

SOCAL NAVHDA

ON POINT

NEWSLETTER May 2016



Three Methods to Train Duck Search
Sit, Down, Leave It

Braque du Bourbonnais
Force Fetch - Steps 1 & 2

"Leave It"

This can help keep your dog safe when his curiosity gets the better of him, like if he smells something intriguing but possibly dangerous on the ground! The goal is to teach your pup that he gets something even better for ignoring the other item.

- Place a treat in both hands.
- Show him one enclosed fist with the treat inside, and say, "Leave it."
- Let him lick, sniff, mouth, paw, and bark to try to get it — and ignore the behaviors.
- Once he stops trying, give him the treat from the other hand.
- Repeat until your dog moves away from that first fist when you say, "Leave it."
- Next, only give your dog the treat when he moves away from that first fist and also looks up at you.

Once your dog consistently moves away from the first treat and gives you eye contact when you say the command, you're ready to take it up a notch. For this, use two different treats — one that's just all right and one that's a particularly good smelling and tasty favorite for your pup.

- Say "Leave it," place the less attractive treat on the floor, and cover it with your hand.
- Wait until your dog ignores that treat and looks at you. Then remove that treat from the floor, give him the better treat and share affection immediately.
- Once he's got it, place the less tasty treat on the floor... but don't completely cover it with your hand. Instead hold it a little bit above the treat. Over time, gradually move your hand farther and farther away until your hand is about 6 inches above.

Now he's ready to practice with you standing up! Follow the same steps, but if he tries to snatch the less tasty treat, cover it with your foot.



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**"Ones best success
comes after their
greatest
disappointments."**

—Henry Ward Beecher



Adam Salazar & Jaybird
Elaine Tannassey &
Kevin Billy's Mika — "Where's the Birds?"
Kimberly Jamerson -where's Beau





Young pup learning to penetrate the reeds to find game. Soon it will be a duck after an intense search.



Above an older dog begins to enter the reeds on the middle island at Prado.



Clint Lager's Duke completes a duck search and exits the water. Technically the search is not over until the bird is delivered to the handler's hand.

Force Fetch—Step 1

By Guido Dei

Bring your dog to the table on lead and lift him up on it gently. When he is up there he may act very nervous and may even crouch or lay low. Do not allow him to jump off of the table by any means. Sit the dog in the middle of the table and pet him to get him to relax, you may even give him a few pieces of his dog food. Don't be surprised if he doesn't take it from you and eat it because he is now intimidated.

Have that eyebolt handy in the ceiling and snap a piece of swing chain to it and allow it to hang down about two feet towards the table. The links on the chain will allow you to move the dog's collar up and down to the height that you require. I always use a double snap on the eyebolt at the dogs collar to give more versatility in heights. The first two or three sessions on the table are only to get his confidence up.

Always end each session by feeding his morning or evening meal up there to gain his trust. Most big dogs have good appetites so use that to your advantage in your training. Never allow the dog to get the food until you give him the OK signal at the end of each session. By the third or fourth time up there secure the dog as high to the eyebolt as possible so that he cannot lower his head or pull away from you.

Make sure he has enough slack so that he can breathe. Put a leather glove on your right hand and open his mouth with your other hand.

Place the gloved hand into his mouth gently and close his bottom jaw a bit to see his response.

Continued on page 6

Character

Cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved.

Helen Keller

This quote cannot only apply to life in general but also your journey with your dog. If you pursue testing your dog in NAVHDA, AKC or other, you will probably discover that your dog and YOU the handler will not always win. In fact you may lose soundly. One weekend at an AKC hunt test my dogs and I failed 8 successive tests. I felt like quitting after the first one. It was apparent that our training was not adequate. This occasion taught me not to underestimate the challenge . . .the test. It was humbling but humility can make us more open to change.



