper and brought it to me. She was not going to mess with a straight up no BS Mafioso. He then told me to do the same and do a couple more retrieves. That was the last day Mojo dropped bumpers coming out of the water. One 70 year old Italian American with a gangster NO had convinced her to make an honest retrieve . . . The whole process took about 10 minutes. That moment convinced me the importance of having a mentor. **Training your dog cannot simply be learned by reading a book or watching a YOUTUBE video. A more important skill than reading the book is reading your dog.** This is where a person with experience can often help. **Your dog will make simple movements that tell us what they're thinking.** Are they confused or disobedient? Are they trying to please you or give you the middle paw? **With time you will know.** Initially, an extra set of experienced eyes will help.

The purpose in sharing this personal NAVHDA dog training/newsletter journey is simply to share that sometimes in writing these articles it sort of gets out of control. What started out as a short little thought becomes a major debacle. Midway through writing the article I am unsure of how to end it much less how it started. At that moment some foolishness starts to creep in. This allows me to keep my sanity and question it simultaneously! Some insanity with a touch of dog truth occurs . . . hopefully. This month that happened a couple of times as I tried to tackle the subject of an alpha dog and it evolved into multiple roles within a dog pack. This topic seemed like something I understood until researching it. At that point I concluded how little I knew about the topic of pack order. If you find this topic interesting there is a ton of material written on it. Some of the philosophies directly contradict others. It was impossible to share all angles and you received my quite lengthy perspective taken from researching the topic. The other article is on holding your dog accountable and having consistent and fair consequences for their actions. This topic is observed every time one trains dogs. All handlers have a somewhat unique approach. Interestingly enough is that **many of the top performing test dogs have received similar corrections WITH consistency** whereas many of the **lower performing dogs have been given far more "latitude" with fewer corrections and less consistency** in making those corrections. Kind of like children.

Please feel free to write articles and submit them. Our standards are quite low. If it has words it usually is a "good article". Many of you have had great "dog" experiences that members would love to hear about. There also are many very accomplished dog handlers in SOCAL NAVHDA that we could learn from and would love to occasionally (or more often) have them share their thoughts. **It is nice to get articles from a "different viewpoint".** Ellen Kincaid sharing last month about her journey with D.O.G. was meaningful and appreciated by many. **Sometimes the discipline of writing about a situation gives us more clarity about the situation allowing us to improve.** Happy Training.



So you bought a new pup and somehow found SOCAL NAVHDA. Welcome! We are glad you found us. Many will ask/encourage you to test and this was probably not a part of your plan. It may feel like ego on the part of members. However, that has little to do with it. **The members know that you have a "hunting dog" and training for the test will teach him to hunt AND most importantly your dog will LOVE IT!** Your skills as a handler will improve as you prep your pup for a test. *Your dog will become more disciplined and your bond will grow stronger.* Your dogs favorite day of the week will be training day at Prado. By the end of year two you should have a pretty disciplined dog. Training days will probably now shift to hunting days. You don't hunt?? No problem. Get a license and a gun and your dog will now show YOU where the birds are. **It can be a very exciting journey if you are open to making some adjustments** for the sake of your new best friend. Please be patient. Learning the discipline to being an outstanding hunting dog is a step by step process. Try and remember learning to read. First the ABC"s. Then we learned to put a few letters together and eventually learned a word or two. Once we got to word eight or ten it was off to the races and no looking back. Your dogs progress will be similar. The basic simple stuff will probably take longer than you think it should. Once your dog gets the hang of you teaching and them learning they will seem eager for you to teach them new "lessons". If they look confused or frustrated you are going too fast. Try and make the task shorter or easier. Suddenly your dog will start to connect the dots and make progress very quickly. This will probably happen somewhere between ages one and a half and three. You probably will forget how long it took you to teach them something basic like the correct way to carry a bumper.

. Happy training!



Accountability and Consequences

by Gary Johnson

Like many of you my life has changed drastically adding a bird dog (or 3!) to the family. Many of us did not know how significantly our lives would change. Fortunately, the change can be for the better.

Unfortunately, sometimes it is not. **Your dog tends to live in a black and white world.** We humans try and muddle black and white into a multitude of shades of grey. Your dog wants rules that are clearly defined. For example, is it okay to eat human food from the table or not? Some people's rules change according to who is home. Strictly and only dry kibble when company is in the home but possibly, occasionally, table scraps when there is no company. Your dog will be confused by the situational ethics regarding his nutrition. This is only one example of the many "crazy" rules we expect our dog to know. **We need to be clear and consistent.** This table scrap situation is not consistent to the humans in the house or to the dog. Five years ago we bought our first GSP Griffin. Calling the breeder to look for some "new owner" pointers while we awaited his arrival the breeder stated that shortly we would have birds at our house to help train the new pup. Quickly I interjected that we were getting a "bird dog" and would never be getting birds. He did not push the topic but shortly thereafter we were getting another GSP "Mojo" so that young Griffin would not get lonely. This breeder also asked me when we would be "getting birds". Surprised, yet seeing a pattern, I was prepared for the question and quickly responded "no birds for us only dogs."

