

**SOCAL NAVHDA**

# **ON POINT**

NEWSLETTER June 2016



**KBILLYPHOTO**

**Griffin Blues Coltrane Training for the NAVHDA Invitational**

**NAVHDA Testing**  
**Steadiness**

**Mike**  
**Force Fetch - Steps 3 & 4**

# "WHOA. SAM ... STEADY"



Steadiness is a big part of the NAVHDA Utility test. This dog is honoring another dogs point and should not move on; (a) the flush of the bird, (b) the shot and © the fall of the bird. Not only is it an example of a well trained hunting dog it should definitely be learned for the safety of the dog. One of my dogs was nearly shot at an AKC hunt test when she broke on the flush of a quail and was running behind the low flying bird. She jumped in the air to try and catch the bird mid flight just as the gunner pulled the trigger . The bird was hit and fell just prior to my dogs jaws clamping down on it. Fortunately the dog did not get hit. It was very irresponsible gunning. The dog is automatically disqualified for breaking and the gunner is risking your prize hunting dog for a \$6 quail. Occasionally birds do some crazy things on the flush creating some chaos for the gunners. Developing a steady dog will not only be safer for your dog but should allow you to harvest more game. Frequently the undisciplined breaking dog will flush more birds as he breaks early to give chase on the first bird.

Things that can help you train for steadiness.

1. A check-cord in the field using a half hitch on the unsteady dog.
2. Whoa post training
3. Place board training with the pigeon on the pole being thrown around the dog. If the dog steps forward lift him up aggressively and drop him down and re-command "whoa". As your dog becomes steady with this you can repeat the process and add a gunshot or two when the bird is flying. Three or four sessions might do the trick.

**Happy Training.**

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"One's best success  
comes after their  
greatest  
disappointments."

—Henry Ward Beecher



## FIELD MARSHAL

These are some general guidelines of what you may be asked to do when you volunteer to help with our chapter test.

- The field Marshal will stay with their team for the entire day making sure the handlers are prepared and ready for every portion of the test when it is their time. It is their job to keep the test moving smoothly. They will identify and hand out running orders to the handlers on their team before opening remarks. If a double test is being run there will be one field Marshal for each team.
- They are responsible first thing in the morning to gather all equipment needed for the test and make sure it is on hand and ready. (ammo, guns for handlers, etc.)
- They will make sure the workers are doing their job at each site and have all the necessary equipment needed. He or she will have radio access to one of the judges as well as the bird planters.
- The test marshal should have a list of the workers for the day on hand and any major problems will go through this person.
- At the end of the day they will ensure all equipment is picked up and returned to the right place and ready for the next test day.

## ASSISTANT FIELD MARSHAL

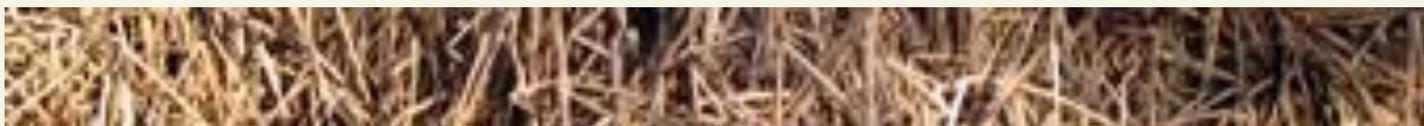
- This person assists the Field Marshal in all assigned duties. They will also ensure the judges and workers are supplied with snacks and refreshments throughout the day.

## BIRD PLANTERS

- There will be two bird planters in each field if possible. If not enough workers are available then one experienced bird planter will be acceptable. Bird planters are responsible in making sure the birds needed for the day are transported to the venue site, two bird bags, and one 4 wheeler should be on hand as well. This can be done during opening remarks.
- At the end of the day all equipment will be brought back to the home base and returned to appropriate places.
- They will have radio access to the judges and the field marshal.
- Bird planters are responsible for cleaning game that can be harvested in between each field run. (you should bring any cleaning equipment needed , a small cooler) The baggies and cleaning wipes will be provided by the chapter.