Force Fetch—Step 1

By Guido Dei

Now if he is like most dogs he will resist this by trying to spit the glove or shake his head from side to side to get this gloved hand out. Whatever you do, stay with it until he settles down for a few seconds, then remove the hand and pet him saying "Good Boy". It won't take long for him to realize that if he stays calm the gloved hand will be removed. Open his mouth and do this again until he is not fighting you quite as vigorously. Stay calm and don't yell or raise your voice or say too much at this point. It is the action of what you are doing and the body language you use rather than your voice at this time. When you take the gloved hand out, say the word "out" or "leave" at the same time. Lay on loads of praise, and let him know that he is the best dog in the world. After doing this repeatedly for 15 minutes call it quits and give the dog his morning feeding as a reward up there on the table. Set the dish down at the end of the table and only allow him to eat it on command with an OK. Rub his ears gently as he holds the objects so that he gets accustomed to having your hands around his head. Staying calm is very important, or the dog will get very uptight and will lose his focus on his lesson. We are not saying too many commands yet until he understands what we are asking of him. Once he is holding the glove without our hand in it, start moving around a couple of feet to the right and left and tell him to hold always watching that he doesn't try to spit it. Gently raise your hand to him and grab the glove and give him the command out to let go. Again, give him tons of praise on a job well done. When he understands the holding of the glove we need to switch to a paint roller at least nine inches in length and ask him to hold it in the same manner that he held the glove. When he is holding it, tap the ends lightly saying the word "Fetch" as you tap it. You want to see a conscious effort on the dog's part not to drop the roller even when you tap it on either end. Try to walk back a few feet and now tell him to Hold with a good firm tone. Watch him closely and if he drops it, pick it up and put it back in his mouth and say the word Fetch again until you can trust him. When we are training a dog, we never do retrieving at all off the bench, or you will undo everything that you have worked for so far. The above process will take the beginner approximately 1 week to 10 days to complete. Lets work on this stage of training first and we'll move to the next level in approximately 2 weeks.





Above: After the Duck Search "the presentation" of game. You have a lot of flexibility with how your dog gives you the game. Many have them present to the front at sit or whoa. The judges want the dog to stop and recognize that you're in charge of the game and not have the dog run by as you grab the bird. Below: the beginning of the duck search.



Three Methods to Training U.T. Duck Search by Gary Johnson

The NAVHDA Duck Search. One of the most difficult things to train for in the Utility Test. No one knows this better than me. My dogs have failed this portion of the UT Test 4 or 5 times. So if you are looking for an article written by someone who is always successful, save yourself some time and stop reading now. However, if you are looking to hear from someone who has spent dozens and dozens of hours wading through our NAVHDA POND trying to find the magic formula possibly their may be some helpful information here. For those of you who have never waded through our NAVHDA Pond you should be informed that chest waders are not ALWAYS sufficient to staying dry. Another thing to be aware of is THE occasional sinkhole at the bottom of the pond. The good news is there are not many. The bad news is that when you step in one . . .you will probably be neck deep in swamp and your waders will immediately fill with around 100 gallons of water . . .give or take 50 gallons and the random frog or angry turtle trapped in your waders biting at whatever he can get ahold of. This is not the kind of excitement you find at the local circus. Remind your friends to have their cell phone handy so you can possibly star in a you-tube video that goes viral, "BIRDDOG RESCUES OWNER DROWNING IN WADERS". In a nutshell you can probably find a more renowned birddog trainer than me to help with your duck search. However, the last few years many Saturday's and Sunday's have been spent wading through the NAVHDA pond either planting birds or helping my dogs find planted birds. A few other NAVHDA members have shared this journey creating friendships and memories. Some of the things learned may be helpful to you.

- A. Don't even think about the duck search until you have a 99.9% reliable retrieve of a duck to hand on land. I am a firm believer that force fetch will give you a more consistent reliable retrieve in all conditions, however, if you can get a solid consistent retrieve to hand with other training methods that's all that matters.
- B. The other component to using Force Fetch is that it solidifies you as the "alpha" in your dogs world. Therefore when you send your dog to get the duck they will feel more "compelled" to go.
- C. One other small thing to remember is you will need to heel your dog a short distance to the waters edge with the judge walking next to you. Do not forget to practice heeling.
- D. Practice everything on land before taking the dog to water. On land you have much more control. It is much easier to make corrections.
- E. Once water is introduced expect problems. Have a plan on how to correct them. Birds may swim or fly away. Wind direction may change. Your dog may find the duck swim to an island and sit down to eat the duck. Have a plan. How will you prevent or correct this when it happens? It is very helpful to be able to get yourself out in the water. This may be with boat, waders or other. In our NAVHDA POND I believe the best is a combination of waders and one of the float tubes used for fishing. Each of these items cost \$100- \$200. Expect to be physically tired after 30 minutes or more in waders.