It's now 5 years later and we trained again this weekend. **Our household has completely changed. . . For the better.** One day each week our dogs get their moment of pure joy. On that day they will be hunted, tested, trained or something similarly fun for them. This morning when I left for work there were 14 pigeons on my front patio. They were loudly letting me know that not only should I hurry to work but don't forget to feed them before I left. Yes we now occasionally have birds at our house. **We sometimes need to alter our perspective.**

Training Days Guidelines & Procedures

- (1) Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly when he/she is not working on a drill. Using a leash is strongly recommended
- (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.

SOCAL NAVHDA OFFICERS

President

jimmymac555@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

delta@tstonramp.com

Secretary

delta@tstonramp.com

Treasurer

genealogylinda@yahoo.com

Director of Publications

760 559 3173

Jim McDonald

Rodge Fradella

Irene Fradella

Linda Mitchel

Gary Johnson

garyjohnson0515@gmail.com

Training Coordinator

Tim Shepherd

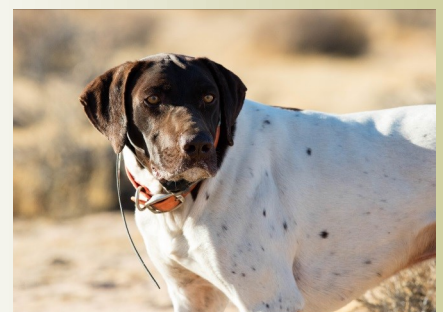
Training Coordinator

562 -335 -3053

Training Coordinator

Jon Vesely

Jon Auer





Accountability and Consequences

by Gary Johnson

For a few weeks this summer I had 28 Mallard ducks at my house. My wife only approves as the birds bring the dogs so much joy. My HOA would NOT have approved of 14 pigeons or 28 ducks! **It's unknown how many local laws were broken** with that escapade. We are now living on the ragged edge. It's exciting. However, if you do not get caught with the ducks . . . did it really happen. Reminds me of the college course where the big question is, "If the tree fell in the forest and nobody heard it, did it really happen." Maybe that wasn't a college course but simply a really bad dream. Sometimes it's tough to tell the difference. I certainly remember a recurring nightmare this summer of a woman's voice yelling repeatedly, "NO MORE DUCKS! Surprisingly, that voice in my dream sounded very similar to my wife's voice. Possibly it wasn't my nightmare but HER nightmare and I was hearing her actual voice. Maybe if a voice is in your head but nobody actually heard it . . . it didn't happen. That is the \$130,000 question. I can forget a lot of things for that kind of money.

Back to reality. **If you are serious about training your dogs you must have consistent access to birds.** If you do not get your dog into regular contact with birds are YOU really serious about having a trained bird dog. It's okay if you are not serious. Really it's okay. But YOU did purchase a "BIRD" dog and NOT a cockadoodle or French Bulldoodle. It's a 100% pure BIRD dog. If you are serious about improving your dogs life you must look at all of your actions and inactions to see if these are helping or hindering your goal. **Never forget that your dog thinks in black and white, right or wrong. Your dog truly wants to please you but is always fighting with that inner desire to please himself first.**

We humans are not very impressive. We cannot agree on much and are not very disciplined. Quite likely each of us is the most inconsistent thing in our dog's life. Sad to say but as earth's most impressive mammal we create a lot of problem's for ourselves. Let's just list a few of these problem's we humans created: drug addiction, casinos, unattainable expectations, Facebook, caloric awareness, the Bachelor season 21, Tinder, the Bachelor season 22, Twitter, yoga pants and many other inventions humanity should rethink. Reviewing that list many of you are upset to see yoga pants on the list of man's creations that have created problems .



Accountability and Consequences

by Gary Johnson

But if you are truly honest with yourself, some people should never, never wear yoga pants. It is not just a crime, but a felony against all mankind. Envision your NAVHDA members at training day: Orange hats, orange vests, shaggy beards, razor stubble, shotguns, dogs on leashes and everyone wearing yoga pants. Definitely, a serious crime. Quickly, think of one NAVHDA member who should NOT wear yoga pants. No! Don't do that! It's a vision you cannot remove from your memory! Memories cannot be undone as toothpaste cannot be squeezed back into the tube. You also cannot take back most of the actions you take with your dog. Our dogs are extremely forgiving. It's just that we confuse them. **We need to have crystal clear expectations for our dogs.** If you cannot explain your rules and consequences for your dogs to your spouse then your dogs' probably do not understand either. **Dogs do not understand "exceptions" to the rule.** Truthfully, most of us humans do not either. Yet these exceptions seem to enter our mindset regularly as we try to rationalize our actions. Canines must think we are crazy. We name large shrimp "jumbo shrimp". The news reports that a child was "found missing". Our human behavior is so inconsistent that cats would call us "seriously funny" even though to dogs we are "clearly confused". "Anarchy rules" our mindset. Oxymorons leave us scratching our head looking for clarity. Yet as I now have days, weeks, months and years devoted to this dog journey, frequently I am left scratching my head with confusion as I watch people train. If your pointing dog is refusing to point or is chomping on birds there is confusion or rebellion occurring. The real question is why? In training our dogs it is absolutely not important what *we* perceive, **it is only important what your dog perceives.** If your dog is performing with inconsistency or confusion please stop immediately and take a few minutes to try and analyze what message you are truly sending. Do not let anarchy rule. This would be a great time to have a couple experienced NAVHDA members observe and offer an opinion.

