

SOCAL NAVHDA



ON POINT



NEWSLETTER May 2018

My First Pheasant!



Dutch Oven!! Hot-weather tips
Banded Ducks? Youth Pheasant Hunt

Youth Pheasant Hunt

by Gary Johnson

On Saturday, May 19, the second annual Youth Pheasant Hunt was held at Prado Dog Park In Chino, Ca. . The event is sponsored by the three local NAVHDA chapters: Inland Empire, SOCAL and San Diego. The event has been predominantly organized by Cliff Fleming and his Inland Empire team with the other chapters chipping in on the day of the event. One of NAVHDA International's major goals is to increase youth participation in hunting. Ruth Weiss of the San Diego chapter is on the national committee for this initiative. If you have never participated in one of these youth events it's time to get involved. I know you are busy. I know there are 101 "honey-do's" to do. But DON'T, DON'T, do the "honey-do" for at least one weekend. This day is NOT for YOU. This is not for YOUR fun, running around the field with your dog chasing birds and pulling out your faithful 12 gauge to take care of business. NO! NO! NO! This is not about you. It is about the children. Explain to your significant other the importance of providing a good example to future generations about how to be a proper patriotic and humble, bird chasin', huntin' dog lovin', citizen. For cryin' out loud it's for the KIDS! You may be able to deny a man his hunting and you may be able to even deny a man spending some good weekend time with his bird-dog but you simply cannot deny a man spending his weekend helping children appreciate nature. Seriously, these youth hunt events are excellent fun. I have now participated in 3 or 4 and was never disappointed. Yes, your dog will probably get to enjoy finding a few well fed roosters, but the joy really is with exposing the kids to nature in a new found way. It is similar to a kid catching his first fish. The joy of learning something new for a child is contagious to all. Watching the slightly older participants who for the first time in their life are on a "hunt" and actually shoot and hit a pheasant. It is also exciting to be a part of that moment. The restrained smile that signals the immense pride a young hunter has from accomplishing this challenging task recharges us as "more seasoned" participants. Do not think that you need to have an outstanding dog or skill to participate. There are many jobs: sign in table, bird planter, cook, servers, gopher, greeter, gunner, etc. . Like they say it takes a village to raise a child and it takes many NAVHDA members to run an outstanding youth hunt. After hunting, the kids went back to camp to learn how to clean their bird and prep it for cooking. Shortly thereafter several of the demo dogs demonstrated water retrieving with the kids throwing the bumpers. Several demo's were done also with the kids dragging the birds followed by the dogs tracking them and retrieving the bird to the youngster who did the drag. Five separate fields were used with several kids, dogs, handlers and gunners at each. There was no shortage of pheasants or excellent dogs. I was assigned field #5 and the kids hunted with a Brittney Spaniel, a Large Munsterlander a couple of German Shorthair Pointers and a Vizsla. It was excellent for the parents and kids to see that all of the dogs were capable of top performance despite being distinctly different breeds.

Thanks to all the volunteers and parents who participated and a special thanks to all the kids as they are the people that truly made it a great day! Looking forward to seeing more of you next year!

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What's up with Duck Bands?

Harvesting a banded bird is a unique experience. Not only do you get some "jewelry" for your lanyard, but when you report the band, you get a certificate on when and where the bird was banded, its species, sex and age. Getting a bird with a reward, or "money" band on it is extra special because they are relatively rare

The first person to band birds in the United States was John James Audubon, who marked songbirds with silver thread in 1803. Modern banding of North American migratory birds is managed cooperatively by wildlife agencies in the United States and Canada. In this country, banding is the responsibility of the Bird Banding Lab (BBL) of the U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division located in Laurel, Maryland. In Canada, the Bird Banding Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service manages banding. Both countries use the same bands, reporting forms, and data formats.

From 1914 through 2007, about 13 million ducks had been banded in North America. The mallard leads the flock, with about 7 million banded. Blue-winged teal are a distant second at more than 1.5 million, followed by pintails and wood ducks (1.3 million), black ducks (1 million) and green-winged teal (500,000). Not surprisingly, the duck bands most often found on hunters' lanyards are those found on commonly banded species such as mallards (around 1 million recoveries), black ducks (160,000), pintails (147,000) and wood ducks (140,000). Among the real rarities are the 2,000 or so bands (per species) recovered from cinnamon teal, common goldeneyes and buffleheads. Rarer still are bands from ruddy ducks, long-tailed ducks (oldsquaws) and spectacled eiders. If you have a ruddy duck band, you're one of only 550 hunters who can make that claim. Only 61 long-tailed duck bands have been recovered, and only 10 spectacled eider bands!