Three Methods to Training U.T. Duck Search

by Gary Johnson

Three Methods—(1)Plant Lots of Birds; (2) Cross the Pond First;(3)Chase & Retrieve Duck

Method 1– Plant Lots of Birds In most if not all training situations you want to set the dog up for success. To begin you should be wearing waders , although a kayak or small boat will suffice. You should also always have a spare pigeon—expired or clipped wing in your vest pocket. If the dog has a good search but does not find the duck throw the bird when the dog is not looking where the dog can see it. You want the message to be that if you keep looking you will eventually find a bird. Begin by planting 2 or 3 birds at a nearby island. Generally we use pigeons from our field work or frozen birds brought from home. Try and use at least 1 live bird. Tie the birds leg with surveyors tape and tie them to a reed. You may want to pin them between 2 reeds just above the water line. Remember if your dog does not find the bird you NEED to remove all birds at the end of your training. You do not want a dog later this week to discover a rotten bird, possibly filled with maggots, and feel the need to retrieve it. This will be a real negative moment for that dog. Please be responsible and remove any birds not found by your dog. Walk your dog to your release point. Generally the wind should be at your back or possibly a cross wind. However, when you are first beginning sending your dog into the wind may be a good idea. Your dog may be able to air scent the duck and zero in on the location of the duck. This will build confidence in the first or second search. Now . . .walk your dog to the waters edge. Get them in a stationary position: sit, down or stand. Fire the gun and give them your command to search. This should be a specific command that means find a downed bird, search, etc. , and not a generic fetch command used for something they see. If your dog refuses to go . . .you have 2 choices: throw a rock or walk in the water with them. The problem with throwing a rock is that it conditions the dog that YOU will be throwing a rock to give them direction. I prefer to give the command a second time then immediately walk in the water. The dog will generally follow you. If not, go back and grab his collar and tell him we are going for a swim. Once your dog relaxes and starts swimming comfortably let them go. Your goal now is to lead them towards your planted birds but create distance between you and them so that when they find it they feel that it was their accomplishment. You then want to hurry to your release point to have them return the bird to you. Each successive day you do the duck search your goal should be to plant ducks further from shore and spend less and less time “helping” your dog find them. When you no longer need to enter the water your dog should be fully trained. We always like to send the dogs twice in succession. On test day if they find a duck early they will be required to search again without a gunshot. So every time we do this method they will find the first one with gunshot and then be sent a second time without. It's nice to have training partners. In our training group two or three people will plant the birds throughout the pond while one prepares their dog. Now we have enough birds in the water that we do not need to plant again until all dogs are through.



