



*North American Versatile
Hunting Dog Association*

*Southern California
Chapter*

So Cal Chapter News

June 2013

President's Message

I am very proud of the members of So Cal NAVHDA. This past weekend we held our first Handler's Clinic. As always our members just jumped in and took care of everything necessary to make the event successful. It was directed by Dick St Amant who was a little under the weather but did a great job. I have had many



emails from those who attended thanking us and letting us know how much they learned. Dick along with many of those who attended repeatedly commented on how well put together things were and most importantly how welcome they were made to feel.

Saturday, Ralph Martinez with Citori and Mike Shepard with Dixie did a great job running the Natural Ability test. As the judge said at dinner, "those were 2 very nice dogs we had the opportunity to watch today."

Sunday, Rodge Fradella with Falco and Guido Dei with Alba did a great job running the Utility test. At first when planning I had a few moments of disappointment that I needed to use Alba who is already a Versatile Champion and that I could not find 2 unfinished dogs to test. I thought we would learn more from dogs that are not perfect yet. After testing I had 2 people tell me that they loved the fact that we had a dog still being trained followed by a dog that showed them what to strive for. All of us learned a lot from the comparison. At the end those dogs were the perfect choice.

Many heartfelt thanks to the four of you for being great sports and allowing us to critique and judge your dogs. We all

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**July
Dates to Remember**

7/21/2013

**Training Day - Prado @
7:30am**

President's Message (cont.)



appreciated the opportunity to learn from them. All 4 are really nice dogs, just in different places in training.

I personally am still trying to absorb all that I learned. Now I have the challenge of applying the knowledge of what is required to the physical training of my dogs to achieve the desired results.

Hope to see you all at our next training day.

- Pat

Handler's Clinic Pictures



Handler's Clinic Photos



Canine Heatstroke

Heatstroke can be the serious and often fatal result of a dog's prolonged exposure to excessive heat. Below are the signs of heatstroke and the actions you should take if your dog is overcome.

Early Stages:

- Heavy panting.
- Rapid breathing.
- Excessive drooling.
- Bright red gums and tongue.
- Standing 4-square, posting or spreading out in an attempt to maintain balance.

Advanced Stages:

- White or blue gums.
- Lethargy, unwillingness to move.
- Uncontrollable urination or defecation.
- Labored, noisy breathing.
- Shock.

If your dog begins to exhibit signs of heatstroke, you should immediately try to cool the dog down:

- Apply rubbing alcohol to the dog's paw pads.
- Apply ice packs to the groin area.
- Hose down with water.
- Allow the dog to lick ice chips or drink a small amount of water.
- Offer Pedialyte to restore electrolytes.

Check your dog's temperature regularly during this process. Once the dog's temperature has stabilized at between 100 to 102 degrees, you can stop the cool-down process.

If you cannot get the dog cooled down and you begin to see signs of advanced heatstroke, take the dog to the veterinarian immediately.



Best All 'Round Hunting Dog?

-American Hunter (NRA)

For as long as there have been different breeds of gundog, there have been hunters arguing for the merit of one breed over the other. So, which canine really is the best all-around hunting dog? Ron Spomer thinks he has the answer.

By Ron Spomer (RSS)
June 18, 2013



Hunting dogs are a bit like hunting rifles—they're all good for something, but none are perfect for everything. Those of us who want it all might be barking up the wrong tree, but we keep searching for the .30-06 of dogs, a breed that comes closest to handling all our hunting chores: find, point, flush, trail, chase and fetch. And clean their own kennels ... maybe hunt antlers in spring ... guard the castle and look handsome doing it. That's a good dog.

But it ain't gonna happen. Nevertheless, we can sort out those breeds that come closest to our ideal.

Let's start by identifying what we mostly hunt with dogs: upland birds and waterfowl. Scent-hounds for trailing coons, bears and cats are a specialty. So are hog dogs for baying and tackling pigs. Even rarer are sight-hounds for coursing game and terriers for digging out rats and other burrowing rodents. Big-game hunting with dogs is almost universally forbidden. So let's identify the best, all-around waterfowl/bird dog, the breed that can most consistently win the feathered decathlon. Here's a best-dog tournament featuring my top choices in each category, followed by my overall winner.

POINTERS

- Pros: best at finding upland birds
- Cons: worst at retrieving; nearly useless for waterfowling
- English pointer: best nose; lithe, fast, covers much ground; some are adequate retrievers; can be hardheaded
- English setter: longer-haired pointer; gorgeous aristocrat; lousy retriever, especially in water
- Brittany: blockier version of setters; close-working, affectionate; best retriever of the three, especially from water

Winner: Brittany



Best All 'Round Hunting Dog? (cont.)