In the 1950s, biologists used retrievers to catch young mallards for banding on the nesting grounds in Canada. How do today's researchers catch the ducks? Researchers use a variety of techniques to capture waterfowl for banding. Most prairie ducks are caught in baited traps. Wood ducks are often captured while inhabiting nest boxes. At some eider colonies, researchers use hunting dogs to help locate and catch nesting hens in thick vegetation. Many divers are caught in drive traps (flightless, molting birds are herded into nets). Banding crews also primarily trap geese when they are flightless, either as juveniles or as molting adults, by driving them into funnel traps. On arctic breeding areas, biologists use helicopters to herd flightless geese into funnels. Researchers capture wintering ducks using baited traps or rocket nets. Wintering sea ducks are caught using night-lighting, net-guns, and floating mist nets.

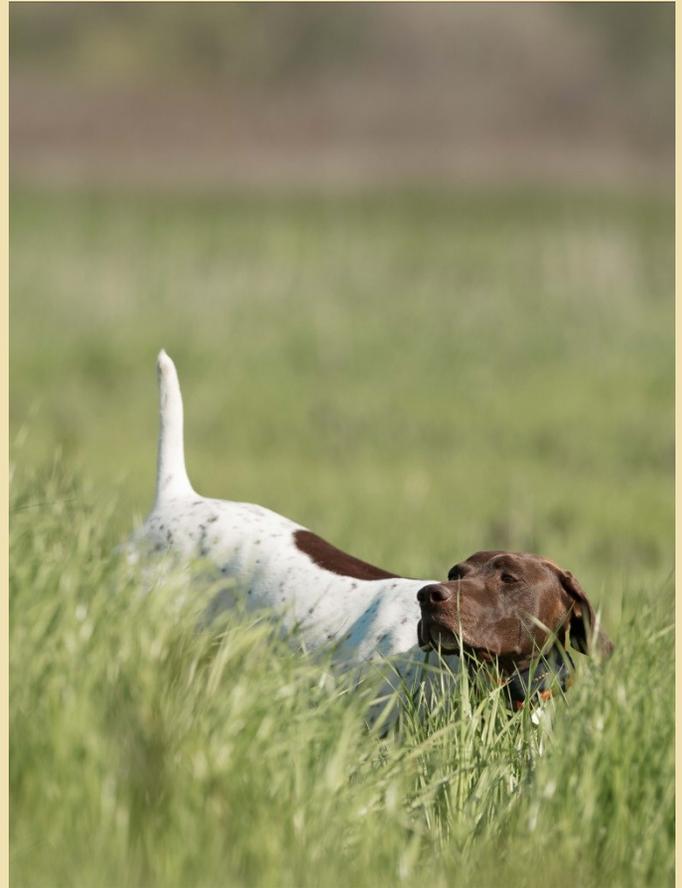
Banding is a classic waterfowl research and management tool. Early banding studies provided biologists with a good understanding of the routes, timing, and speed of waterfowl migrations almost a century before technology was available to track birds with satellite transmitters. Some of the oldest banded birds eventually taken by hunters are the following: Wood duck (22 years 6 months), Blue-winged teal (23 years 3 months) Mallard (26 years 4 months and Canadian goose (33 years 3 months). A band placed on the leg of a pintail in Canada's Northwest Territories was recovered from the stomach of an American Alligator in Florida 13 months later.