Three Methods to Training U.T. Duck Search

by Gary Johnson

Method 2—Cross the Pond First Method—This is working quite well in many parts of the country. It is an excellent way to get your 10 minutes for a duck search. Essentially when released the first thing the dog will do is cross the pond to get the duck. That is always where the duck will be. The progression with this method is going from force fetch to force to the pile. Force to pile is where you place several bumpers 20-30 yards from the dog and send the dog repeatedly to the pile to retrieve. When they tire use mild stimulation to “encourage” them to do 2 or three more. After learning force to pile on land you transfer this concept to the water. . Extend your pile (on land) progressively until you are at the 100-150 yard range. Many dogs enjoy this routine. It is a great way to exercise your dog when you don’t have much time. Ten 150 yard retrieves will tire most dogs allowing them to relax when you get home. As they master force to pile on land repeat the process crossing water. Start with a short 20 yard crossing with a pile of bumpers on the other side. Throw the first bumper towards the pile but have it land in the water. This “marks the pile” for your dog. Now he knows where to go. If the dog refuses to go use your stimulation. Be careful about stimulating in the water. Progressively work to longer and longer distances. At your longer distances, 70 yards or so, 3 repetitions is probably fine. You probably don’t need more than 5. When working the water crossings put an occasional frozen or recently expired bird next to the bumpers. This will build your dogs interest. You can also put a clipped wing pigeon in a launcher and as your dog emerges from the water launch the bird. Instant adrenalin for the dog. The pigeon will fly 20-30 feet your dog will chase and happily retrieve. You should launch this on the first crossing otherwise your dog may inspect the launcher and accidentally trigger it into his face. As your dog gets comfortable with crossing spread out the bumpers and birds so they have to look for them. Your dog will now get comfortable “hunting” for the bumpers and birds AFTER crossing the water. One of the key things in the NAVHDA DUCK SEARCH is for your dog to “expand” his search. This is basically to hunt and upon not finding anything hunt at a further distance. With this method your dog is taught to expand his search *first* with the crossing. Once the water is crossed your dog will now hunt until they find a bird. These dogs will typically search other islands or objectives after they are unsuccessful finding a bird on the other side of the pond. This method has a couple challenges at Prado as it is impossible to see across the pond. Your dog must now be comfortable either swimming around islands or exiting the water and crossing the island and re-entering the water as they cross the pond. A real benefit to training with this method is that if you receive a UT Prize 1 score your dog will already be trained for one of the difficult parts of the Invitational Test—a blind retrieve across a 100 yard open span of water. Remember your goal should be for your dog to always be successful when you train. Keep the energy positive. When doing force to pile sometimes your dog will hesitate or look confused. Two things might help. One is to move half way to the pile and resend. The second is to throw a bumper towards the pile so the dog knows where to go. Then finish the drill. Good luck training this. Expect to make some modifications for each dog.



Three Methods to Training U.T. Duck Search

by Gary Johnson

Chase & Retrieve Duck Method

Step 1—Training Day 1—Hold your dog on lead 20—30 yards from pond. Have training partner bring a duck (primary flight feathers removed on one wing) between dog and pond. Use duck call to cue the dog for what a duck sounds like. Release duck and hold dog. The duck will quickly make its way to the water and swim away. While the duck crosses the water but has not yet entered cover, release your dog. They will quickly follow the scent trail on land to the scent trail in the water and swim after the duck. You want your dog to follow the duck into the reeds to catch and retrieve the duck. If a chase occurs, let it go on for a while but you should dispose of the duck before the dog loses interest to allow a retrieve. Have a throw bird ready just in case problems occur. I would recommend a clipped wing pigeon. If your dog refuses to go in the water, walk in the water with your dog and begin pursuing the duck. At some point your dog should leave you behind to hunt the duck. If not simply pursue the duck yourself and hope to light the duck hunting instinct inbred within your dog.

Step 2—Training Day 2—Your training partner is now going to tow a duck attached to a rope behind the boat. There are several ways to attach the rope to your duck. You might tape his feet together with electrical tape and tie the rope there. The duck will float behind the rowboat/kayak as your training partner paddles away. Make sure the duck is near the shore in the water prior to paddling away. This leaves a scent trail in the water for your dog to follow. You can choose to let your dog watch or keep him in the crate depending on how much motivation you think is needed. Paddle out of sight and hide in the reeds. Don't go too far. You want the dog to be successful. Prior to releasing the dog make a few quacks with the duck call. Now the dog has a scent cue and an auditory cue. You are trying to build the expectation that every time he actively looks for a duck good things happen. This needs to be imprinted in your dog's brain. It's a good idea to have walkie-talkies to communicate between land and shore. The person hiding in the boat needs to know what the dog is doing. If all goes well the dog will remember the previous training day and catch some scent from the water. On the release they should willingly enter and follow the scent trail. If they are actively pursuing the scent or looking in the reeds let them keep looking. Try not to let them see the boat and the person in the boat who has now un-taped the duck's feet and is holding the duck. If the dog is beginning to lose interest in the search or about to find the boat have the person in the boat throw the bird where the dog will see it. It should be as if the duck just dropped out of the sky . . . kind of like hunting. As the duck hits the water the dog will feel a huge jolt of energy. He has just hit the Jackpot in the Duck Lottery. It is literally raining ducks!! Again, let the chase and retrieve occur. If the duck is in open water outmaneuvering the dog at some point prior to fatigue and disinterest help the dog catch the duck, your helper could possibly be named **Remington** or **Winchester** and have a nickname like "12 gauge". On the retrieve celebrate the dog's success. Let the dog know that he is a "superstar duck hunter" and you are impressed!



