## SOCAL NAVHDA ON POINT



**NEWSLETTER August-2015** 



GUN EXPOSURE

IT'S HOT!!

FRENCH SPANIEL

Safari Day?!

TRAINING PHOTOS

After training last weekend at Prado and seeing that it was 106 degrees in my truck when I left, it seemed like another article on overheating dogs could not hurt. We were training in the shade AND the water....but 106??

#### Inside this issue:

#### Overheating and Hypoglycemia

by Joe Spoo DVM

Overheating, or heat stroke, is a common problem in hunting dogs, and as we found out during South Dakota's pheasant opener last year, a deadly problem as well. Overheating is a condition that develops from the body's inability to regulate temperature. Basically, the heat being produced by the body is greater than the heat being dissipated. The causes of heat stroke in hunting dogs are numerous, but at the top of the list is a lack of conditioning. Too many guys take their dogs from the couch or the kennel straight into the field without any thought about the dog's level of conditioning. This would be akin to taking most of us on a given day and demanding us to run a marathon...at the drop of the hat. The difference is that we're able to say no and are in tune with our bodies enough to know when to stop. These dogs love to hunt and love to perform, and by the time they are showing signs of a problem it is often too late. Other causes of overheating include lack of acclimatization, high humidity and high temperatures. A rule of thumb used by many dog trainers down south is that if the ambient temperature when added to the humidity is greater than 150, you probably shouldn't be running your dogs. You can still have heat stroke develop at lower temps, but this is when it becomes particularly dangerous. You'll also see heat problems with too much exercise too soon. Also an obese animal is going to be much more prone to overheating than one running at a lean body weight. Previous episodes of overheating will also predispose a dog to overheating again, because overheating can cause the body's internal thermometer to become "out of whack" and make the dog more susceptible to future episodes. It's also important to know a dog in water can still have heat stroke. This is particularly true in the summer months and early fall when many of the shallow bodies of water have had time to heat up. At these times it can be like swimming the dog in a hot tub. Just because they're wet doesn't mean they're cool. Basically, you should always try to be smart when working your dog in any type of heat. Signs that your dog may be getting close to overheating include panting and/or extreme hyperventilation. These dogs aren't just hot; they are trying to move as much air as possible in an often futile attempt at removing heat. Many of these dogs will also be hypersalivating.

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They'll come back with long ropes of drool coming out of their mouths, or puddles of saliva around them. They also will have an altered mental state and appear glassy-eyed. Often when you look at these dogs they look like they are in trouble, almost as though no one is home when you look them in the eyes. Many will become ataxic (i.e. stumbling and incoordination) and show muscle weakness. Often, but not always, you will see vomiting and diarrhea develop. From here it may progress to total collapse. At this point you are probably wondering what temperature the body has to reach to fall into the category of heat stroke, and unfortunately there isn't one. The normal body temperature of dogs is 100-102.5 F, but in normal working dogs, without heat stroke, we can have temperatures during and immediately following exercise that get up around 106-107 F without causing a problem. But these are the same temperatures that we start worrying about heat damage starting to occur with heat stroke. This is where having a thermometer in your emergency kit becomes important, because if the temperature does not begin to fall immediately, or worse it continues to climb, after the exercise is stopped, your dog is in trouble. As corny as it may sound, I would recommend taking you dog's temp after a day of hunting or while out training when you are not even close to crossing the overheating line. This will give you an idea at what temp your pup typically runs while at work and will allow some sort of baseline if you get into trouble out in the field. Basically during heat stroke all the body systems are being affected. The tissues of the body are essentially cooking themselves. When we get these dogs into the clinic they have severe blood chemistry abnormalities, they can go into respiratory distress and this is one condition that can quickly lead to death. As far as starting treatment in the field, the biggest thing is to get them cooled down. If there is water around get them a cool water bath or spray them down. If you are going to cool them in standing water be sure to wade in with them and hold on to them, as they could collapse and drown or get out too deep and not be able to make it back. Apply ice to the hairless portion of the belly and especially deep in the armpits and groin, as there are some very large blood vessels in these areas that help cool them down fast. You can also get them in the vehicle with the A/C on high with the fans blowing directly on the dog.

