

SOCAL NAVHDA



ON POINT

NEWSLETTER February 2018



kbillyphoto

**Guido Memory
Accountability & Consequences**

**Pack Order
Puppy Pointers**

Snake Avoidance Training



SOCAL NAVHDA'S annual snake avoidance training will occur at Prado dog park April 15 from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. . The cost is \$60. Encourage your friends with dogs to attend as not only hunting dogs get snake bit. Sixty dollars of prevention is far cheaper than paying the vet bill after a bite occurs. All areas of Southern California have rattlesnakes. Frequently, we are unaware. However, our dogs see and smell everyone just as they spot small lizards that we do not see. Their natural curiosity and predatory instinct cause many to be bitten. This year you can prepay at socalnavhda.org. If you have any questions you can give Irene Fradella a call or email me at garyjohnson0515@gmail.com.

Snake avoidance training seems to work for over 90% of dogs. However, this is no guarantee that they will not be bitten. What the training teaches the dog is to avoid the smell or sight of any snake. If the wind is blowing the wrong direction and the snake is hidden it is occasionally possible for the dog to still interact with a snake. Think of bird contacts. The vast majority of time our dogs will see or smell the bird but occasionally the wind is blowing away from the dog and the dog will walk into a bird without knowing it's there. In dog competitions we call this a "wild flush". With a rattlesnake we would call this "bad luck". It is likely that a local vet will be at the snake clinic to provide the "rattlesnake" shot and other vaccinations that you may need. The rattlesnake shot minimizes the toxins effects on your dog if bitten. Be aware that this shot does not help at all when a Mojave Green rattlesnake strikes a dog. This particular snake has a much more potent type of venom that is far more dangerous than the regular rattlesnake.

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SOCAL NAVHDA member Clint Lager is pictured above with his faithful sidekick Duke. Duke has been very successful running field trials this winter. This blue ribbon is only one of several. Look for a more detailed accounting of these events in next month's issue. Also pictured are Tim H. and his Vizsla Chaleese. Below sitting next to his truck, trailer and multiple dogs is Warren E. . Warren was the breeder of Clint's dog Duke. He also competes and judges AKC field trials. As NAVHDA members we are serious about our dogs. The average field trailer is also serious but has frequently invested much more heavily into RV's, trucks, horses and AT-V's. It is a much more specialized event than a NAVHDA TEST and generally only one dog wins. **Competing in different types of events will force you the owner to adapt to the new event and teach your dog to perhaps hunt in a different way.** For field trials, that would be hunt to likely objectives in a forward manner. Participating in other types of hunt events may help a handler to learn new skills and your dog will be excited to be competing.





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!



Thanks to Kevin Billy for the wonderful photos. Below is a “string” of dogs next to the trailer of a “field trialer”. It is not unusual to see 20 dogs staked outside waiting their turn to run and find birds. Most of these rigs are owned by professional trainers. Several of the dogs belong to clients who are paying to have them trained to compete in these events.



One of the great things about our dogs is that they truly are versatile. You can hunt waterfowl, upland birds and track game . Our dogs are highly intelligent and love to learn new things. When not in the “hunt” mode consider trying some other things to keep your dog happy and motivated. Possibly get a CGC title and have your dog become a therapy dog. You can then visit the elderly, youth hospitals, special needs people, etc. . Having visited nursing homes for the elderly with my dogs it can be a very rewarding experience. You will see people have tears of joy as your dog reminds them of a dog they once had. **Somehow a dog brings out the humanity in us.** People smile and laugh more frequently. When a dog is in the room life can be enjoyed for the simple joy of seeing the dog anxiously wiggle it’s rear end as it wags it’s tail. We sometimes forget life’s simple pleasures. **Consider that sharing the joy of your dog with others may also bring some joy to us. Often giving of ourselves allows us to receive something in return.**



Training Days Guidelines & Procedures

- (1) Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly when he/she is not working on a drill. Using a leash is strongly recommended
- (2) Everyone in the field must **wear blaze orange hat, t-shirt or vest. Members holding a gun in the field must have completed a hunter safety class or have a hunting license.**
- (3) Children are to be supervised and remain in the designated parking area at all times.
- (4) No alcohol on premises.
- (5) "Boat Safety", persons under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket when in the boat.