FLUSHERS

- Pros: best for pushing upland birds from tight cover; excellent, persistent retrievers on land and water
- Cons: not extra-hardy for cold-weather waterfowling
- English springer spaniel (pictured): spunk personified, the ultimate ball of energy in pheasant tangles, persistent, fun, good water retriever
- Boykin spaniel: all the springer is and potentially more; smaller than springer
- English cocker spaniel: smallest of the three, too small for ducks and geese; not as hyperactive as others

Winner: English springer spaniel



RETRIEVERS

- Pros: best for waterfowl, but good upland flushers, too
- Cons: can be very rambunctious, huge
- Labrador (pictured): eager to please, quick to learn, persistent afield; tireless retriever and flusher; can be trained to point; lovable, great family pet; heavy shedder
- Golden retriever: gorgeous, great retriever; loveable, great family pet; heavy shedder
- Chesapeake Bay retriever: strong, big heart; best pure water retriever; strong-willed, can be moody

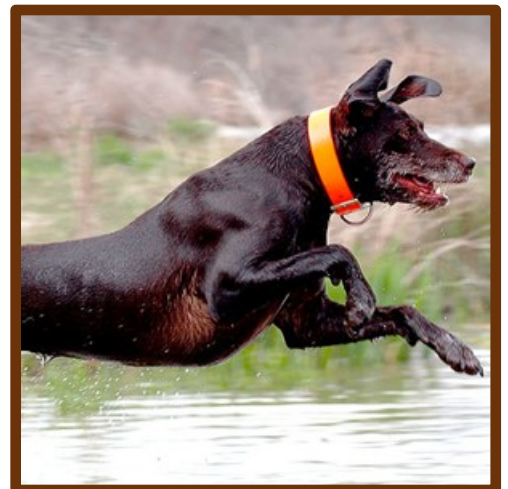
Winner: Labrador retriever



VERSATILE

- Pros: do many tasks well including pointing, retrieving, scent-trailing and tackling
- Cons: usually not the best at any one task
- Pudelpointer (pictured): medium to large frame, long-legged and strong; works close; points, retrieves well from water and land; scent-trails cold and hot; extremely versatile
- German shorthair: smart, lively, eager to please; closest to pointers in style; can be rambunctious and hard-headed
- German wirehair/Drahthaar: big and strong; cover big ground but don't range excessively; staunch pointers; retrieve well from land and water; can be taught to cold-trail and blood-trail

Winner: Pudelpointer



Best All 'Round Hunting Dog? (final)

OVERALL WINNER: PUDELPOINTER (whoo-hoo!)

Many hunters have never even heard of this breed. But I've seen it and all the other breeds in action and I'm most impressed with this strange, chocolate-colored, do-it-all dog from Germany that's big and strong, but not too heavy. Pudelpointers are faster than most Labs and just as indefatigable. A Pudelpointer is equally effective in uplands or wetlands. It nearly matches the Lab in water and comes close to the pointing breeds in the uplands. It hasn't the class and style of a setter or pointer, hasn't the flash of a springer, hasn't the power of a big Lab but comes close to all. It's intelligent, easily trained, affectionate and loyal. The right German wirehair could bump off the best Pudelpointer, but so could the right shorthair or Lab. It's a close call, but if versatility is your need, the Pudelpointer is your champion.

-Ron Spomer (RSS)
June 18, 2013

*Do you agree?
Write your response for the next NAVHDA newsletter!
Tell us your thoughts on the best breed!

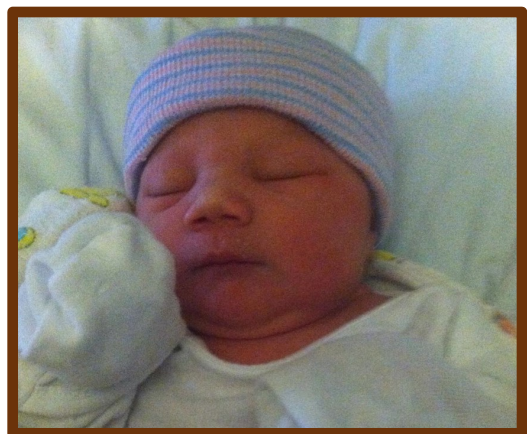
Submit your responses to kristinhcook@gmail.com



The Future of NAVHDA

Congratulations to Ralph and Kelly Martinez celebrating on the birth of their new baby and the newest NAVHDA member:

Ryann Avery Martinez
7lbs 7oz
Born June 4
19 inches



Happy Fourth of July

How to Keep Your Dog Safe and At Ease When the Fireworks Start

By Cesar Millan

Keeping Dogs Calm on the Fourth of July

Some dogs have no problem with the sight and sound of fireworks if they've been desensitized — hunting dogs, for example, grow used to the sounds and smells of hunting rifles and gun powder. Most dogs, however, are not used to these things, so the 4th of July can be a particularly stressful holiday for dogs and their humans alike. More pets run away and are lost on the 4th of July than any other day, so you should take extra steps to ensure their safety. Keep a keen eye on your dog during the commotion, and make sure your dog is wearing proper identification.