Three Methods to Training U.T. Duck Search by Gary Johnson

Step 3—Training Day 3— Extend Training Day Two's Method to a significantly longer distance. Repeat all other steps. Take a clipped wing pigeon with you just in case you have duck problems. It is possible that your dog will be so "duck crazy" they do not want to abandon the duck to pursue a pigeon.

Step 4—Training Day 4— No more scent trail. Training partner will paddle to reeds and hide from the dogs sight. Hold the flightless duck and use your duck call to give your best impression of a giant mallard. Handler commands the dog to search. If there is any delay throw the duck where the dog can see and allow chase sequence to occur. In the boat try and stay in a position where you can observe the dog but are out of site. The walkie-talkies are very helpful. Handler should tell the person in the boat what is happening. When training always expect some things to go wrong. You will undoubtedly have some hilarious moments tipping the boat, filling your waders, etc., try and enjoy the chaos. You also should have the thrill of watching your dog develop into a first class duck searcher which will minimize loss of game when hunting. One thing that seems to consistently save a training situation gone bad is to have a throw bird in your pocket. This will allow your dog to experience success regardless of calamity.

Step 5—Training Day 5—The pattern should be reasonably established with your dog now. If your dog was not successful do not proceed forward. Simply return to the step prior to where your dog started to **not** have success. Now, Day 5. Extend farther from your dogs release point. You can still be in boat/kayak but may want to consider waders. Hide in the reeds and use the duck call. Hold the duck attached to a rope. Throw the duck in the air so the dog can see it. Release the dog with your search command. Make sure the dog has the wind at his back or a crosswind. You no longer want the dog to possibly air scent the bird. It is important that the dog understand to expand their search to have success. Be ready to throw the duck as soon as the handler tells you to a place the dog can see.

Step 6—Training Day 6— It's probably time to extend further. Use the duck call. If confident don't throw duck in air. Repeat prior steps . . . Soon you will release the duck without allowing the dog to see the throw. Do not forget you want a **chase and a retrieve** every time. You are trying to build the drive of the dog by letting them enjoy the chase. Release duck when dog is near.

Step 7—Training Day 7— Begin NOT using the duck call. Start sending the dog a second time after the first bird is found, NOT using the gunshot. Place the 2nd duck closer.

Now that's more than enough talk about training . It's time to "get training". Pick a method or create your own. Possibly you might be one of the lucky one's whose dog looks at the pond, dives in and disappears for 30 minutes looking for ducks. Congratulations, your dog was "pre-programmed". The really good news for those of you who have a dog that struggles with the duck search is that working through this issue will bring you much closer. Even if you are holding your dogs collar walking through the pond to "show them the duck" your dog will look forward to the time together.. If you are not emotional or frustrated but positive and firm your dog will look at you as the leader teaching and it will strengthen the bond between you. As we begin to approach the summer months and the temperatures climb often times your dog will be thrilled to work in the water as it keeps them cool. Of course as fall hunting season rolls around your dog will bring you more ducks!!!

Happy Training.



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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"You Can't Be Terrible Forever"

Preston McNutt

Editors Note: When you start training your dog there will be days in which your training seem to be going backwards. Your dog can only "resist" you so long. When you pass that point they will become a willing partner.

Stay

Before attempting this one, make sure your dog is an expert at the "Sit" command. First, ask your dog to "Sit." Then open the palm of your hand in front of you, and say "Stay." Take a few steps back. Reward him with a treat and affection if he stays. Gradually increase the number of steps you take before giving the treat. Always reward your pup for staying put — even if it's just for a few seconds.