## GUNNERS

- Gunners should have experience and must meet the criteria shown below as established by SO CAL NAVHDA Board of Directors. Gunners will bring their own break action shotgun to the field. 12 or 20 gauge shells will be provided by the chapter. Gunners will answer directly to the judges team and the Field Marshal.
- Gunners must be international chapter members
- Gunners must be a local chapter member
- They will have read the NAVHDA Aims Programs Test Rules and abide by them
- Gunners must be mature adults who regard safety above marksmanship and are physically able to keep up with the handler.
- Gunners should: (1)Have handled a dog in a NAVHDA utility test(2)Participated as a gunner in a minimum of three training sessions with a member that has gunned for a utility test.





These are some general guidelines of what you may be asked to do when you volunteer to help with our chapter test.

## DUCK THROWER

- Before morning remarks, you are expected to make sure the winger is set up and you have performed a throw of a test duck to ensure you know how to load and run it properly. The same person should perform this job the entire day and for both teams when necessary.
- The duck thrower is expected to have the ducks to be used in a cooler until ready to be thrown. (These ducks will come from the drag site)
- This person should be familiar with the steadiness by the blind and retrieve of duck sequences for the UPT and Utility test. (Pages 17 and 23-24 in the Aims rule book)
- The duck thrower will have access to radio communications and answers directly to the Field Marshal.

## DISTRACTION GUNNER FOR REMAINING BY THE BLIND

- This person will fire a blank from a single barrel break action shotgun at the command of the judging team. He or she should bring hearing protection, as numerous shots will be fired at this location daily. This person should be familiar with the Steadiness by the blind and retrieve sequences for the Utility and UPT tests. (Pages 23-24 in the Aims Rule book)
- The distraction gunner answers directly to the field marshal and judging team.

## DUCK HANDLER - SEARCH FOR DUCK

- One duck handler will be needed at the water site. They will make sure that the ducks needed are at the site in a location away from the dogs and their handlers. They will need to have on hand: Two large bird bags, a handler gun, blank ammo, steel shot ammo, a gun for the live ammo and the boat is available. (This can all be done during opening remarks)
- At the direction of the judge, they will go out in the boat and place the duck in the marsh. Upon returning, the boat should be pulled away and hidden so it will not distract the handler or dog. Once the dog is far enough away from shore they should get the next duck ready in a quiet fashion. (Primary feathers on both sides should be pulled and discarded in a garbage bag)
- At the end of the day you are responsible for getting the equipment gathered and back to the appropriate places. This includes the boat.





Chris Gentner and Pat Beaver help introduce a young pup to birds. The owner leads the young Pudelpointer towards the bird while his father looks on. We have several photos of this training session in this issue

**One of the main philosophies of NAVHDA is the concept of members helping members learn to train their gun dog.** Someone helps you learn to train your gundog and down the road you help someone else. Below Gary Johnson offers some pointers to new member Melody Starr and her dog Sam on the concept of “backing” another pointing dog. A little over a year ago long time NAVHDA member and judge Gabby Awbrey was helping Gary and Ralph Martinez with the same concept. **Generally speaking, you should not worry about “backing” or “honoring” until your dog has displayed reliable steadiness to flush, shot and fall.** Once your dog masters this skill, training can be much more efficient and possibly exciting as you can now run two or three dogs simultaneously through a planted bird field. It often seems that the dogs are learning by watching each other.

On an unrelated but interesting side note that may help your training future. You can see that the pocket of Gary’s vest has something in it. That would happen to be a pigeon that was shot moments earlier. Somehow it did not get removed from the pocket and was left in the vest. The vest was left in his pickup. The following day was over 90 degrees which created a problem for this recently expired pigeon. Opening the truck’s door the following day a felony assault of the nasal cavity occurred. The pungent musk of decomp exploded from inside. A pigeon forgotten in your vehicle will probably only happen to you **once**.



## Force Fetch—Step 3

By Guido Dei

Now that your dog is picking up objects off the table consistently and returning to the middle and sitting and holding until commanded to release, you are well on your way. Next thing you want to do is to place the object to the right about six feet from the dog and command him to fetch with your hand in his collar but start backing off on the pinch. Having your hand this close will allow you to reinforce the fetch command if you get a refusal. Enthusiasm here in your voice will take you a long way when doing this type of training. Once he is holding all of these different objects, start to use your training dummies and dead fowls.