Accountability and Consequences. **Your dog needs to know the rules. These rules need to be clearly defined at your house and in the field.** If you find yourself frustrated with your dog, possibly the rules aren't clear. If you find yourself repeating commands, possibly the rules aren't clear. **Dogs want order.**

Being the Alpha Leader

by Gary Johnson

Prior to NAVHDA this topic had zero meaning. We had dogs for a few decades and never considered their social hierarchy. In those days, the pack leader was which ever dog could dominate the bowl of food . . . and maneuver to get the most attention from my wife and I. We certainly were not “pack leaders”. We were not the “alpha” in the relationship. However, in those days our dogs from the local pound had a simple job. Protect the back yard from unwanted visitors and bark if anyone lingered nearby. Now that we have completely jumped off the cliff into the NAVHDA ocean our dog world has forever changed. Each dog is now a valued family member. Each dog is expected to know his place and act appropriately. Somewhere in this quest to become an excellent handler/owner one discovers that your dog changes from a willing cute puppy to unwilling and stubborn. The pup that eagerly retrieved a bumper because you asked, now looks at you, flips you the middle paw, drops the bumper and slow walks away. It’s almost human behavior. You want to go to Egypt and live in de’NILE, but you know, absolutely know that something needs to be done. Many owners of dominant alpha dogs live in denial. This dog typically has few boundaries and limitations. Commands are simply suggestions. Frequently owners treat the dog as a small human baby using cute little baby talk. Yet, the dog is no longer Maverick the cute puppy but a 90 lb slobbering prey driven king of the house. How does everyone else know there is a problem? Commands are given repeatedly and not followed. Other dogs cower. Maverick walks assertively and aggressively towards other dogs towering over their neck or head daring them to move. Maverick stands in front of people and refuses to move. Sadly, the owner is the last to know.

Attending our January NAVHDA training day, I witnessed some very concerned owners of young high drive hunting dogs. These dogs were a little over a year old. In a dog’s life this is the beginning of puberty. Owners can no longer attribute conduct to being a “cute little puppy”. Researching this article, it was surprising to me how much material is written on “pack behavior” and being “your dogs alpha”. As with most things in the dog world there are some wildly conflicting views on these topics. Feel free to research alpha dog behavior or social hierarchy of dogs. My position is that dogs naturally have a very structured order when relating to each other. They naturally seek stability and this occurs when each pack member has a role.



kbillyphoto



Phyllis & Dakota



Accountability and Consequences

by Gary Johnson

If you find yourself repeating commands, possibly the rules are not clear. . . . **Dogs want consistency.** However, we as people frequently do NOT want order or consistency. If you watch dogs interact with each other there is generally one leader. This dog will insist that each dog do what they are supposed to. Hear a dog growling or physically bumping into or blocking the path of another dog? This dog could be enforcing the rules. If the other dogs refuse to cooperate things can escalate. Do not worry it usually sounds much worse than it is. They are just sorting things out. Why do I suggest you watch groups of dogs? We need to learn that it is OK to sort things out. **It is OK to have consequences for your dog** not listening to you. We need to understand that in the dogs world there are consequences required for a dog not following the rules. **Action must be taken. Order and balance must be attained.** It is interesting that the emotionally balanced dog generally does not give any more "punishment" than necessary. They make certain that the other dog *gives into* their request and understands what needs to be done but take great effort to not inflict any undue pain. **They simply want compliance. We should learn from their example.**

We as individuals training our dogs generally teach basic obedience with treats (positive motivation). Once the action is learned use of treats is diminished and at some point lack of obedience will result in some form of correction (negative motivation). The e-collar used correctly is an excellent tool to make corrections. Witnessing someone use an e-collar to punish a dog is agonizing. **Remember any good tool can be misused.**

Being the Alpha Leader of your House

by Gary Johnson

Their at most can be 2 leaders. One male and one female but generally there is only one. This innate order transfers into their relationship with humans. If you are having serious frustrations with your dog's behavior it is possible that your dog does not see you as the alpha leader in the household, but simply as another member of the pack and possibly subservient to them. For you to truly have the relationship with your dog that was envisioned it is imperative that you become the "alpha leader" of your pack. This position is not simply given to the person that buys the kibble. This position must be earned. It is a position of respect. Many owners expect their dogs to relate to them on human terms. They use cute little baby voices to talk to them. Dogs are not looking for this type of interaction. Their alpha is one that looks to keep stability and order in the pack. The alpha controls the resources. The resources are food, sleeping position and appropriate activity. When a pack member gets out of line the alpha quickly responds with an appropriate correction to keep them in line. The alpha does not bark (yell) incessantly but rather blocks the offending dogs path and nudges it back in line. The alpha possibly prevents the offender from resting in a prime location or mingling with other members. In extreme cases it will exhibit more dominance by grabbing the other dog by the scruff of the neck or the nose. It's important to have some understanding of how the dogs Alpha interacts with subordinate members so that we can become the Alpha in their world. Sadly, your dog will not automatically give you the respected Alpha position. It must be earned. Since they do not speak human we must communicate with them in a manner they understand. Many books have been written on this topic. Due to it's complexity do not expect this to be comprehensive but more general in nature. This article will address the following: the three roles in a dog pack; is your dog the "alpha" of your household; steps you can take to re-establish your position as the "alpha" in your household.