Most of this info is from the Ducks Unlimited website

Hot-Weather Training

by Gary Johnson

Training smart during the summer months can be a matter of life or death for your dog. This is something that most humans have not thought about as many of the “dog things” in our lives are not given much thought. We never considered that having fur coats dogs heat up quicker than humans. We never considered that having dark fur versus light fur may give a dark dog’s coat up to 20 degrees in more heat absorption than a dog with a light colored coat. An easy demonstration is to find the “tool” geek in your neighborhood and see if he has an infrared thermometer. These are about \$100 at the local Home Depot. Once you find this person who is as crazy about tools as you are about dogs ask if you can come over during the afternoon just to see how that gadget works. Simply pick out a light colored vehicle parked near a dark blue, brown or black vehicle and point the thermometer at the hood of the light and dark vehicle. Thank goodness it’s not like the dog thermometer where you have to push the thermometer up the tailpipe!! You should immediately see a big difference in temperature just based on color of paint. This is what your dog is living with. Only you are asking him to run at top speed pursuing birds. The next question is how hot is too hot. This will be debated by dog people and veterinarians alike. The vets will tell you to grab a thermometer and periodically monitor the inside of your dogs tailpipe. Most of us are not so eager to pursue this option. In general, my opinion is that 80 degrees is too hot and 70– 80 is workable but should be closely monitored. So what are the signs your dog is having trouble. Here are some things to look for in your dog: slowing down the search, unprompted laying in the shade, tongue hanging out excessively, drooling and wanting to walk by your side rather than work. What are some things you can do to help? Most importantly be aware of the heat and be aware of how dangerous it can be. Realize that once a dog gets heat stroke and they are fortunate enough to live their bodies ability to dissipate heat (continued)