I prefer to use the Avery brand because they are the easiest for a dog to grab and hold consistently with very little sloppiness on the hold, because of their firmness and the hex design. As soon as he is picking up all of these objects, you have to move on to birds on the table. We will use only thawed out pigeons at first because of the size of the bird, to make it easier for you and the dog. Remember to only start this if the dog is consistent on retrieving from the table any object that you send him for without hesitation and holding firmly until told to release. Sit him down in the middle of the table and tie him up short the first time that you ask him to hold a bird. It is like going back to square one for a short time. Chances are that when you started force fetch the dog wasn't retrieving to hand so let's take small steps here and see what we have accomplished so far. I like to take a fresh thawed out pigeon and wrap duct tape around the wings to hold the body firm, much like a bumper. I've seen many dogs refuse to take a pigeon from my hand at first so I open the dog's mouth and place the bird in, and command the dog to fetch. If he tries to spit or drop the bird I now have a built in backup plan that I did not have before, and that is the ear pinch. The point here is to show the dog that he must hold everything firmly and not try to avoid the command. Allow him to hold the bird longer and longer until you can leave him up there holding it as you walk away a short distance from him. Always keep the dog in sight to avoid any accidents if he tries to jump off the table. As you return to the dog, make sure that he continues to hold right up until you ask him to release. Watch out for the dog that starts to anticipate your hand around his mouth and starts to release too early. This will start to deteriorate a good solid delivery in the field. Leave the tape on the bird and once he is holding and grabbing it well, start making him travel for it further and further, just like he did for all of the other objects. Now as he sits in the middle of the table, place the bird about six feet away to the right then go back and face the dog.

continued on page 8



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. **Below is a short overview of the NAVHDA tests.**

### **Natural Ability Pups under 16 months**

Natural Ability Test is designed to evaluate young dogs on their inherent natural abilities with a view to

### **Utility Prep Test –**

**Over 16 months and still working on skills**

The Utility Preparatory Test is designed to evaluate the dog midway in its training towards becoming a reliable versatile gun dog.

### **Utility Test**

**Adult dogs that have mastered the skills of a versatile hunting dog**

The Utility Test is designed to evaluate a finished versatile gun dog. The dog should display steadiness and cooperation with the handler throughout the test. The dog must demonstrate that it can independently search for a duck for 10 minutes without guidance and expand the search if needed. It must demonstrate that it can track a duck that is dragged for over 100 yards and enter heavier cover out of the sight of the handler and then retrieve the duck to hand. The dog will demonstrate that it can walk about 30 yards at heel, sit in a blind without moving while multiple shots are fired and then swim through decoys to retrieve a duck that is launched into the pond. Of course the dog will work in the field for 30 minutes and must find and point multiple birds. The dog must display steadiness to flush, shot and fall and finish with a retrieve to hand on all birds. The utility test is sort of like the Olympic gymnastic all around title. You must be solidly above average on all four tests without any major problems. You may have a VERY GOOD dog who is having problems on one area of the test and it can prevent you from receiving a prize 1. Recognize that a prize 2 and prize 3 is still a dog outperforming most dogs of that breed. Keep training and your dog will keep improving.



### **Invitational Test**

**Dogs that have achieved a Prize 1  
in the Utility Test**

The Invitational Test is the flagship of NAVHDA tests. Only those exceptional animals that have demonstrated superior skill and obedience in Utility Tests are eligible to participate. Dogs are expected to run an hour long field brace, complete an approximate 100 yard blind water retrieve, Honor By Retrieve, and a Double Marked Retrieve.



Newcomers at snake break, awaiting their turns with the Western Diamondback and Andy the Snake Wrangler. Dog safety and health is a priority with NAVHDA.