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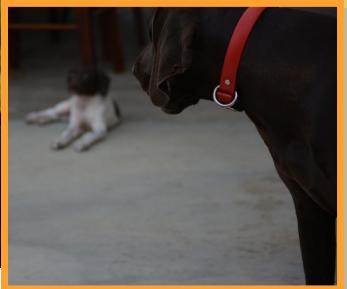
The whole while during the cooling process you need to be monitoring the dog's temp and stop cooling them when the temperature reaches 103 F. This will also allow you to make sure you are not cooling them too fast. It is very easy to over-cool these dogs and drop them down too low and end up causing hypothermia...remember the internal thermostat is no longer working correctly. If it appears that your dog got more than just got a little warm, you need to get him to a vet. Continue attempting to cool him down while transporting them to a vet, though. Hospitalization, monitoring and supportive care are very important in order to save these dogs. Many of the dogs that survive may have long-standing problems, and the sooner you seek veterinary care the better. Another problem that can contribute to heat stroke and may cause death all on its own is hypoglycemia or low blood sugar. It is also termed exertional hypoglycemia, hunting dog hypoglycemia, or sugar fits. We see this condition when the blood glucose levels fall below 50.

The cause of hypoglycemia is similar to heat stroke: a lack of conditioning. Hypoglycemia occurs when your dog does too much work too soon, and it occurs early in training and often with over-anxious young dogs. Many of the dogs we worry about are those dogs that are constantly trying to go. They're wild in the box, excited before they're released, and some of them have gone through an entire workout without ever getting off the truck. Some of the signs you may see with this problem are an altered mentation where the dog just doesn't seem to be acting right and is confused and almost dazed. There can be trembling or shaking as well. Many of these dogs will have a nervousness and anxiety about them and most dogs will exhibit weakness and ataxia or stumbling, as they can no longer walk normally. In severe cases it can lead to collapse, seizures, coma and death. Treatment consists of getting simple sugars into the dog. Oral simple sugars are absorbed from the gums and thus do not need to be forced down the dog. I recommend carrying a bottle of 50% Dextrose or Karo Syrup in the first aid kit. You can draw up a syringe of the dextrose and administer is slowly until the problem resolves. If using syrup you can just take some and rub it on the gums until the dog responds If you do not have these items you can also use honey or REAL fruit juice...the key being real fruit juice as too many juices contain artificial sweetners that will be of no value in treating the problem. In a pinch items like Pepsi or Gatorade could be used. Just be sure to take it slow and rub them on the gums as many of these dogs may not be able to swallow, and you don't want to pour pop down the wrong pipe. If the dog recovers uneventfully, I wouldn't send them back out to perform. I'm big on running bloodwork with any type of collapse, and although likely everything will be normal at the time of the work-up, it will allow you to rule-out other possible causes of collapse. Many of the emergencies we see in hunting dogs can often be prevented with preseason conditioning, nutrition and getting to know your dog. With a little education on what to do when an emergency occurs you can also prevent these problems that crop up from being a season ending, or worse yet, life ending condition













## SAFARI DAY



## SAFARI DAY



We would like to thank Clint Lager for sharing these photos of Safari Day. July 18th was a youth outdoors day put on at Raahage's in Corona. SOCAL NAVHDA AND INLAND EMPIRE NAVHDA brought several dogs to show the kids what versatile hunting dogs looked like and could do. It was an outstanding event with many events for the children. The kids got to shoot airsoft pistols, fish, watch trick shot demonstrations and many more things. It was estimated over 100 kids attended. Look to attend this event in the future. Bring young people (your kids, grandkids, the neighbors kids, any and all that may have an interest in the outdoors, hunting, fishing, shooting, etc.) as it was an outstanding event to expose kids to the outdoor sports that are available.













West Walker River Pack Trip Photo Essay Sylvia Hansen, Gary Willhite, Yoli and Delsa July 2015 Essay: Sylvia Hansen Photos: Sylvia Hansen 2 Photos: Bruce Midgley



Sylvia Hansen shared this from a recent trip.



# DO NOT GIVE A COMMAND YOU WILL NOT ENFORCE



WHERE
MEMBERS
TEACH
OTHERS HOW
TO TRAIN
THEIR
BIRDDOG

3 D's of Dog Training Distance Duration Distraction









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







HOW TO TRAIN THEIR BIRDDOG

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









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









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 t ogary\_johnson@busdk12.com.