Being the Alpha Leader of your House

by Gary Johnson

Three positional roles in a dog pack.

Alpha – This is the leader. This dog sets the rules. They want a stable environment and will do what's needed to make it happen. Characteristics of an alpha: Will hold their tail almost vertical and lean forward, will growl or bite to protect food, toys and resting spot, will pull incessantly on leash, will not follow commands unless you have earned their respect, will attack other dogs, extremely intelligent.

Beta – This is the “I want to be a leader”. This dog frequently has the physical characteristics of the alpha but lacks the social skills to establish order and maintain a stable environment. Characteristics of a Beta: will jump at you, will nip at you, loves keep away with toys, will chew on your belongings, always wants to walk in front, wants to be up on furniture or beds with you, will play “a bit rough”, wants to nudge other animals out of way to get attention from you, will play until complete exhaustion, holds tail at body mid line or higher, will put their mouth on you when playing.

Omega – This is the follower in the pack. Is not seeking to be the leader. Characteristics of this dog: won't jump on you, won't nip at you, will look away when you look at them or pet them, hesitant to come to you, releases an object in mouth easily, sensitive to discipline, can break their spirit if harsh training methods used, tail held low, often prefer to eat their food when you walk away, get along well with most dogs, make good therapy dogs

Are you the alpha leader in your household?

This can be a very personal question we do not want to face. Nobody but nobody wants to admit that the cute little Jack Russel terrier is the household leader. However if you know anything about Jack Russel's most of them are controlling their entire household but do not have to pay the mortgage. It is each owners/handlers responsibility to set the boundaries, limitations and expectations for each dog in your household. Dogs are looking for consistency and fairness in their Alpha leader. Each pack seeks stability. Therefore if you do not consistently enforce the rules it is confusing to your pack. If you are not consistent they will challenge you more frequently. Being the alpha does not require you to be mean or cruel to your dog. However, you have to be willing to prevent your dog from moving where they are not permitted to go and physically move them to the appropriate place. Using a leash indoors is a good idea while instilling your position as Alpha. Simply preventing their freedom of movement sends a strong message. This can be done by standing on the leash or placing them in the kennel. When it is time for their bathroom break you can change to a checkcord. As they finish give them a short controlled walk on the leash. With a strong Alpha dog it is helpful to put them in a crate while in the house. Freedom of movement in the house increases their belief that they are in charge. When out of the crate keep them on a leash. This is training them that you will be the alpha and not a permanent routine.



Accountability and Consequences

by Gary Johnson

If we refuse to correct misbehavior the dog will never improve but get progressively less responsive. As owners and handlers of our dogs **we must hold them accountable and give them the correction they deserve** for not having the correct behavior. **Consequences or corrections must be measured, appropriate and consistent.** If you are not willing to make the correction do not expect any consistency in performance from your dog. **Your dog WANTS you to be consistent. Your dog WANTS you to provide a clear path to success.** The use of an e-collar to re-enforce your commands is the simplest and quickest correction you can give to your dog when they misbehave. **Never give your dog a command you are not willing to enforce.** If you are not willing to enforce it, this is not a command but simply a request. How can we humans understand this? Everyday driving we are requested to follow the speed limit. Yet, do you a noble, honorable human being follow the speed limit? What correction would you need to become a consistent follower of the speed limit? Instead of speeding tickets could we put e-collars on repeat offenders? Speeding 5 miles an hour over your collar goes beep. Ten miles an hour a polite small electrical shock. Thirty miles an hour a giant electrical shock to your neck that feels like you just bit into a habanero pepper. Would people have different driving habits?

Accountability and Consequences

by Gary Johnson

I have a friend we will refer to as “006.5” who comes over for barbecue a couple times per year. Occasionally he has too many adult beverages and yells out, “Bring on the E-Collar!” This is a fun little moment for all as “006.5” tightens the collar around his neck to see how much of the Garmin Tritronics Pro 500 he can handle. “006.5” always starts at Level 1 and works his way up. Level 2 that most of my dogs train with low, medium and high seem to get his attention but not really hurt. When we hit level 3 it becomes a challenge and may not be quite so fun for “006.5”. Hitting level 4 he generally concedes quickly yelling something like “Big Dog Out!”. This is not recommended behavior at most barbecues. You should occasionally check your e-collar on yourself to see if it is working correctly. Simply start at level one and work your way up gradually. It should have a consistent steady increase from level to level. Please do not compete with “Big Dog 006.5”. Simply **be aware of how your training tools work and occasionally check them.**

Do not give a command you are not willing to enforce. It is humorous to hear people yell “whoa,whoa, whoa.,,,,,,” as their dog refuses to stop. If you have no ability to stop the dog and he runs away from you as you yell whoa there is a miscommunication occurring . Possibly, the dog translates your “WHOA” into “GO”. Translating English into Bird Dog he is hearing “GO, GO, GO” **Teach Whoa only where you have the immediate ability to stop the dog.** The use of a leash or check-cord is helpful. The “wonderlead” also works fine.