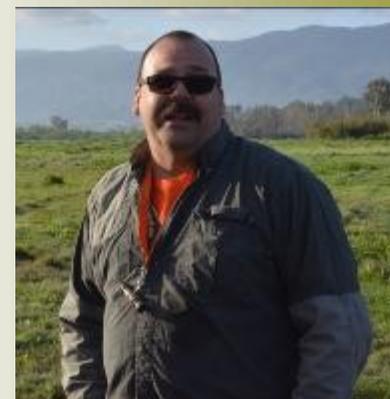


First day at NAVHDA training day for new members, \_\_\_\_\_ with their new Pudelpointer pups. On the next page you will see these pups training 2 months later. Puppy training is fun and takes little time. Exploring new places is part of the training. Bird exposure is usually limited to 3 or 4 short interactions.

## Force Fetch—Step 3

By Guido Dei

**As you command him to fetch, use some body language here and point to the bird with your right hand. If he balks stay calm and put your hand on the bird and lightly pinch the ear. Hopefully he will pick the bird up firmly with no hesitation and return to the middle of the table and sit. If you have done all of the other steps properly this drill really should go smoothly. If you have difficulty, back up to the previous lesson. Always be sure to have the dog connected to the upper cable when doing this lesson of moving up and down the table, to pick up what you have sent him for. If he is successful at jumping off of the table to avoid the command, then you are training backward, and the dog will always be looking for a way to avoid situations that he doesn't like. Start sending the dog further and further down the table to retrieve the bird and use a lot of enthusiasm in your voice to get him to pick up speed going to the bird. This is where we are going to start placing a pigeon and one other object next to each other to the right of the dog, about a foot from the end of the table. When we send him it doesn't matter which one that he picks up first as long as we get a good solid delivery before sending him for the next object. The dog may refuse to pick up the object after picking up the bird, but remember that this is the best place to get a refusal because your in a great position to quickly correct him for doing so.**





The young pup is brought from its crate for close inspection by all interested parties. The young handler, , takes the walk to the field where all eagerly watch the young dogs performance. The pup quickly finds and points a pigeon and then is not sure what comes next.



(Below)The pup decides a quick slap upside the head might be a good place to start. Veteran handler Chris gives the dog the finger and picks up the pigeon for a quick throw. The pup quickly chases it down and retrieves the pup to the handler.



The dogs genetically have been bred for a "soft mouth" that will not damage game. This pigeon was carried around for about 30 minutes by both pups with no ill effects to the bird. When testing, judges inspect the birds to make sure they are not damaged.



## Retrieve to Hand: Every NAVHDA dog is expected to do this



### Force Fetch—Step 3 continued

By Guido Dei

**You just have to show him that he cannot ignore or blink the other object, and must go back and complete all the retrieves with no hesitation. As he gets better and more consistent, start adding more birds that are freshly thawed out or even live shackled birds. I always use everything that he may encounter in the field on any given hunt, even rabbits if I am planning on using this dog for hunting them. The table will be your best tool to go back to and fix retrieving problems that may arise in the future.**



# Breed of the Month

## Pudelpointer

A combination of pointers and poodles genetically make up the Pudelpointer, which was created in the late 1800's by Baron Von Zedlitz. He started with 90 "pointers" and 7 "poodles." Some who have studied the breed espouse his use of the modern Poodle; however, others feel the breeds forbears were actually Barbets; ancestors of the Wasser Poodle (water poodle). Nevertheless, the Pudelpointer inherited the intelligence, human attachment, obedience to owner, love of water, and natural retrieving abilities demonstrated by Poodles in the 1800's. The pointers contributed other hunting skills, including the sensitive nose and fiery attitude towards game. Credit for development of the Poodle is usually given to the French. However, some argue for it's origin to have been Germany. The German spelling of the breed is Pudel. Thus comes the spelling as we know now - Pudelpointer. The first cross of the Pudel and an English Pointer to establish the new breed took place in Germany in 1881. The sire was "Tell", an English Pointer belonging to Kaiser Frederick III, the dam was a German Hunting Pudel bitch "Molly", owned by Hegewald, a famous Teutonic author on the subject of hunting dogs. The idea behind this breeding was to combine the outstanding natural working abilities of the two great specialists in one dog: The intelligence, water love, retrieving instinct, easy trainability and willingness to please, wrapped into the protective coat of the Pudel with the unending desire to hunt, birdiness, pointing instinct, field nose and endurance of the English Pointer. The Pudelpointer in its home country Germany, has always ranked among the finest performers in tests and in the field, and is sought by those who enjoy and value a dog with desire and drive. While working on establishing the mental characteristics and the hunting attitude, the physical was slowly fixed. Today's Pudelpointer has a short, rough waterproof jacket with it's camouflage coloring and other qualities enabling the dogs to figure prominently in today's NAVHDA utility tests. Still, today in Germany the breed cannot achieve stud book status until the dog has passed demanding ability and utility testing. The dog must also pass a hip radiograph exam, as well as have a conformation rating. Today's Pudelpointers in North America have breeding restrictions very similar to those in Germany. North American Pudelpointers are registered with either American Field or NAVHDA. Hopefully the breed will never be registered with AKC and this breed will never be seen in an AKC show ring; breeding dogs for show quality has been the downfall for many sporting breeds as the show fanciers have little or no knowledge of hunting instincts necessary to maintain a breed such as the Pudelpointer for the hunting public.