### 2 PUPS GET THEIR FIRST LOOK AT THE NAVHDA POND

Above-Ralph Martinez guns as a bird is flushed. To the right His pup Cassie and Gary Johnson's Boogie pup eye the pond deciding weather it is safe to retrieve the bumper . Ironically, Cassie already has a bumper but another lies to their right.



## Breed of the Month

### FRENCH SPANIEL









The French Spaniel (Epagneul Français) was developed in France as a hunting dog, descended from dogs of the 14th century. The French Spaniel is the largest of the Spaniel Breeds. Popular with royalty during the Middle Ages, it nearly became extinct by the turn of the 20th century but was saved by the efforts of Father Fournier, a French priest. The French Spaniel is a descendant of the bird dogs described by Gaston Febus and used in the Middle Ages. Its ancestors are more than likely at the origin of the diverse varieties of sporting Spaniels. Through selection it developed into an elegant and athletic dog, pointing very firmly, which today excels in working trials. In 2012 the AKC approved the French Spaniel to compete in hunt tests for the pointing breeds. At this time the AKC also recorded it as foundation stock for other breeds. The Tornjak breed was added at this point also. The first standard was drawn up in 1891 by James de Connick; it has been revised several times since, and adapted to the diverse evolutions of the breed. The breed was imported into Canada in the mid 1970 and the United States about 1997. Temperament -Calm, even-tempered and intelligent, French Spaniels very much enjoy the company of their owners. They are gentle with children, making great pets. Rustic looking, relatively tall and powerfully built, the French Spaniel trains well but is easily intimidated; training should be gentle, firm and consistent. They need human companionship and lots of exercise. Known and appreciated for its hunting skills, the French Spaniel works very well on rugged terrain and in the water as a flusher. French Spaniels are one of the best retrievers and point very precisely. Hunting at a gallop or extended trot, the French Spaniel has an excellent nose, but has less speed and a more limited search range than the Brittany Spaniel. They are enthusiastic hunting dogs, persistent, hardy and courageous.







This breed gets along well with other dogs. It is important owners are even-tempered, but firm and consistent with the rules set upon the dog. It is also equally important, when the dog is not hunting, that he receives daily pack walks where he heels beside the handler during the walk. When a dog is lacking in either leadership or proper mental/physical exercise it causes separation anxiety. Height: Males 22 - 24 inches Females 21 - 23 inches Weight: 44 - 55 pounds.

James de Coninck wrote about crossbreeding. The spaniel was, in effect, the quintessential bird dog...white with brown patches and ticking on the legs...the wide forehead magnificently framed by long ears covered with wavy hair, the body is big, the legs a little short, the hair is wavy but not curly. That dog of 1592 is the same dog we had at the beginning of the (19th) century and even 20 years ago. I knew several of that type which, unfortunately I'm afraid, is more or less lost. There is no breed, in fact, that has been subjected to as many crosses.

Fortunately, in 1906 a French priest by the name of Abbé Fournier decided to dedicate much of the rest of his life to the revival of the classic French Spaniel. He gathered all the more or less pure individuals he could find and established a breeding program that would eventually save the breed from extinction. After the Second World War, efforts were renewed to revive the breed by using the few dogs that had survived. By the 1960s, the population had grown and French Spaniels were once again being presented in shows and in field trials. Today, the French Spaniel is one of the most popular native pointing breeds in France and is gaining the admiration of hunters in other countries. These dogs are elegant with a long striding, galloping running style. They tend to hunt within 150 yards of their handler. Eastern Canada has about 10 breeders producing around 100 pups per year. The French regionalized the developing of their breeds whereas Germany had a more national approach. It is for this reason that many of the French breeds did not flourish. World War 1 and 2 greatly affected the breeds especially in certain regions. SOCAL NAVHDA gladly welcomes any French Spaniel owners to attend our events.