Make certain your dog understands your commands perfectly before you try and use an e-collar to help Teach using the check-cord and treats. **Once learned demand compliance using your e-collar.** Never give a command you are not willing to enforce. If you’re willing to enforce a command **you should have the e-collar remote in your hand before you give the command.** If they do not respond to the command simply tap the e-collar remote at a low setting and it will be a surprise that your dog knew all along what to do. They are just insisting that you do your job. That again is for you to provide accountability to earn their respect.



Accountability and Consequences

by Gary Johnson

Dog training legend William Kohler states that you only have **1.2** seconds to correct a dog's misbehavior or they do not make a connection from your discipline to their misbehavior. The nice thing is that as you become more consistent with holding your dogs' accountable and having consequences to their misconduct they will be more consistent with their performance. Recognize that many of your better dog trainers are training regularly to try and find that occasional slip-up that their dog makes **AND** then make a correction. 99% of the time the response may be perfect, yet **they train repeatedly waiting** for that 1% error so the opportunity to correct can be made. **They want to hold their dog accountable and give a consequence to their inappropriate action.** What does this mean? **As your dog gets better and better you need to watch closer. One needs to be ready at all times as your dog may only make one mistake in a training session. Excellent! Your dog made a mistake!** That allows you to help him get better with a correction. Each of us must individually decide what will be a correctable offense. **In our dog family, a dog on point is not allowed to take a step, even one, or they will receive a correction.** A bumper or bird dropped will get a prompt correction also. An inexperienced dog may get an additional command. If not followed quickly and promptly a correction with the e-collar will be given. **Your method needs to be very consistent.** Your dogs must understand the consequences to their misbehavior. **Being held accountable is not a bad thing. It's a great thing.** Once your dogs know exactly what is acceptable it allows them to relax and be confident that they will **never** receive random punishment. Obedience and Accountability . . . it's a good thing! Happy Training.



Being the Alpha Leader of your House

by Gary Johnson

Never give a command that you cannot enforce. An alpha dog is used to setting the agenda. By controlling their household movement you are re-establishing pack order. The leash and crate are your friend. Using them will help your dog to become the companion envisioned at the puppy stage.

You are the pack leader. Your dog should never obstruct your path to where you are going.

Being lower on the social hierarchy they MUST get out of your way. Do not allow them to block your path. For a great visual on establishing dominance using physical position watch a video of border collies herding cattle or sheep. They repeatedly block the path of the bigger animal and eventually the larger animal gives in and allows the small dog to move them wherever that little dog wants them to go. Try and really watch their eye contact. The border collie will boldly stare at a disobedient cow until the large cow gives in and looks the other way. That "looking away" signals to the border collie that this cow will probably not challenge him any longer. Watch how these dogs crouch and make small little moves. The cattle realize that this little dog is not missing any of their tricks and submission soon follows. You must watch your Alpha dog closely and begin setting and controlling the agenda. Initially this will seem like a chore. Quickly it will evolve into a little game that you and your dog will enjoy. It's a battle of the wills and you must win. This "game" of making the dog follow directions will actually draw you and your dog closer. A bond will form. Your Alpha dog will respect your firmness and recognize that you are a fair leader. As time passes your Alpha dog will challenge you less and less, but you must be ready for the inevitable challenge. **As the Alpha you are royalty.** Your dog should not be on the furniture with you. **The best lounging places go to the Alpha.** If you want them on the couch make them lay down away from you for a period of time. Do not invite them to share the couch until they "give in" to laying where you have told them. If they are staring at you or continuously fidgeting they have not "given in" yet. Wait until they relax and sleep for a few minutes before you invite them to you. **Do not let your dog beg or interfere with your family meals.** After telling them no, quickly grab their collar and march them to their kennel. They will soon learn that **your food is NOT their food.** You will not be disrupted by someone ranked lower on the social ladder. Make sure that you go through doors first. Your dog must wait. Again you are controlling their movements not because you are the next Adolph Hitler marching people to the "showers" but for a much more important reason. Your dog needs to know that you are the Alpha, the King's subordinates must recognize this position. Again **this is not for your ego or self esteem it simply provides social order within your pack.** This will provide stability and happiness within your household.