SOCAL NAVHDA OFFICERS

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You are the Weakest Link . . . Goodbye!

by Gary Johnson

Not too long ago, there was a popular game show on prime time TV called the Weakest Link. When one of the contestants proved themselves to not be as strong as the other contestants the game show emcee's voice got louder and with great arrogance he would state, "You are the Weakest Link . . . Goodbye!" Sadly, I am reminded of this long forgotten program when training my dogs or attempting to help others. ***We are the weakest link. Most dogs are eager to learn.*** They look to us for leadership and to make their life fulfilling and many times we are not up to the challenge. ***Our dogs' performance cannot improve until we improve.*** Sports fans recognize that the strongest teams generally have many different players from year to year and yet they keep winning. The one constant is their coach, their alpha leader. These coaches truly are leaders. They do not tolerate mediocrity or laziness. Bill Belichick, coach of the New England Patriots, sat his best defensive player out during this year's Super Bowl. Despite the extremely close game, that his team lost, he never wavered. His star player stood on the sideline not being allowed to participate. Bill Belichick was standing up for the expectations given to his players and he was not going to waver, regardless of which player needed to be corrected. ***Many of us struggle with standing up for the expectations we have set for our dogs. We waver when challenged by poor behavior.*** Being resolute and firm during these times is what our dogs hope for. ***They do not seek an erratic leader.*** Truth be told our loyal and faithful dog did not seek us out. Generally we pulled out Visa, Mastercard or Mr Checkbook to purchase this pup. The pup had absolutely no choice in picking our home. We created this dynamic and positioned ourselves as the leader. Yet we each frequently are ill prepared to fill this role. Some owners are dynamic articulate leaders in their work career and become a blithering mess trying to direct a small terrier or Chihuadoodle. ***Acknowledging our weaknesses and inconsistencies is the first step to fixing this problem.*** Let's examine some qualities of a good leader.

Having a well defined goal - If you cannot specifically state your end goal possibly an evening or two should be spent thinking exactly what it is that you want from your dog. ***Can*** you put this in writing? If you cannot put it in writing possibly your plans could be clearer. ***Have*** you put it in writing? ***This simple act of committing something to writing frequently makes a difference in whether people take action.*** Many of us did not start NAVHDA seeking a good test score. We did not even know the difference between a Natural Ability test and the Utility test. The Invitational Test probably reminded us of a wedding we did not want to attend on a precious Saturday. We came to NAVHDA for other reasons: obedience, commitment, hope, understanding. Showing up at a NAVHDA training day says a lot about a person. They care. In some fashion they want to develop a close relationship with their dog and help them to become a well-mannered canine citizen. Training days are not always the most efficient or specific to you and your dog. However, I bet that each time you come to a training day at least one new thing can be learned to help your journey.



You are the Weakest Link . . . Goodbye!