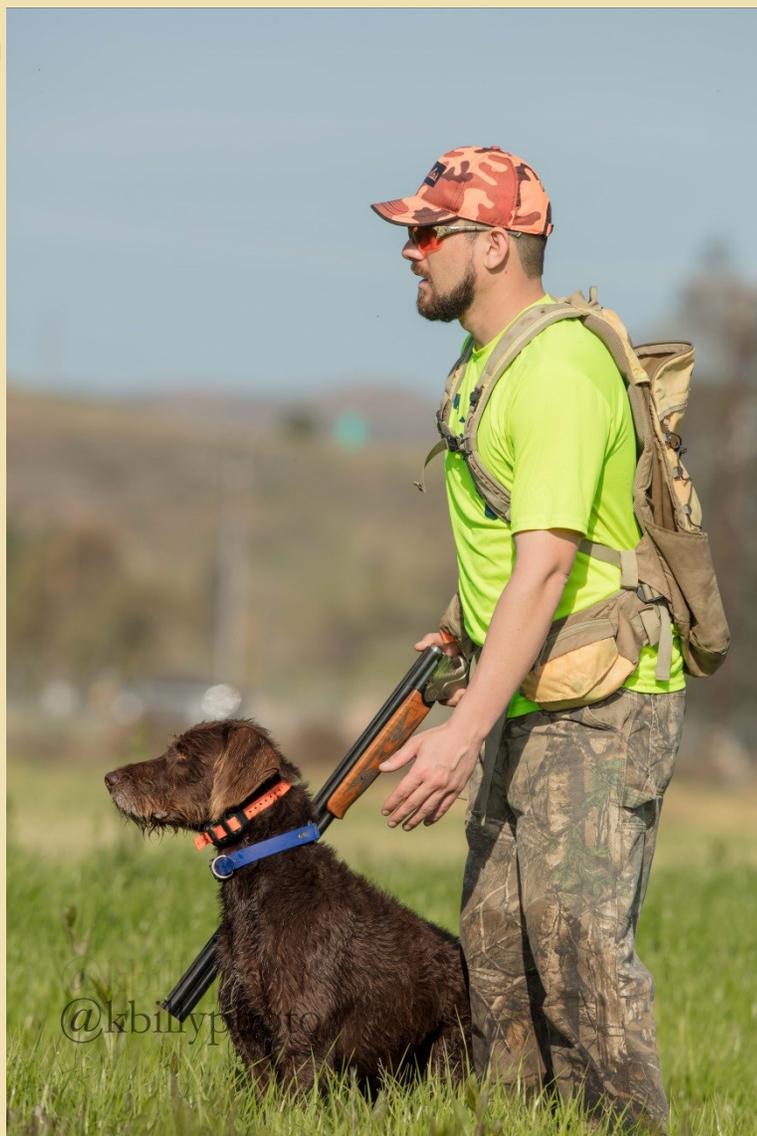
Hot-Weather Training

by Gary Johnson

will forever be altered. They will never quite be the same as their “internal temperature regulator” has somehow been damaged. I strongly doubt that a dog’s anatomy has an “internal temperature regulator” but I believe if you will check with a more “learn-ed” person, possibly a vet, this concept will be proven correct. Try to train early morning hours before the sun gets too high in the sky. Keep your dog in the shade as much as possible to limit exposure. Using the portable shade structures such as the EZ UP can be very helpful. Just set it up over the back of your truck. Stake it too the ground or anchor with some sand bags and you will always have shade for your dog. Adam Salazar and his dog Jay are pictured to the right. Try utilizing a back pack as Adam is carrying to carry extra water. Below 70 degrees in a 30 minute training session my dogs are usually content too drink about 12 oz of water. Above 70 degrees they often consume up to 32 oz in the same time period. Look at “Jay” the Pudelpointer versus David Giorgi’s GSP “Jake” pictured to the right. These dogs will feel the heat much differently due to the color of their coat and we mustn’t that one is a shorthair and the other a wire hair . Using water tubs or ponds to let your dog cool off in is also an excellent strategy. Some experts suggest this isn’t much help but if you watch our dogs enter and leave the water it seems obvious that it is cooling their system. Feel free to use your rectal thermometer to check for the truth! Lastly try to limit the length of space between birds planted. Try not to make it into a cardiovascular training exercise when it’s hot. Save that training for cooler moments.

Keep your dog’s safe by being aware of the potential hazards.

Happy Training

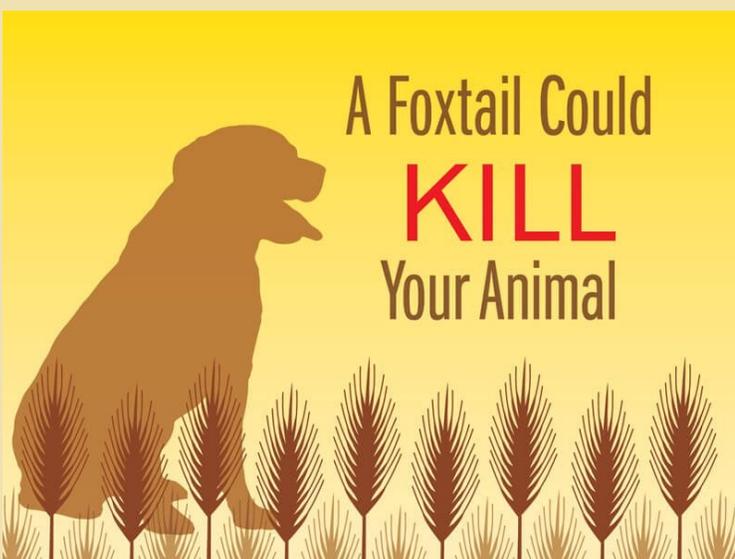




Dutch Oven Cooking

by Gary Johnson

If you have never experienced Dutch Oven Cooking it may be time to go on Amazon and order a Dutch Oven. It is the opposite of our normal American mindset of the quick and fast American lifestyle with the drive-through and the microwave preparing our daily meals. The surprise will be in the flavor, satisfaction and simplicity in preparation. Did I mention the flavor? You can use them to bake, roast, boil, fry and stew just about anything. The simplicity is that many times you can just throw everything in a Dutch oven, leave it for a hour or two and then dinner is done! It is the modern slow cooker with better flavor. I would guess this has something to do with the ability of cast iron cookware to so evenly distribute heat. The flavor will have a depth that you probably regularly don't experience. Think of the difference between preparing smores on an open campfire versus a microwave. No comparison. Continue page 10





The 3 D's of Dog Training

Distance—Increase to improve obedience

Duration—Increase to improve obedience

Distraction—Increase to improve obedience

"Denial, stands for

"Don't Even Notice I Am 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— Being the Pack Leader

**"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend.
Inside of a dog,
It's too dark to read."**



kbillyphoto



Colleen Scruggs - Goose Valley Kennels -- Ramona, Ca. by Sean H.



Author, Sean H., is an 11 year old dog enthusiast. His family has 3 dogs and 2 cats currently. Their family's top "hunting dog" Gabby is a German Shorthair Pointer from Goose Valley Kennels. Sean has known Colleen since their dog was a pup. Here Sean and Gabby travel to an early morning training session.



It was a pleasure interviewing Colleen Scruggs about dog training and NAVHDA. She talked about techniques, memories, and training with her dogs. To start off, Colleen's favorite thing about dog training is building a relationship with the dog. Without a good relationship with your dog, you have nothing. When you have a good, strong relationship this builds camaraderie. Colleen has always loved animals. She said that the relationship with an animal is special. When asked about her favorite memory she remembers her first German Shorthaired Pointer named Cassie. It was twenty years ago when Colleen watched Cassie working in the field. She also recalled that watching the beauty of this dog's work was the best feeling ever. Today her dogs excel in water work. **The techniques she recommends are kindness, and using eye contact. By using these techniques, you provide a level of confidence in your dog. She mentioned to never yell or lose your temper at the dog.** Prior to dog training Colleen wishes she would have known all of this was possible with kindness, love, and perseverance. **A final pointer is to always end on a positive note.** After meeting Mrs. Scruggs, I learned to be consistent, persevere, and be loving and kind towards animals. Colleen Scruggs is a passionate caring individual. She cares about the well-being and success of the dogs in the field, as well as at home.