kbillyphoto

Being the Alpha Leader of your House

by Gary Johnson

Sooner than you think your dog will learn the expectations required to be your follower. No longer will you need a leash and check cord. Teaching your dog to sit or down is a helpful tool. Down is one of the most submissive positions for a dog and also one they are comfortable in. Putting them in a down makes them comfortable and lets both of you know definitively what the expectation is. If they get up and walk away, and they will, you must quickly and assertively walk to them, grab their collar and place them back where they began. Hold them in place until you see them lick their lips, yawn or sigh. This is their signal that they understand and will try and do better. After this signal give them a quick positive pat of approval and then return to normal. If it's a repeated problem simply return them to their kennel. This simple approach of moving a dog to the appropriate place, waiting for them to submit and then giving them a quick positive tap will work in a multitude of dog training situations. **Strong aggressive actions and loud forceful words are not the answer.** They will not be respected. Your dog will simply wait for the moment you are not watching and then more aggressively break the rules. Simply think of humans with the loud aggressive boss that verbally denigrates his employees. He is not respected despite his rantings on Twitter. Sorry but does any boss actually put his private thoughts out on twitter?? Would an Alpha dog tweet to the entire canine world his thoughts on valued pack members? Silently, many employees plot revenge on these tactics. Pack leaders must be fair and reasonable in their discipline. If not, eventually pack members will get their opportunity to even the score. **Dogs seek order and stability. Occasionally, you will need to be more forceful.** Typically this will be when you see your dog acting overly aggressive. **Do not hesitate to respond with strength.** However, in most situations a simple nudge to their side with your knee or hip will remind them who is in charge.

Simple things you can do to help your dominant dog

Be calm and assertive - You are the model for your pack. Your dog is incredibly observant. They want stability, leadership and consistency. They also want to be treated fairly. You must correct misbehavior or soon your dog will own YOU!

Be aloof. This flies in the face of what most people want in this dog / owner relationship. However, if you force affection on your dog this is not the action of a leader. Leaders are somewhat solitary. The followers approach the leader. Rushing to greet your dog at the end of your day is a bad signal. Walk past your dogs upon arrival not making eye contact is a much better strategy. Walk around your yard as if you are inspecting the perimeter fencing. A leader is not seeking a "cuddly" relationship. After some time take a brief moment with each pack member. Let them know they are valued. You are not their "buddy", but rather their valued leader.

Take advantage of meal time. Always make your dog work for their food. This could mean sit until released; lie down; fetch a ball. It really doesn't matter. They should feel that they worked for their food. With an exceptionally dominant dog I would probably put them on a leash and go for a walk. When they are heeling consistently we will return home and reward them with food. They need to understand that you and you alone control the resources (food, affection, play, companionship). Do not let other family members give treats. Your Alpha dog is in training!

"I believe it's our loss of connection with our instinctual side that prevents us from being effective pack leaders for our dogs. Perhaps it's also why we also seem to be failing at being positive guardians of our planet."

Cesar Milan



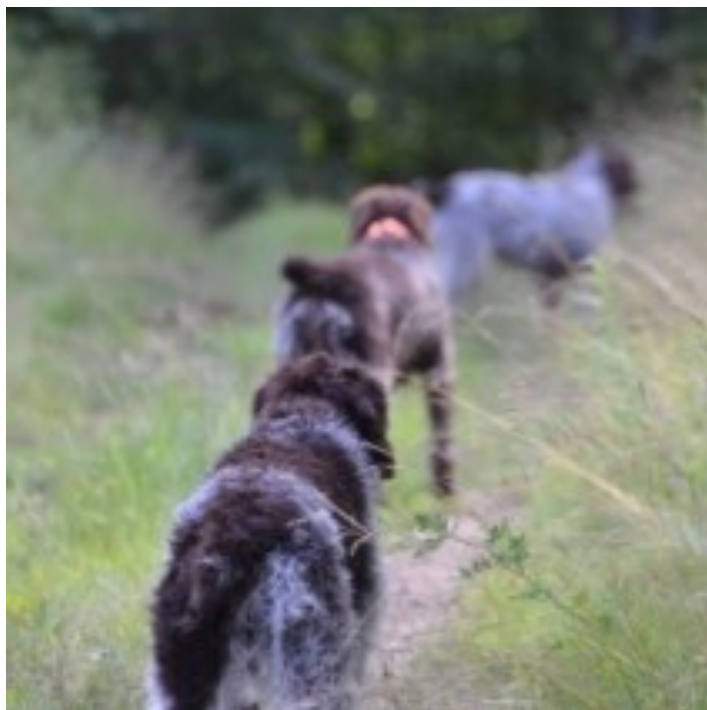
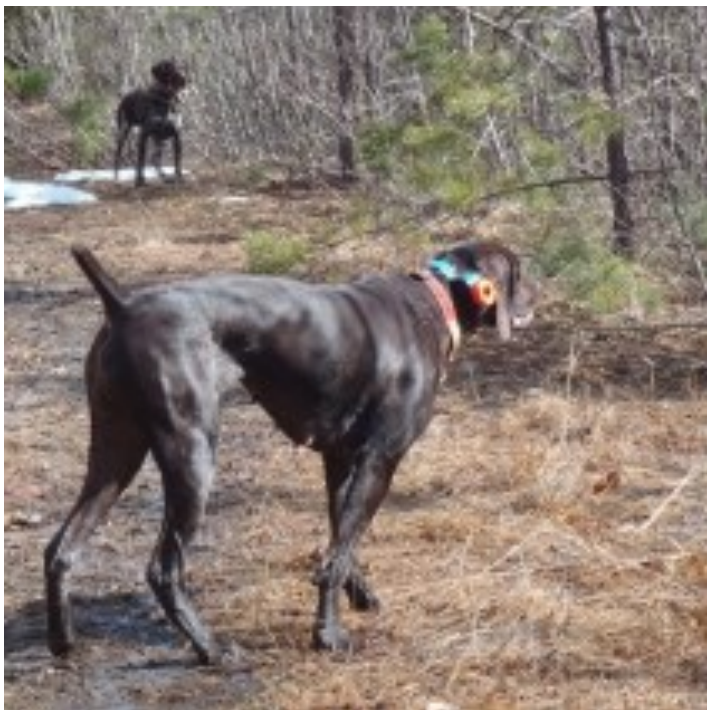
"Denial, they say, stands for, "Don't even notice that I'm lying." Human beings are the only animals who are happily lied to by our own minds about what is actually happening around us."