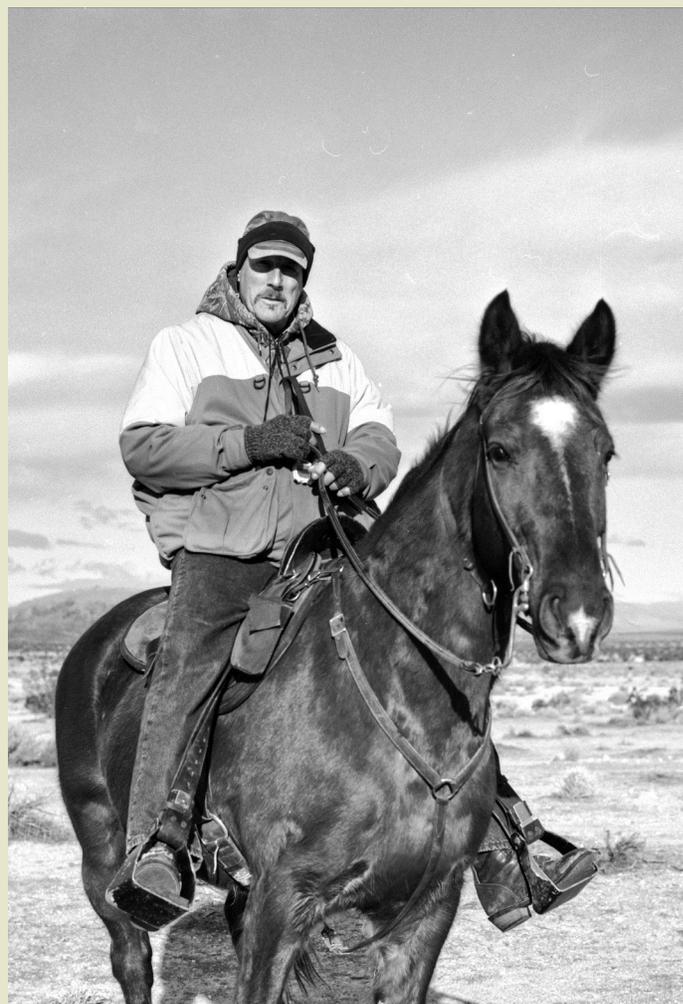
by Gary Johnson

Many of us began this journey and did not know what a “bird dog” needs. Ironically, it’s usually a big surprise to find out it’s “birds”. How did we not know this when shopping for a puppy? This is simply another example of why we may be the “weakest link”. Not putting your goals in writing is like having a “hope” sandwich. That is the sandwich some of us took to school as kids. We would open the sandwich and hope we had some meat. **The exercise of writing down your goals gives it substance. Not writing your goals down is simply like having an idea or a hope. Ideas and hope are fleeting** they randomly flutter through our consciousness. **One’s goals need to be resolute.** This is something you will focus on and stay with through good times and bad. You know the result will be worth the sacrifice. **A well written goal always has a timeline. If you can establish a series of incremental steps to achieving your goal it will be helpful in the journey.**

Good leaders are fair and understanding -- Never forget, YOU purchased a hunting dog. A hunting dog is prey driven. A hunting dog loves nothing more than hunting. Having a prey driven animal in your household one must accept the fact that if you do not establish control unique things will occur. With the best of planning “things” may still occur. My wife once left our front door open as she brought in groceries. Unknown to her a bird took this opportunity to fly in our house. Three calm sleeping bird dogs immediately came to life. We quickly learned that steadiness on a wild flush in the field means nothing when you have a wild flush in the living room! All three dogs acted like horses running the Kentucky Derby as they pursued the bird from room to room. Best of luck to those who choose to leave their hunting dog loose in the house while at work. If a mouse, bug, fly, small lizard or other critter happens to also get in your house look out. Your dog will have a party hunting it down while you are at work. If the hunted tries to escape by plunging into the upholstery creases in your favorite sofa or recliner, you probably will need to go furniture shopping after work. **Do not be angry with your dog.** Five hundred years of breeding prey drive into hunting dogs is not going to quickly disappear. The destroyed furniture is not your dog’s fault. He followed his instincts and relentlessly hunted down the house intruder. As you examine the remnants of your Ethan Allen designer sofa remind yourself that this shredded sofa truly is YOUR fault. You my friend, are the weakest link, as we all are. Your dog was simply following his predatory instincts. Understand your dog’s instincts and do not put him in a position where he may get injured or damage your belongings by doing what comes natural. As you would find it silly to keep a Bengal tiger in a dog kennel it may also be silly to keep your dog in the house alone and think that nothing will happen. There is no doubt that many of our dogs left alone in the house will figure out how to open the freezer and retrieve a New York Steak and a Rack of Ribs.



Clint Lager and Duke at the South Coast Vizsla Field Trial. Duke competed in 3 events and got 3 wins, hence 2 ribbons and the trophy. Generally there are 2 classes of competitions “Open” and “Amateur”. When competing in the Open division you will have several dogs handled by full time professionals. This is generally a more competitive field than the Amateur division where professionals are not allowed to compete. There also are two levels of competition “Gun Dog” and “All Age”. The Gun Dog course is shorter and dogs are expected to work closer to their handler. This would be within reasonable “gun range”. In the All Age competition dogs are expected to run much farther and work at a greater distance from their handler. This distance could be as much as 800—1000 yards!! When dogs find a bird they are expected to wait until their handler arrives which could be several minutes. Below is pictured one of the judges from the event.