Goose Valley Kennels with Coleen Scruggs and her husband Ken had an article published in the San Diego Tribune about the journey one goes through when picking out a puppy. The following are excerpts from that article.

Field and Stream Magazine once listed five tips for picking out the right bird dog.

LOOK AT THE PARENTS The qualities of the parents tell you more than anything in a pup's papers about what it will look like, how good its nose will be, and how it will behave.

CHECK THEIR HEALTH Make sure you see a veterinary certificate showing that the pups you're interested in are in excellent health and have been wormed and inoculated with DHLPP vaccine. Arrange to see the litter at feeding time. A healthy pup eats eagerly, has a firm covering of flesh, and is happy and robust, not timid, spooky, thin, or runny-eyed.

TEST THEIR TEMPERAMENT One by one, gently pick up the pups. Before putting each one down, turn it on its back for a moment. A pup that snaps at your hand or struggles wildly when held on its back momentarily is hypersensitive and may be difficult to train. One that just lies there may be dull. You want one that wiggles but doesn't go crazy.

TAKE THEM FOR A TEST DRIVE Take the pups you like outside one by one and try a few training drills like walking away to see if it follows, clap hands after stopping and get on one knee to see if the dog comes to you, crumple up a piece of paper and throw it to see if the pup shows curiosity and runs after it.

TRUST YOUR GUT If a final choice seems impossible, just reach in and grab one of them.

TIP: Before making your final pick, check the pup's temperature: 101.5 degrees is normal; anything between 101 and 102 is acceptable.





Roast Beef Stew



Peach Cobbler

Dutch Oven Cooking

by Gary Johnson

There is an enormous amount of information about cooking with a Dutch oven distributed online. In general you need a Dutch oven, charcoal briquettes, a pair of tongs to move the coals, a lid lifter, heat resistant gloves and possibly a small wisk broom. Using wooden cooking utensils is also a good idea and simply clean with a sponge and water after each use. Do not soak it or use strong detergent as it will remove the seasoning. Re-season with oil after cleaning. This is a very simple process that only takes a couple minutes.

Lets give you a couple basic recipes to help get you started. Like many I prefer to start with dessert.

Tortilla Dessert Rollups

Lay out squares of tinfoil to put each tortilla in

Have small containers of your favorite sweets(bananas, almonds, peanuts, cheese, chocolate chips, marshmallows, blueberries, strawberries,etc.)

Lightly spray tinfoil with cooking spray

Have each person pick 1 or 2 tortillas and have them lay them on a tinfoil square.

Add favorite ingredients.

Roll up tortilla and tinfoil

Place in Dutch oven and remove when tortillas have softened and ingredients are oozing appropriately