This is an exercise in self-control for your dog, so don't be discouraged if it takes a while to master, particularly for puppies and high-energy dogs. After all, they want to be on the move and not just sitting there waiting.

HARDSHIPS OFTEN
PREPARE ORDINARY
PEOPLE FOR AN
EXTRAORDINARY
DESTINY...

-C.S. LEWIS



**Be the Person
Your dog thinks
You Are**
Abraham Lincoln



Sit

This is one of the *easiest* dog obedience commands to teach, so it's a good one to start with.

- Hold a treat close to your dog's nose.
- Move your hand up, allowing his head to follow the treat and causing his bottom to lower.
- Once he's in sitting position, say "Sit," give him the treat, and share affection.

Repeat this sequence a few times every day until your dog has it mastered. Then ask your dog to sit before mealtime, when leaving for walks, and during other situations where you'd like him calm and seated

**“It's Hard to Beat
A Person
Who Never
Gives Up”**

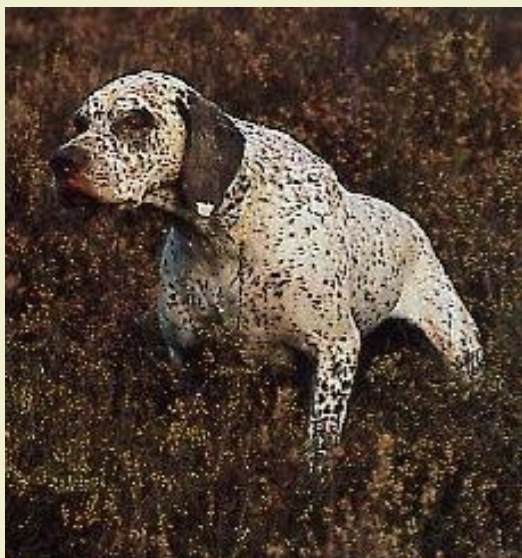
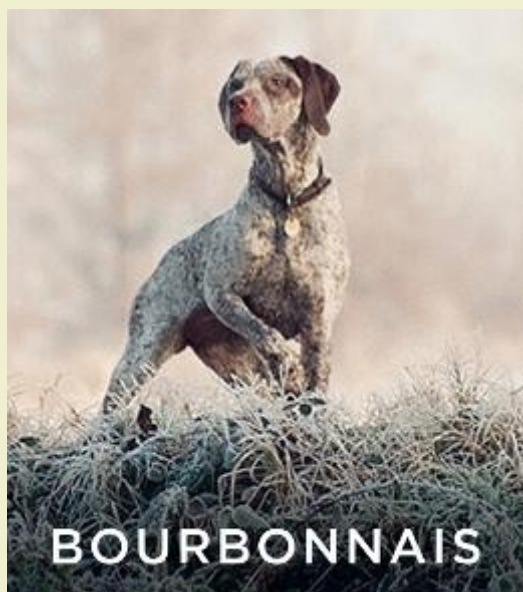
Babe Ruth