## TRAINING GUN EXPOSURE

One of the most important things to do in the development of a gun dog is to create a positive response by your dog to gunfire. When I see new young dogs at a training day I am always concerned that the sound of gunfire may have a negative impact on their future. Loud noises such as fireworks and gunfire can surprise and create a negative association for the untrained dog. Try and encourage people whose dogs are new to gunfire to park a couple hundred yards away when attending their first couple of training days. When a dog has a fear response to gunfire it may be very difficult for them to overcome. They may become "gunshy". There are many ways to help your dog through this transition. I will share what I did with my first 2 GSP'S, who are now almost 3 years old, and how I changed that with our new pup. Like many of you I researched as thoroughly as possible what I should be doing with my new gun dog. It was clear that a positive association to gunfire was important. So I devised a plan to help my dogs through this situation. When I would leave the house for a couple of hours I would kennel my pups next to the TV and find some music with a lot of bass and turn up the volume. My thought was that the steady bass thump could not hurt. After a couple of weeks of this. My wife went with on my nightly walk with the pups. I leashed the pups and gave my wife several pieces of hot dogs and dog treats. Then I walked approximately 200 yards away with a .22. Whitney, my wife, would grab a dog treat and upon a signal I would fire the gun as she gave the dog treat. We would watch to see that the dog's tail was wagging to signal a positive moment. I would then move 50 yards closer and repeat until near her. The next night I brought the 20 gauge shotgun and repeated the process. The following night a 12 gauge. It seemed to work. The pups were happy with gunfire as they received a treat. However after a couple years in NAVHDA my thoughts are a little different. I now wanted my new pup "Boogie" to associate gunfire with birds. I began by trying to get her "bird crazy". Every couple nights I brought her into the backyard and brought a pigeon with wings tethered in. I would take Boogie across the yard and let her chase down the pigeon. Boogie became more bold each night. Her puppy teeth were in no way damaging the pigeon. In fact, at times it seemed at times as if the pigeon was almost as big as the pup. After a few sessions she was quite bold and eager for our pigeon chase. I now introduced a clipped wing pigeon that could fly 30-40 feet. The process we used with our first pups was now repeated except with a clipped wing pigeon. We went into the desert and I walked out to 200 yards and teased the pup with the bird. Whitney waited with the .22. When I threw the pigeon and Boogie gave chase she would fire. I would then move 50 yards closer and repeat. Then 50 yards closer and repeat. We only would do 3 shots per night. The following day we would introduce the 20 gauge shotgun and repeat the process. By the fourth day we had the 12 gauge and Boogie was loving the game. Birds and guns . . . . great fun. Bring it on . She seemed to say I may only be a pup but I am ready to become a full fledged BIRDDOG. If your pup shows any signs of fear don't rush the process. Take a few days off. Increase the distance. Make it fun. There is no rush. It is important to get this first step right.

On the following page is an article that GUNDOG SUPPLY has published to help owners with this critical process. I contacted them about using it in our publication and they graciously allowed us to do so.

#### **Keep Your Dog from Becoming Gun Shy**

<mark>by Steve Snell, GUNDOGSUPPLY</mark>

All gun shy dogs are man made. While some dogs may be more prone to becoming gunshy, it is not a genetic flaw. Some dogs are more sensitive and this can make them more "likely" to become gunshy. Even the boldest of pups can become gunshy if the introduction to the gun is not handled correctly. The following method works fine with pointers, flushers, and retrievers. While I start all my pups using these techniques, this method will work with any age dog that needs conditioning to guns and gunshy, it is not agents and it is not become gunshy.

#### There are several things that you should NEVER, EVER do to a young dog.

- Never fire a gun around a dog to see IF he is gunshy
- Never take a dog to a Shooting Range to introduce gunfire
- Never take a dog "hunting" prior to the proper introduction to gunfire
- Never take a young dog "hunting" with an older dog for some "on the job training" prior to the proper introduction to gunfire
- Never fire a gun close to a young dog without proper introduction -- keep him away from any kind target practice or random shooting
- Never allow your dog to be exposed to fireworks
- Never fire a gun close to a dog while feeding him (many folks do this but it does not make the proper association)
- Do your best to keep him indoors during major lightning and thunder storms

Many young dogs become gunshy from things that are out of the owners control or unknown to the owner. It's best to get started on gunfire and noise introduction as soon as possible. I start mine the day they get to my house.