Roast Beef Stew

3-4 pound piece of quality beef your choice

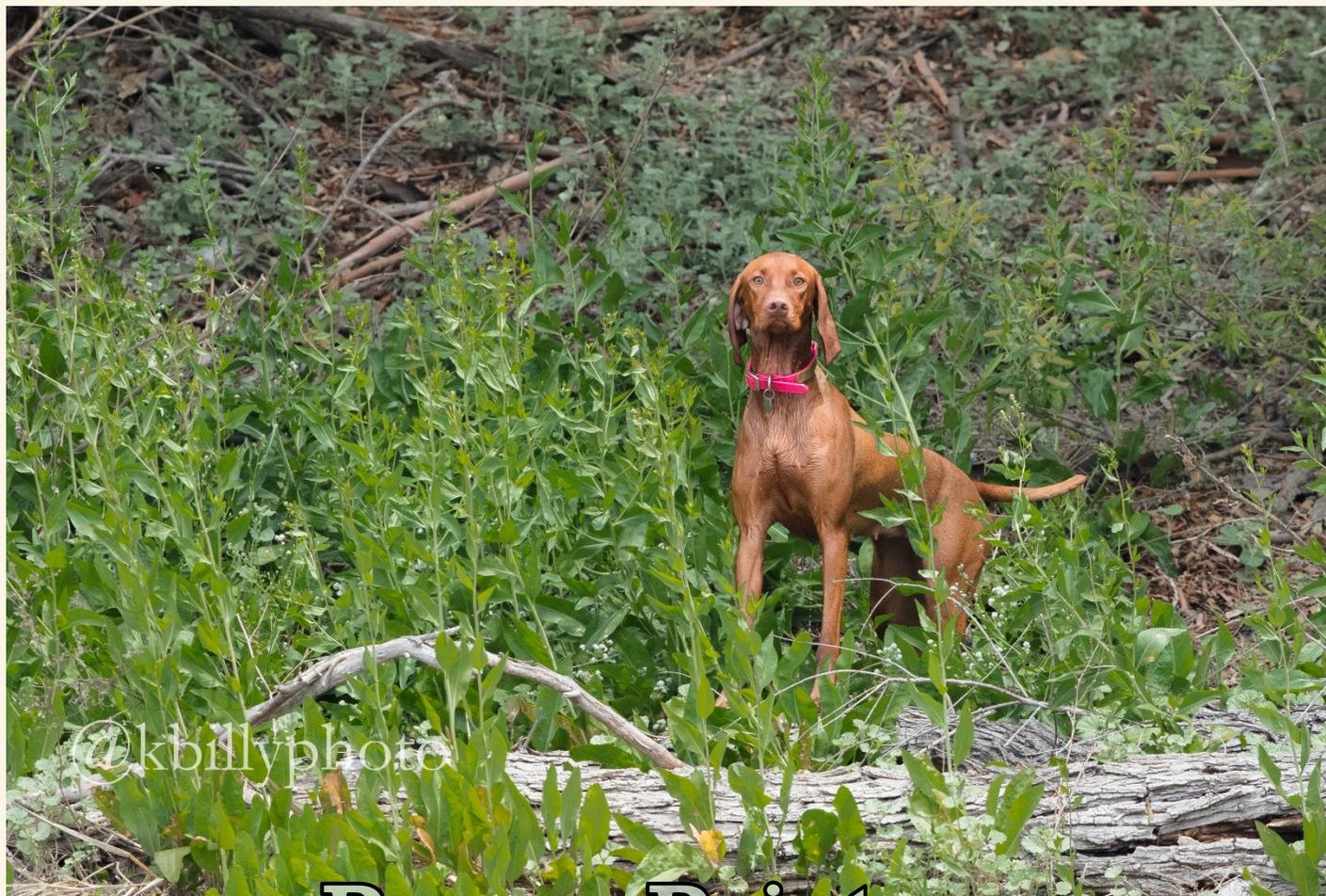
Several different types of vegetables (try carrots, onions, celery, peppers, cilantro, short pieces of corn on cob , etc. Chop veggies or not—your choice)

Potato's or Beans your choice (I prefer 2 or 3 different types of beans: garbanzo, pinto, black)

Simply put this in the oven place over coals and put coals on top and wait an hour or two it will be terrific

Another strategy with a stew is to initially brown the meat in the dutch ovenbefore adding any other ingredients , regardless the taste will be fantastic

Be patient and realize you may need to add some more coals every 30-40 minutes



Puppy Pointers

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!

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.

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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



'Steady by the Blind' Practice Tips

by Gary Johnson

Heeling 40 Feet Dog's Head at your Knee

Practice Heeling regularly. Whenever you take your dog to exercise do a few minutes of heeling. Go around obstacles. Use trees, bushes, fences, the edge of a water area, fire hydrants, etc. . If you have a male dog they will want to pause by the fire hydrant. Do NOT let them. Condition them to realize this is training time and NOT time to mark their territory. Practice on lead and off lead.

Sitting with Gun Shots

This could also be standing or lying down, your choice. Also you do not always need "gun shots" to practice. What you really need are distractions both visual and audio. A youth athletic contest is a perfect environment. Just make sure not to make it a greet the children event. That would be socialization. This is about being steady with distractions. Your dog needs to learn steadiness with Noise and Random Movement. This can be found in many places. Place your dog in sit/down/whoa and walk several steps away.

Retrieving with Decoys

Initially practice this on land. Start with a few decoys and then increase the number. This will not take long to master. Now move to the water and do the same thing. Within a short period of time your dog will not even notice the decoys.