Breed of the Month

Braque du Bourbonnais



Dog breeds come and go. Some take centuries to develop and others are created almost overnight. Some slowly fade away and others disappear in the blink of an eye. For a very few breeds, there can even be a sort of resurrection. The Braque du Bourbonnais is one such breed. There are references to it as far back as the 16th century, but it had disappeared by the 1960s. Today, thanks to the efforts of a group of breeders led by a man of vision, it has returned. The Braque du Bourbonnais (pronounced brock-do-bor-bon-NAY) is an ancient breed. The Braque du Bourbonnais is considered one of the most ancient pointers of the pointing breeds developed in France. The breed was described in French literature as early as the late 1500's. Even then, the breed was known for its keen hunting instincts. Like many of our contemporary pointers, the Braque du Bourbonnais is thought to have originated from the ancient Spanish pointer. Of the numerous French pointers, most experts agree that these breeds originated from the same stock, the French Pointer or Braque Francais. Each breed of pointers in France is named for the region in which they were developed. Some examples include the Braque Saint Germain, which is the pointer from Saint Germain. The Braque d'Auvergne is the pointer from the Auvergne region and the Braque du Bourbonnais from the province of Bourbon, a region of central France. This was published in the Bourbonnais Club bulletin in 1933 and details Dubut's efforts to revive the breed. *When I started breeding Braques du Bourbonnais 30 years ago, the dogma of absolute purity of the breed was the official, intangible doctrine of dog breeding, and the greatest achievement was to blend together all the champions of the breed, or at least their offspring. In a few years, I had assembled in my kennel the blood of all the kings and queens of the breed, but the more I concentrated my aristocratic stew, the more troubling faults I saw. Such a high level of inbreeding quickly becomes dangerous. Some of the few famous individuals of the breed, even though they are champions, have physical or mental faults that make it very dangerous for any linebreeding or inbreeding. That was the situation in my kennel around 1908. It was obvious to me that only crossbreeding could improve, revive, and save my Braque du Bourbonnais.*



The Braque du Bourbonnais is a calm, affectionate family companion. When hunting they are full of passion, cautious, balanced, cooperative and intelligent. They have a remarkable ease of adaptation to the most varied terrains and game. This intense pointing dog has an ability to train easily and quickly. They are people-oriented and not happy if isolated from the family. They need human leadership. Owners must be firm, confident and consistent with the rules. When exercised sufficiently, at least once a day, they make a very agreeable family companion. The Braque du Bourbonnais typically gets along with all other canines. Daily exercise is important, which includes a long daily walk, where the dog is made to heel beside or behind the human. Never in front, as in the dog's mind, pack leader goes first. This breed is bred to hunt, so it prefers an active outdoor life. Without family companionship and daily exercise, it can become destructive or depressed. Today the breed thrives in France and has gained the support of hunters and followers across Europe and North America. The Braque Du Bourbonnais was first imported into the United States in 1988. During the 1900's a fixation to produce a tail-less pointing dog with its unique ticking color without any patches nearly destroyed the breed due to the deleterious effects of inbreeding. After 2 world wars the Braque du Bourbonnais and ensuing lack of breeding activities brought extinction to the breed during the 1960's, the breed was revitalized with out-crossings to other breeds, primarily the English Pointer and the subsequent acceptance of dogs with docked tails with limited patches of color. The Braque Du Bourbonnais is a pointer with a calm, gentle demeanor that is ideally suited for the foot hunter. The breed's relatively small size and short coat suits them well.

If you are interested in this breed the best information I could find was in "Point: The Pointing Dog Blog". It was very informative and I used very little of the information here . . .but I would highly recommend it.

SOCAL NAVHDA also has a couple of members who own this breed and could probably provide some first hand information. Long time Braque du Bourbonnais owner, past SOCAL NAVHDA newsletter editor and frequent competitor in hunting events ,Claude Trincale.



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.
6. 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 SoCal. NAVHDA Trailer packed with versatile hunting dog training supplies for \$20.00 key deposit, refundable if you'll leave the chapter.
8. SoCal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

NAVHDA SPONSORS



If you have not had any resistance from your dog with force fetch yet, congratulations!!! Get ready though it's bound to happen soon enough. You are now moving away from table acclimation, hands around and in the mouth to putting some pressure on your dog to get him to "grab something". Some use a toe hitch, some an ear pinch and some an e-collar. This method is using an ear pinch. It is very important that the dog feels the pressure, (ear pinch), and that it is an uncomfortable feeling. This may be one of the first times you have purposefully made your dog uncomfortable. Try to ignore that feeling that you are doing something "wrong" the dog is learning a new skill, retrieving when my master asks (not just when your dog wants to). An additional benefit is that many dogs will soon OBEY our other commands regardless of whether they WANT TO, no questions asked.