#### **Getting Started**

It's great if your breeder has already started the introduction but you never want to assume that they have. We always raised our litters in the laundry room. This starts their life with a series of doors opening and closing and washing machines and dryers running. We also always have a radio going in the background. This gives them exposure to many noises, voices, music and loud and blaring commercials. My dad always said the best dogs were raised on "Country and Western" music, but I'll leave that up to you. I make as much "noise" around my young pups as possible. Start out slow and build up. When I am around my pups, I clap my hands, clang food bowls, open and close my truck and dog box doors. Start out quiet and build up. Always watch your dog and see if or how he reacts. I prefer that the pup be moving around out in the open having fun. I want the noises to be part of his normal routine. I go out of my way to be as loud as I can over time. I want him to be well adjusted to any sudden noise. The best way to do this is to have a regular series of noises going on. Again, start slow and build up.

#### Never go too fast.

#### Seeing the Gun as a Positive Thing

Many dogs that become gun shy are not only afraid of the sound of the gun, they are also afraid of the sight of the gun. This happens when the first time a dog sees a gun is also the first time he hears one. He puts two and two together and makes a break for it the next time you take your shotgun out of its case. I like for my young dogs to see guns on a regular basis as part of the routine. Feeding time is a great opportunity for this. I have young kids so I don't like to leave my guns lying around. In place of a real shotgun, I use an old daisy "Pop" gun. It looks like a shotgun and it even makes a good pop noise when I cock and fire it. I carry one around on walks in the field and during feeding time. This allows my pup to SEE a gun in a positive way and for it to become a normal part of his world. If you live in a neighborhood, you may want to let your neighbors know what you are doing -- there's nothing worse than being the crazy guy next door walking around in his back yard with what "looks" like a shotgun;)

#### **Introduction to Birds**

Before we start with actual gunfire, we need to get started on birds. The best way to get a young dog going is to "seed" an open field with a few game birds. I prefer quail but pigeons or chukars will work.

Take your young dog out and let him find, bump, flush and chase these birds. Be sure to carry your pop gun or your shotgun (unloaded) on these romps. Your pup needs to see you with your gun while he is "hunting" and finding birds. This helps with the positive association.

After you have done this a few trips and your pup is now "hunting" for birds when you take him out, you can add gunfire. This gets him thinking birds and guns, guns and birds.

This is correct association that we want. My dogs love guns and gunfire because they know they go with birds. It's the key.

#### Adding in the Gunfire

Once your pup is good and "bird" crazy, you can start adding gunfire. Don't worry about him pointing or flushing birds or any other advanced training. You need him to be as "bird crazy" as possible. I prefer to start with a Blank .22 pistol with the very quiet "crimped" acorn blanks. They are the lowest volume of all the blanks we sell. To do this right, you will need a helper. Put your helper in a spot where he will always be at least 100 to 150 feet away from your pup but can see all the action. Plant your birds and take your pup out into your bird field and let him start hunting. When he finds your first planted bird, let the chase begin. As soon as the bird is in flight and the pup is in full chase, signal your helper to fire one shot. I lift my hat off my head and hold it high in the air. Watch your pup for any reaction. As long as he keeps going full blast you can continue. If he stops and looks around don't make a big deal out of it. Keep on walking and find the next bird. Let him flush this one without any gunfire. I also like to keep a bird on me so I can flush one from my vest if he needs a little distraction. As long as he has no reaction to the gunfire, keep adding it in as he flushes birds. Slowly move the blank gun in closer and closer over time. Keep moving the gun in until you are firing the gun at your side as he finds and bumps the birds. After you can do this, start over with the louder CCI Short crimps and the much louder Winchester .22 Short blanks. Same rules apply. Start at a distance and move in slowly. After you can fire the gun yourself when the pup is close to you chasing his birds, you can move up to a small gauge shotgun. I prefer to start back a little further than I did with the blank pistol, say 200 to 250 feet just to be on the safe side. Use either a .410, 28 or a 20 gauge gun with light loads, the smaller the gauge the better. Hold off on the 12 gauge for now. Same rules apply again. Move in slowly. Before long you'll have the right association (Bird and Guns - Guns and Birds) and you will be ready to start killing birds over your pup and making him steady. The important part of all this is that you take your time. Never, never ever get in a hurry. Build your pup's confidence and the proper association of "Bird and Guns - Guns and Birds.