“The dog is a reflection of Your energy, of your behavior. You have to ask, “What am I doing?” That’s the Right question to ask.”

Cesar Millan

You are the Weakest Link . . . Goodbye!

by Gary Johnson

Retrieving the steak and ribs they may now relax, open a cool beverage on the patio, fire up the BBQ and cook up a feast only to be calmly sleeping when you get home from work. **Do not punish your dogs for following these natural instincts.** Your dog is highly intelligent and simply prefers BBQ to kibble, similar to us. Have clear expectations and set them up for success. **If they are having trouble finding success lower the achievement bar so that you may reward them. Sometimes success starts with a very small step.**

Good leaders are not easily distracted - Do not be distracted by something you read on the internet last night. Do not be distracted that several of your friends have different goals for their dogs. Your friend's goals should not be your goals. Even within our NAVHDA community, peoples goals vary greatly. Many NAVHDA members had no interest in training for the Utility test until the Natural Ability test went well. **Goals may change.** One typically doesn't understand the learning capacity of our dogs until you see it in action. After seeing excellence sometimes we recalibrate our expectations. Do not be distracted by the latest fad. Try and find a consistency to the methodology you use with your dogs. **Formulate a plan to accomplish your goals and stick with it. Your dogs will appreciate the continuity.** If something is working do not change for the sake of change. However, if your current methods are not showing success aggressively seek alternative options.

Good leaders have mentors - Despite the many years of technological advances in many areas there really are very few "new" ideas. **Most successful leaders try and gain as much knowledge as possible from a variety of similarly minded people. Where dog training differs is that knowledge alone doesn't really solve any problem.** For example, simply reading books on parenting never makes someone a good parent. They need to master implementation which involves not only studying the child but studying their behavior and then implementing a plan. Minor adjustments will then need to occur. Training your dog one must get to know the "general behavior" of dogs and also get to know each dog's individual characteristics. **"Reading the dog" is critical. This is one area a mentor can help you.** Having a mentor point out how a dog is trying to manipulate you or the situation is very helpful. **Having mentors point out your weaknesses is also good.** Frequently we do not want to hear it and possibly do not agree. It's difficult to have a friend and mentor point out something we are not doing well. However, this can be the best thing someone could ever do to help you. Frequently these people know us best. **We are more difficult to train than our dogs.** Most of us at some level are stubborn and full of self-pride . Having the ability to set these two qualities aside can be very helpful in learning to correct our dog's stubbornness. Being open and willing to accept that changes may need to occur is important. Reminding our dogs occasionally who is in charge helps them be humble and not forget who pays for their kibble. We are the mentor for our dogs and we also should seek some mentors to assist us with the journey.