Force Fetch—Step 2

By Guido Dei



This is the second phase of the force to retrieve on the table. Hopefully by now your pooch is relaxed up there, and holding a variety of different objects with no hesitation, and not releasing until you command him to. **Keep feeding him up there after each session and he will look forward to his lesson.** Up until now we have been prying his mouth open to insert the roller or dowel. Hopefully you have been rubbing his ears and getting him comfortable with your hands around his head. **Bring the collar up as tight as possible to the ceiling so that he cannot lower his head. Make sure that he can breathe properly and that he is in the sit position facing straight on to you with his head up as high as possible.** Inside the dog's ear there is a spot that has very little hair on it and that is where we will give a light pinch with our thumbnail. Timing is important here when we go to pinch the ear. **Stay very calm when you do this or your anxiety will transfer to your pupil.** Take a dowel with duct tape wrapped around it about a half of an inch in diameter and ten inches in length. The tape makes the dowel easier to hold, and it won't slide so easily on the dog's hard teeth. Hold the dowel with your right hand and have him hold it like he has all the other objects. While he is holding it rub his ears vigorously and say good boy. Now take it out, and with your right hand bring it up and rest the dowel gently against his muzzle. **If he tries to stand make him sit back down before you continue.** Bring your left hand up to his right ear and find the area that has no hair up high in the ear. As you pinch gently with your thumbnail, push the dowel firmly against his teeth and say the word Fetch. Some dogs will get frightened and want to clam up when they feel the pinch stimulation. Just stay calm and as I said don't pinch too hard at first.

Prado - May 15

Force Fetch—Step 2

continued

The most important thing is to get the dog to open his mouth wide enough to accept the small dowel and immediately stop the pinch. Once he has the idea that as soon as he has this thing in his mouth he gets praise and no pinch discomfort. As soon as we can trust him to grab the dowel we can start to give him more slack on the chain. **We have to get our timing down pat and pinch the ear at the same time that we offer the dowel to him.** Once he is actually grabbing the object and making a conscious effort to hold it, we are ready to start traveling on the table from the right to the left. **Start holding the dowel a little further away from his mouth each session only a couple of inches or so. As you pinch the ear say fetch to get the desired response, and as the dog takes the dowel release the pinch immediately, but make sure that he holds it. Allow him to hold it for at least ten seconds at first and then keep adding a little distance for him to reach.** Sooner than you think your dog will be moving a few feet to grab the object from your hand. This is when you will have to hook him to the cable to get the distance required. **Remember to watch that he doesn't get sloppy on his hold and make him sit as soon as he gets back to the center of the table. I can't express how important it is to really praise your dog when he does well.** Once you are happy with that session, feed the dog up there as his reward. This part of the training is pretty boring for both you and the dog but believe me it needs to be done. Try to pick up some speed as you both become more accustomed to the routine. We are looking for the dog to start reaching for the object on the table and this is where most of the refusals begin. **Continued next page**



Force Fetch—Step 2

continued

The transition of taking it from your hand is one thing but when we take the hand away and ask him to pick it up from the table the dog usually tries to bail out and refuse to grab the dowel. Just lift the object slightly and keep the ear pinch on until he grabs it firmly.

Keep working on this until the dog becomes used to grabbing off the table surface and we will start to mix the objects up that he will pick up as we go into the next phase.

(Remember you and your dog will be much closer at the conclusion of this process. Stay positive and persevere.)

DOWN

This can be one of the more difficult commands in dog obedience training. Why? Because the position is a submissive posture. You can help by keeping training positive and relaxed, particularly with fearful or anxious dogs.

- Find a particularly good smelling treat, and hold it in your closed fist.
- Hold your hand up to your dog's snout. When he sniffs it, move your hand to the floor, so he follows.
- Then slide your hand along the ground in front of him to encourage his body to follow his head.

Once he's in the down position, say "Down," give him the treat, and share affection. Repeat it every day. If your dog tries to sit up or lunges toward your hand, say "No" and take your hand away. Don't push him into a down position, and encourage every step your dog takes toward the right position. After all, he's working hard to figure it out!



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

SCHEDULED EVENTS

June 12- Training Day Prado

July 10- Training Day Prado

**August 6 -Work Day Prado improving
our training grounds (tentative)**

August 14 - Training Day Prado

September 11—Training Day at Prado

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