GUN DOG SUPPLY
"We train our dogs with the products we sell."
1-800-624-6378

## MEMBER PHOTOS







- 1. Kim Gentner, GSP's
- 2. Greg Ogden, Pointing Lab, Kona
- 3. Amanda Hudgins Wirehaired Viszla, Zeke
- 4. Karim Gobran, Viszla & Wirehaired Viszla, Wilson & Charlie
- 5. Aaron Tyznik, Small Muensterlander, Birdie





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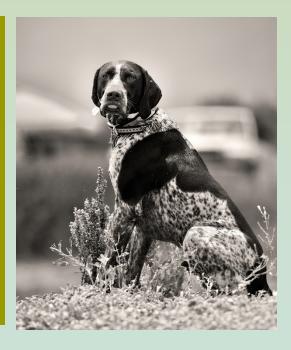


John O'Donnell,GSP, T-Rex

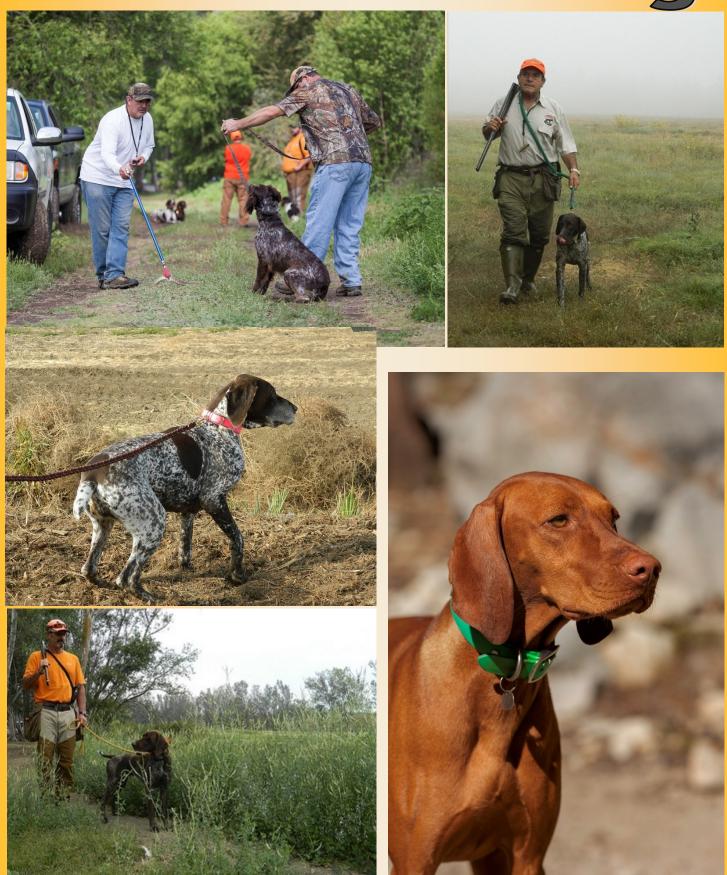
## Don't be Left Out!



- We would like a photo of you and your dog to share with our fellow members. ////// You can email these to gary\_johnson@busdk12.com
- Be Safe. Where safety orange when in the field at NAVHDA events.
- Register quickly for SOCAL NAVHDA testing.
   The tests quickly fill up and some get left out.



snake training



## training day













### Kevin & Staci Billy take Mika to the Sierra's







#### SOCAL NAVHDA



WHERE MEMBERS
TEACH OTHERS
HOW TO TRAIN
THEIR BIRDDOG

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

- 1. Receive Monthly newsletter from February to October.
- 2. Have your unlimited webpage site within the www.SoCalnavhda.com website for 10.00\$/year.
- 3. Access to the Members Forum in the Chapter Website Password: "best dogs" with a space between the two words.
- 4. Choose a trainer mentor out of a list of professional and very experienced trainers
- 5. Participate in a monthly training day.
- Be first in line to enroll your dog in the Chapter's NAVHDA Tests before all other NAVHDA national members.
- 7. 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.
- So.Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

### NAVHDA SPONSORS















## 

SEPTEMBER 13 7:30 a.m. Training at Prado

October 2,3,4 7:30a.m.—6p.m. Testing at Prado

OCTOBER 11 Training Day at Prado

NOVEMBER hunting season, those not hunting may train individually or in small groups

DECEMBER hunting season, those not hunting may train individually or in small groups

JANUARY - TBD

FEBRUARY- TBD

MARCH- TBD

APRIL- TBD

MAY- TBD