Cesar Milan

From *Be the Pack Leader*

"I'll believe it if I see it" for dogs translates to "I'll believe it if I smell it." So don't bother yelling at them; it's the energy and scent they pay attention to , not your words."

Cesar Milan



Being the Alpha Leader of your House

by Gary Johnson

Have rules, boundaries and limitations. Cesar Milan talks about this repeatedly. *For stability to occur the expectations must be clear to you and the dog.* How we feed each day. How we go for a walk. Everything should have a plan. This seems like “too much work” to many. Why would we ever think about having a clear plan? In nature, the animals without a very strict plan typically do not survive. The zebra who wants to “do my own thing” and not run from the attacking lions soon learns the penalty of not following the “rules” on running from lions. ***Set some household rules for your dogs and follow through on enforcing them. Your dog will appreciate it. Follow through is EVERYTHING!*** If you want your dog to obey 100% of the time you must be willing to correct 100% of the time until this expectation becomes reality. It will shock you how consistent they can become.

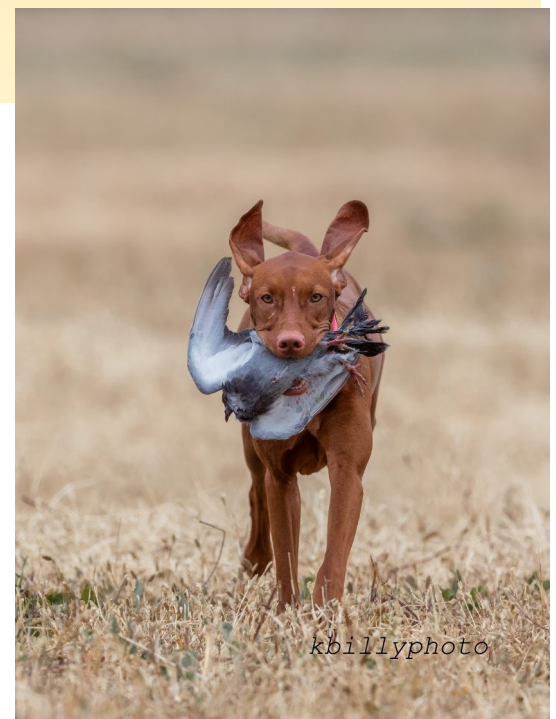
Give your dog a job. You own a high powered versatile hunting dog. They yearn to work. Laying around on the recliner watching the “Bachelor” is NOT their favorite activity. You cannot be hunting birds daily so find another outlet for this energy. Consider a nightly run on your lightly used treadmill.

Realize that the toughest training occurs on ourselves. We humans are hard headed and resistant to learning. **Dogs live in the moment.** Evaluate your performance frequently to make sure you are holding up your end of the leash. **Your dog deserves a good leader and it needs to be you.** Try and not be sensitive if other dog training friends are critical. They are simply trying to help. Honesty from others is rare. Your alpha dog cannot just help make you a better trainer but can surprisingly help each of us become better people. Remember that “a dog is man’s best friend”. A dog’s sense of fairness, firmness and forgiveness are traits that many of us can learn from.

Best of luck and enjoy the journey becoming the true Alpha leader in your household.

PUPPY POINTERS

1. Preventing bad habits is much easier than fixing bad habits
2. *Never correct or reward a dog if they do not understand why*
3. Never give a command more than once . . . otherwise you are training them not to listen to your first command
4. *Dogs learn by association. Positive associations and negative associations. Structure your training so that there is a positive or a negative association. Your puppy will enjoy the positive rewards more.*
5. Cause and effect CAN be established in as few as one repetition.
6. *Your puppy cannot read your mind . . .get the behavior to occur and quickly reward the pup . . .do 2 or 3 more times the pup will quickly understand what you want*
7. Be consistent with your reinforcement. Variable reinforcement confuses your dog. This frequently occurs in families where family members and spouses reward and or punish the same behavior differently. The more consistent your family can be the quicker and better your dog will learn..