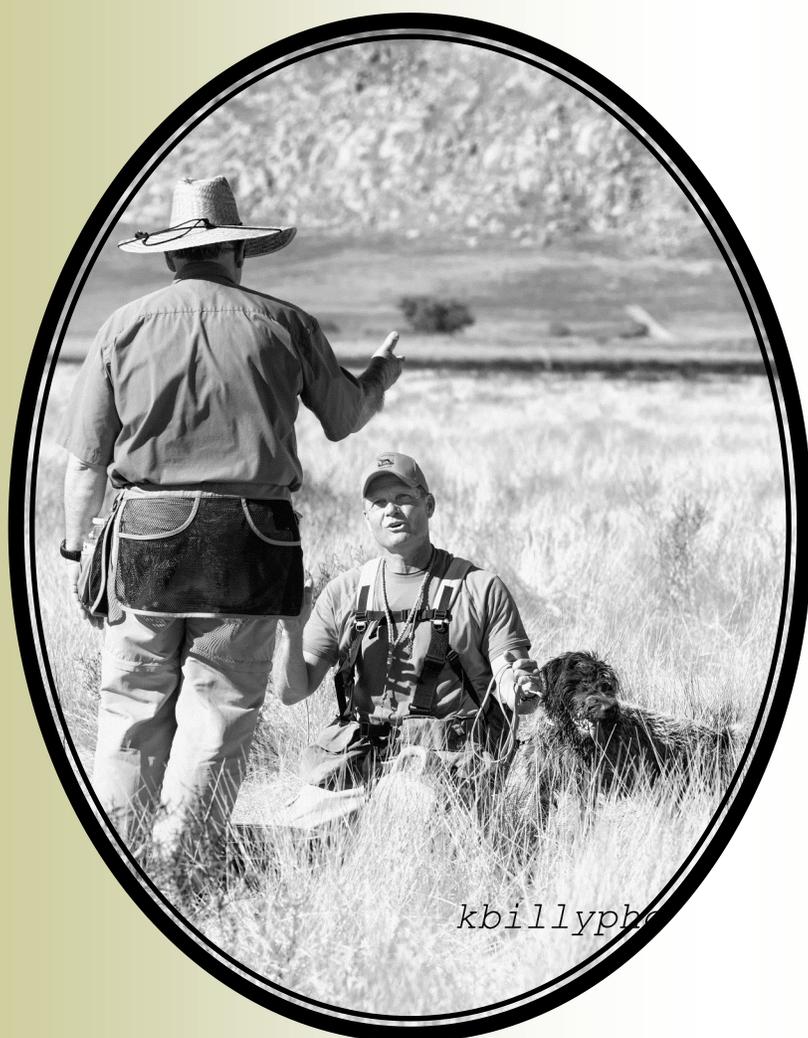
If you would like some improvement in performance from your dogs this next month spend a little time thinking if you are possibly "the weakest link" in your dog training journey. Don't worry you will not be voted off the island. **Are you the leader that your dog needs?** If not what can you do to change this? Working with your dogs briefly at home can help your performance in the field. **Simply ten to fifteen minutes each night can make a huge difference in your dogs' performance.** Obedience, steadiness and retrieving can all be practiced in the back yard. Hope is not a plan yet I hope that you can write down some goals. Take one part of one of those goals and use ten minutes tonight to work on that skill. Quickly your dog will master this and you can move to the next skill.

You are the Weakest Link . . . Goodbye!

by Gary Johnson

If you are going to take the Utility test you may want to use this brief time to work on heeling or simply sitting by a blind with distractions as that is part of the test. You do not need a blind! Simply teach them to sit. As they master the sitting try and distract them with a bouncing ball or having you walk away from them. Walking in a circle around them can also be a good temptation for them to practice. Eventually you could get to the point where you sit them in your back yard and walk around your house to find them still patiently sitting. That's a great accomplishment! It also is very attainable taking it one step at a time in only 10 minutes per night. I would bet most of you could do this within 20 days of starting. As you extend the time and distractions each night simply reward them with a small piece of hot dog each time they are successful. **Do not give them a reward if they stand or move away.** Simply begin again with a smaller distraction. Once your dog acclimates to regular short training sessions they will eagerly wait for this time. **It will be a special moment for them each day.** Sometimes you will wonder if they are looking forward to you or the hot dog treats (use small nickel size pieces). The great thing about this journey is that once you accept the regular "training time" and it becomes part of your routine you will also look forward to seeing that wagging tail waiting to get started. This may become the happiest part of your day, too.

Happy Training!



Thanks to Purina Pro Plan for providing this article to NAVHDA

Often when a bird dog is outdoors, he or she is in danger of a snake encounter. Many variables impact the severity and outcome of a snakebite, and emergency veterinary care is essential.

“The amount of venom injected is a critical variable in a snakebite equation,” says Michael E. Peterson, DVM, MS, of the Reid Veterinary Hospital in Albany, Oregon, who has written over 65 book chapters and veterinary conference lectures on the diagnosis and treatment of venomous snakebites in North America. “The location of the bite, the size of the dog, and the elapsed time between the dog being bitten and the arrival at a veterinary facility also are factors.” Although there is no reliable data on the number of dogs bitten annually by snakes, it is important to know what you can do to help avoid snake bites, plus what to do if you suspect your dog has been bitten.