It is natural for dogs to be afraid of loud noises. The sounds trigger their nervous system, and they can become anxious, afraid, unsure, or shy. Running away from the noise is a survival mechanism. Remember, to your dog, the experience of fireworks is different than other loud natural noises, like thunder. They are closer to the ground, more vibrant, and are accompanied by sudden booms, flashes and burning smells. Remember, dogs experience the world through their senses – nose, eyes, ears — and the typical 4th of July celebration can be overwhelming.

Here are some tips to help keep your dog calm, making for an easier holiday for both of you.

1. Preparation.

Arrange to have your dog in a place where there won't be loud fireworks displays — a friend's or relative's home or a doggie day care with which your dog is familiar. If it's an unfamiliar place for your dog, take him over there a few times in the days before the holiday so that it won't be a surprise when you take him there on the Fourth.

2. Accommodation.

If you cannot take your dog to a place away from fireworks, then have a travel kennel at home for her to feel safe in. If you're not going to be home, have a friend or sitter there to keep your dog company and take her out to relieve herself every four hours.

Happy Fourth of July (cont.)

3. Acclimation.

The best way to prepare your dog for fireworks is to make sure he's comfortable with the sound in advance. While this is a simple process, it can take time — possibly three or four months of playing the recorded sound of fireworks for your dog at an increasingly louder volume before he eats, before a walk, before affection and play, and condition him by association to hear the sound and interpret it as something good. While you can try this method over only a week or two, in such a short time span it should only be used in conjunction with one or more of the other tips. In any case, play the firework sounds.

4. Sedation.

If you do find it necessary to use medication or a thundershirt to calm your dog during the fireworks, remember that you must introduce any such tool at the right time, conditioning your dog to understand that the medication or thundershirt is there to bring them to a calm state. This means that you must bring your dog to that calm state first, then introduce the tool — before the fireworks and the anxiety begin. If she is already at an anxiety level of 8 or 9, then her mental state will overrule the medication. If she is already breathing heavily, then the thundershirt, which is designed to slow her breathing, won't work. A tool is an intellectual thing we use with a dog's instincts. The challenge is knowing how and when to connect the two.

5. Communication.

If you are going to be with your dog during the fireworks, sending the calming message that they are nothing to worry about will also help him to relax. Remember, though, while humans communicate with words, dogs communicate with energy, and will look to their pack leader for clues on how they should behave. If you're not making a big deal or showing excitement about the fireworks, then he will learn to be less concerned as well.

In all cases above, expend your dog's excess energy first, before the fireworks start, by taking her on a very long walk to tire her out and put her in a calm state. Most importantly, don't think of this in terms of your dog as your child who is missing out on a great, fun time. That's human guilt. Your dog won't know what she's missing. You're being a good pack leader by not exposing her to a situation that will trigger her flight instinct in a negative way. When the booms and bangs of Independence Day are over, your dog will be grateful for you having made it a less stressful experience.



Brandied Quail

Provided by Sandy and Cliff Fleming

Ingredients:

4 Brandied Quail
1 butter stick, clairfied & divided
1/2 cup Currant or Apricot Jelly
dash salt
2 tbsp Brandy or to taste



Instructions:

Cut quail into serving pieces, using breast only or breasts & legs if you wish. Brown slowly in 1/2 cup of butter for about 1/2 hour. When nicely browned on all sides, push to one side and add Jelly to the drippings. Add remainder of butter, salt and stir well while the jelly melts. When sauce is well blended. spread the browned pieces of quail out again and baste with the sauce. Cover and simmer until meat is fork tender. Skim off fat and add brandy to the mix. Cook till heated and serve. Serves 2 to 4

You can also brown quail and place in casserole dish. Makes sauce and pour it over the quail. Bake 325 for about 20 minutes.

June/July Training

Our June training day at Prado was extremely successful - enjoy the pics. Our July training day will be held on Sunday July 21st at Prado at 7:30 a.m. Lunch will be available for \$5 per person. More information on bird availability will follow via email. Please remember that it will be HOT. It is extremely important that you bring lots of water for you and your dogs. See you out in the field!



June Training Photos





*North American Versatile
Hunting Dog Association*

*Southern California
Chapter*

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Thats All Folks...

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 and 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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Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Please let me know your thoughts, or share your stories. Ideas are always welcome!

Thanks,
Kristin