SOCAL NAVHDA



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

SOCAL NAVHDA MEMBER BENEFITS

1. Receive Monthly newsletter from February to October.
2. Choose a trainer mentor out of a list of professional and very experienced trainers.
3. Participate in a monthly training day.
4. Be first in line to enroll your dog in the Chapter's NAVHDA Tests before all other NAVHDA national members.
5. 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.
6. So. Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

NAVHDA SPONSORS



SCHEDULED EVENTS

Training Days

February 18 March 18

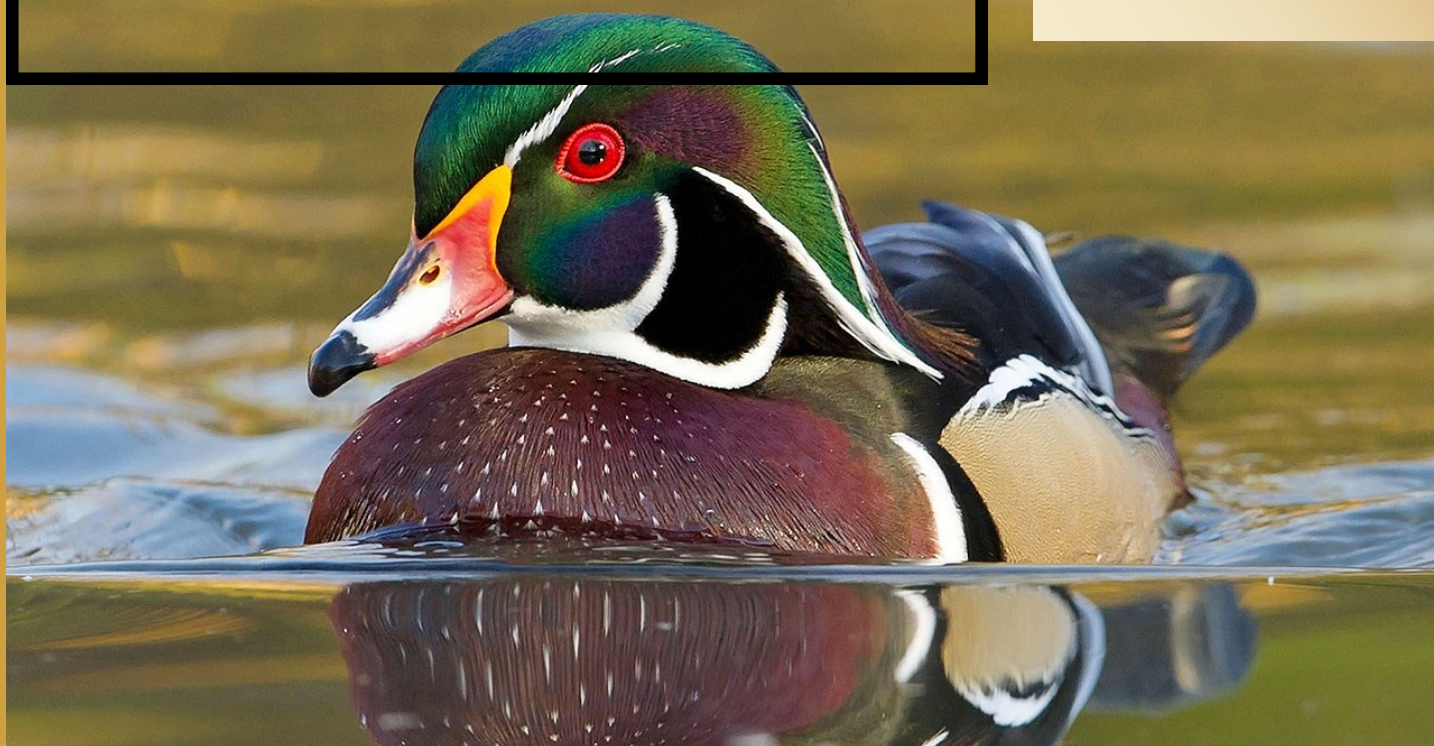
April 15 Traning Day & Snake Awareness Clinic

May 20 June 10 July 15 August 19 September 16

Oct TB

Training days: 7:30—8:00 Set- Up & Air out dogs
 8:00 Gather to hear days plan
 8:30—1:00 Training
 1:30 Help put away tables, EZ UP, etc

Challenges
 are what
 Makes Life
 Interesting
 Overcoming them
 Is What
 Makes Life
 Meaningful



Like the duck swimming: Calm on the surface, frantic paddling beneath the surface. More goes into a training day than many people notice. Reserving the fields. Moving the trailer. Finding birds. Bringing lunch. Finding birds. Getting people to help with training. Overcoming challenges (flooded fields, poor weather, etc.). Synchronizing all the moving parts. Many times it seems a little haphazard when you arrive at a training day. You would probably be surprised at how much work goes into being "haphazard". Part of this issue is one never knows how many will attend or what ages of dogs they will have. If you would like to help in any capacity please let Jim McDonald know. The cleanup at the end is frequently one of the most challenging duties as there are few people left And they are now hoping to train their own dogs. If you would like to be on the "cleanup crew" please give Jim McDonald a call.