Retrieving Duck to Hand

This training should be mastered in the yard at your house. Retrieval to hand is a matter of obedience and cooperation. Specifically it is obedience under duress as their will be judges, a gallery and many anxious dogs baying in the background. My strong suggestion is to utilize a force fetch program such as the one published yearly in this newsletter. This is a proven recipe for success in retrieving. It continually surprises me how many participants do not see the importance of always finishing the event well. It is the last reminder the judges will have of your dog, the delivery to hand... or not. The choice is yours.

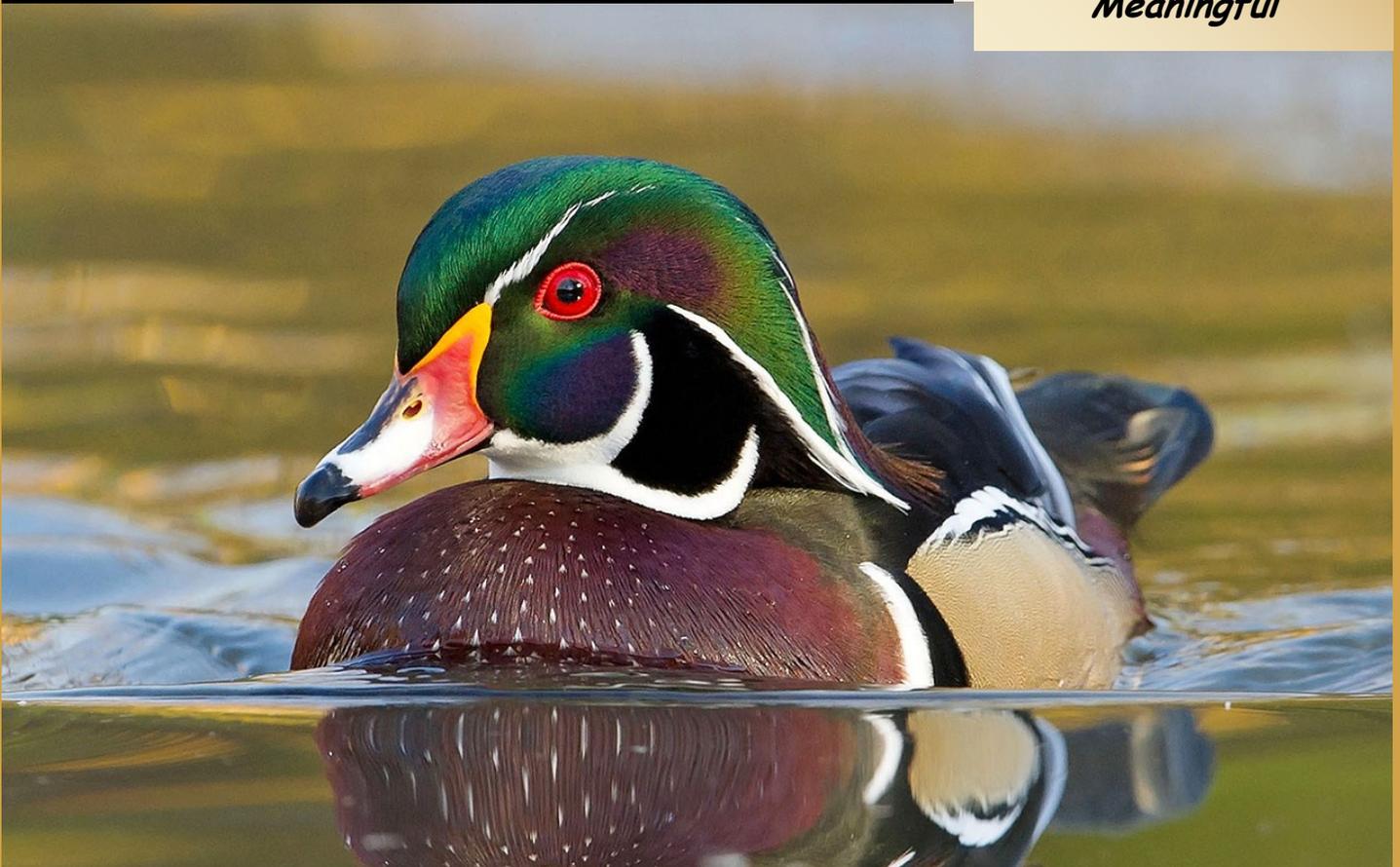
SCHEDULED EVENTS

Training Days

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.