‘SNAKEPROOF’ YOUR DOG

“Snakeproofing” your dog, or putting your dog through a snake-avoidance program, can help prepare him or her to react to an offensive strike. This training conditions a dog to give any snake he or she encounters, whether via sight, smell, sound, or some combination thereof, the widest possible berth. “You can’t eliminate the risk completely,” Dr. Peterson advises. “If your dog is running full-tilt downwind, he or she may bump into a snake before he or she senses it’s there. Luckily, this kind of encounter typically results in a defensive bite that tends to be less severe. On the other hand, a dog that hasn’t been ‘snakeproofed’ may try to actively engage with a snake, which is likely to result in a more serious offensive strike.” In a controlled setting, a dog is led toward a live snake that’s healthy but has been rendered temporarily incapable of delivering a venomous strike. Rattlesnakes are generally preferred because the buzz of their rattle adds a sound association. Whenever the dog shows the slightest interest in the snake, he or she receives a firm correction. Through repetition and reinforcement, the dog learns that snakes are bad and should be avoided. Many sporting dog clubs and organizations, particularly in the South and Southwest, sponsor snake-avoidance clinics or seminars with professional trainers. Some pro trainers, such as Rody Best of Best Retrievers in Paige, Texas, also host snake-avoidance clinics, which are helpful across the board for all sporting dogs.

“A boy can learn a lot from a dog: obedience, loyalty, and the importance of turning around three times before lying down.”

Robert Benchley

“Dogs have boundless Enthusiasm but no sense of Shame. I should have a dog As a life coach.”

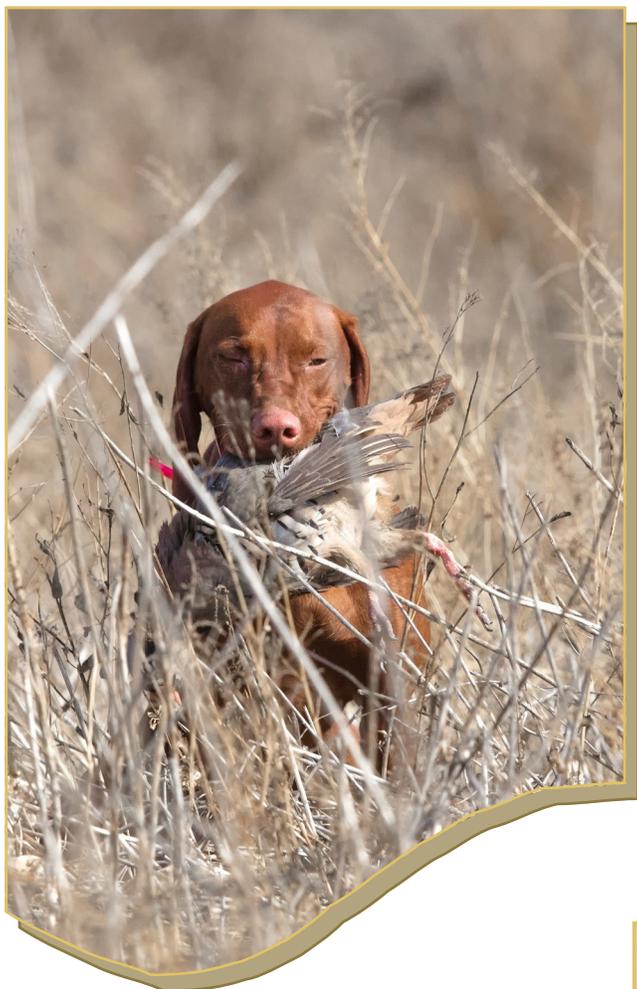
Moby



Dogs learn quickly to associate negativity with the sight, smell and sound of the snakes,” says Best. “We encourage owners to enroll their dogs two years in a row, and then every other year, to reinforce the training.”

