

ALL PURPOSE HUNTING DOGS

What ever your choice of hunting dog you have it can be a very versatile dog. Good breeding by a responsible breeder will produce quality dogs with all the natural talent needed to hunt in the field compete in a hunt test walk in the show ring or master any of the numerous games and tests that are available to you.

The number one reason why some of these events are never attained is the owner. Grant it that our dogs will be a pet/companion far more than anything else. But a well behaved and properly trained dog is a much happier dog. These dogs like to work and please. Most owners with some guidance from a professional if they desire can have a great Dog. Simple obedience with continued repetition along with positive reinforcement can accomplish a lot. The owner must be able to make training black and white and eliminate the grey area. A lot of times this means training the owner as well as the dog.

No matter what challenging event you may want to pursue you and your dog will be better for it. Just simple commands as sit, you should be able to leave the dog without giving another command and they should remain there until a release command is given. To recall a dog the command is given and the dog needs to come all the way to you and make physical contact then the command is completed. If you say good dog before they get to you and they turn off they learn to come to the good dog zone, thus creating the grey zone because you wanted the dog to come all the way in and you have let them win and accepted there non compliance, resulting in errors in training on your part.

Tone of voice and one command are very important. Many dogs do not respond until several commands are given and your voice is elevated and you take evasive action. Now you have taught them that now they get punished so either we come and comply or they run and we know what happens next. I like to use the whistle for recall and stop commands, then I can control voice tone and hunt much quieter.

If you can give your dog 10-15 minutes of training time a day or every other day the results will make you a proud owner of a respectable dog.

There are many dog clubs and testing organizations that can help you expand your knowledge of training and testing, hunting and showing. If you choose to use a professional trainer do some research as there are many of us out there and you need to find the one best suited for you and your needs. Take the time to bring the best out of your dog and use them for what they have been bred for and enjoy them.

Ed Erickson Owner/Trainer

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