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A SNAKEBITE

Despite efforts to avoid snakebites, it isn’t always possible. “The majority of canine snakebites occur on a dog’s legs and face. The prognosis for bites in these areas is generally good, but bites to the face can result in grotesque swelling,” Dr. Peterson says. “Bites to the body trunk are typically more serious, and the worst place of all is the tongue due to its abundance of blood vessels, though both are rare.” The amount of swelling at the site of the strike is not a reliable indicator of the bite’s severity. A relatively mild bite can result in significant swelling, while a very serious bite can show little or no swelling. If you suspect your dog has been bitten by a snake, it is crucial to seek emergency veterinary care. Do not apply ice or heat to the wound, nor should you attempt to cut into the wound and suck out the venom or apply a bandage to the wound. Restrain your dog as much as possible and keep him or her calm to help slow the spread of venom until you get him or her to the veterinarian. “The bottom line is that if your dog has been struck by a venomous snake, don’t second-guess,” Dr. Peterson advises. “Drop everything and go to a veterinary facility as fast as you can. The only ‘snakebite kit’ you need is your car keys, as there’s nothing you can do in the field that will improve your dog’s outcome.” The most desirable scenario, of course, is for your bird dog not to get bitten in the first place. Investing in snake-avoidance training could pay off in a big way.



**“How many legs does a dog
Have if you call his tail a leg?
Four. Saying that a tail is a
Leg doesn’t make it a leg.”**

Abraham Lincoln





It's a Different View from the Parking Lot

by Pete Hollenhorst

My journey with my dog, Gabby, started almost 4.5 years ago. Working with a local trainer on and off, I was pushed into the AKC hunt tests with no exposure to the NAVHDA world at all. After three years of on/off training and 6 failed tests in a row, I resolved to find a new group or a new trainer and successfully finish testing my dog. I was invited out to a NAVHDA meeting and was quite sure that after four or five training sessions my dog would have all the tools she needed to be prepared for these AKC tests.

Soon a training group formed and we resolved to meet on NAVHDA training days and work every weekend over the summer. I was excited. Four or five weeks' worth of work and we should be done. Hunting season was just around the corner and my dog would be finished. Each week for three weeks, Gary Johnson, our mentor in the field, kept asking if I would like to walk with other handlers and their dogs in the field. For three weeks I refused. The issue wasn't me. It's the dog that should be walking and working, definitely not me in this summer heat. Gary did not let up though, and on the fourth week he insisted that I get out in the field to shoot birds for the other handlers.

That was an exhausting day, I walked the field with 18 dogs, shot for most of them and I was pissed. The June temps were warm, bugs were out, and again the issue clearly wasn't me. It was the dog. I thought a lot about this on the drive home. Why was Gary having me out in the field? Didn't he understand or see that the other dogs were not as steady, would not retrieve, and why did I have to be out in the field seeing all of this. As quickly as I recapped the day, I began to understand why I had been invited out into the field. Possibly there were a few things to learn from observing others.

The next weekend I volunteered to shoot and walk the braces with Gary. This time I watched not from a reluctant shooters viewpoint, but from a handlers' perspective. What were the handlers doing that was working? How were they positioning themselves with their dog? Why were they walking back to release their dog for a retrieve? Wouldn't it be simpler to simply yell "fetch". Slowly I began to understand in a way that could never verbally be explained exactly why I needed to be walking the field. My approach to training a dog in the field was wrong. I had believed to that point, that this was purely a dog issue and not a handler issue or a partnership issue. The subtleties of how a handler positions themselves in the field, the tone they use, and even the words they use made a difference in a dog's performance. We both play a key part in this journey in the field. My German Shorthair Gabby and I began working on things at home to help us in the field, such as retrieving. We each began to look forward to these nightly training sessions. The bond between us grew stronger.



It's a Different View from the Parking Lot

by Pete Hollenhorst

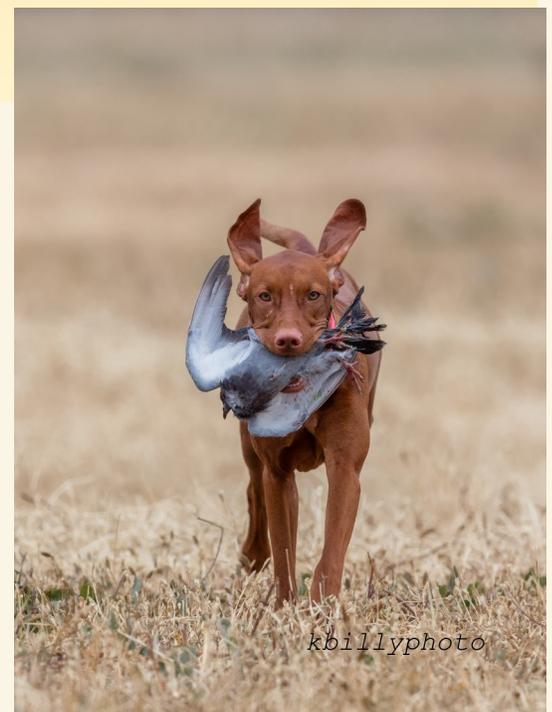
The following weeks, were a blur of activity in the field and off the field. I continued to work at home on steadiness, the retrieve, commands and even just basic obedience. I no longer could wait just for the weekend to train. I followed up with calls to Gary and others from our training group to ask questions and seek out advice on things I was wrestling with. As my excitement grew the bond in the field between Gabby and I improved greatly. She was confident and I was confident. Each weekend was a chance for a new training experience- duck search, scenting work, heeling work, all components for the NAVHDA Utility test that Gabby and I would someday be ready for. The next thing I knew it was January and we had completely missed the hunting season. Training had become the norm and we were improving in all aspects of her training or should I say OUR training.

The results of this 9 month journey have been amazing. I've had the pleasure of working with some great NA dogs in the field and watching them wake up to being a bird dog. Their progress has been incredible. I've worked in the field and had the ability to see hundreds of exposures to birds and the different approaches each dog and handler bring to them. Each time walking a brace has taught me something new about handling a bird dog that could not have been learned sitting in the parking lot. I've made some great friends, met some great dogs and become excited about this new journey.

Gabby and I previously tested over a 2 year period in AKC hunt tests going 0 for 6 at the Senior Hunt Test level. The words "Thank you handler we've seen enough. Go ahead and leash up your dog", became the most dreaded words I could imagine. Prior to training with NAVHDA, I believed that the issues were my dogs, the judges, the training grounds, the other handlers, training with the wrong birds, anything but me. As I've trained every weekend over the past 9 months I've gone from thinking this was a dog issue to believing that we both play a key part in this journey- both Gabby and I. My training behavior went from yelling and having anger to being quiet and having confidence. This fall Gabby and I achieved the AKC Senior Hunt title passing 4 of 6 tests and then to my surprise quickly added 3 Master Hunt legs (passes) out of the five that are required. We continue training every weekend in anticipation of the next NAVHDA Utility Test which Gabby and I look forward to participating in.

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 onceotherwise you are training them not to listen to your first command**
- 4. *Dogs learn by association. Positive associations and negative associations. Structure your training so that there is a positive or a negative association. Your puppy will enjoy the positive rewards more.***
- 5. Cause and effect CAN be established in as few as one repetition.**
- 6. *Your puppy cannot read your mind . . .get the behavior to occur and quickly reward the pup . .do 2 or 3 more times the pup will quickly understand what you want***
- 7. Be consistent with your reinforcement. Variable reinforcement confuses your dog. This frequently occurs in families where family members and spouses reward and or punish the same behavior differently. The more consistent your family can be the quicker and better your dog will learn..**



SOCAL NAVHDA



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

- SOCAL NAVHDA MEMBER BENEFITS**
1. Receive Monthly newsletter from February to October.
 2. Choose a trainer mentor out of a list of professional and very experienced trainers.
 3. Participate in a monthly training day.
 4. Be first in line to enroll your dog in the Chapter's NAVHDA Tests before all other NAVHDA national members.
 5. Have access to the So. Cal. NAVHDA Trailer packed with versatile hunting dog training supplies for \$20.00 key deposit, refundable if you'll leave the chapter.
 6. So. Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.



NAVHDA SPONSORS



SCHEDULED EVENTS

Training Days

March 18

April 15 Training Day & Snake Awareness Clinic

May 20 June 10 July 15 August 19 September 16

Oct TB

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

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



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