### 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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# Pudelpointer



The men behind the selective breeding program that has produced the Pudelpointer of today have always had a dual target...a dog that could do them proud in the field and in the home. They have sought and found a dog that will hunt and point upland game with style, trail wounded birds, retrieve from land or water, and also be unobtrusive fireside companions and watchdogs. The whiskery brown dogs with the sparkling eyes usually show exceptional ability in the field. In a 1986 article, written by Dave Duffey in GUN DOG MAGAZINE, this preeminence is recognized. He says, "...of all the versatile breeds, the Pudelpointer impresses me as coming closest to the drive, application, intensity, range, and stamina of a good pointer in the uplands. They move better, hunt with more verve and purpose, and have a more independent bent than the other versatile..." Pudelpointers as a rule are excellent water dogs. They do not quite match the retrievers marking ability but when it comes to working in a difficult marsh in search of downed waterfowl, they are the equal of the water specialist.



It was in 1956 that world-renowned trainer, Sigbot 'Bodo' Winterhelt, brought the breed to North America. His intent was to establish a breed of stable, versatile hunting dogs with traits that would continue generation after generation. He also wanted to protect this special breed from the fate of other sporting breeds – deterioration on the show bench. Bodo had received permission from the German Pudelpointer Club to bring the breed to North America, and in 1956 he imported Cati v. Waldorf and began to compete in field trials. Bodo and Doug Hume eventually established the basic philosophy for the testing of versatile hunting dogs and the idea for NAVHDA began to take shape. The first tentative versatile rules were established in 1960 and an organization named the All Purpose Gun Dog Association was formed. In 1961 this group held its first and only trial, attracting fourteen entries from Canada and the US. The winner of the event was Bodo's dog, Winterhelle's Komet, offspring of Cati. Komet's impressive performance was acclaimed by the press of both countries. Bodo believes that Komet did more to promote the versatile concept than any other dog, and Bodo received broad acceptance to classify certain breeds as versatile.





These were primarily the continental breeds including: Brittany, German Shorthaired and Wirehaired Pointers, German Roughhaired and Longhaired Pointers, Large and Small Munsterlanders, Pudelpointers, Spinonis, Weimaraners, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, and Vizslas. In his efforts, Bodo also started the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA), in order to protect and support the training and fair testing of versatile hunting dogs. Not only did Bodo found NAVHDA he was one of the founders of SOCAL NAVHDA, our chapter. Many of our long time members trained their dogs with him and traveled to hunt tests and field trials competing together. Bodo had very strong opinions about breeding and training dogs. Sometimes these strong opinions alienated friends and colleagues. As the Pudelpointer enthusiasts wisely declined to become a part of the AKC, it unfortunately created some dissension as a couple of different groups fought to be the voice to decide what is best for the breed.

SOCAL NAVHDA still has a strong mix of Pudelpointer breeders and owners compared to most NAVHDA chapters. Chris Gentner and Herb Schoderer are breeders as well as local NAVHDA judges Greg and Ruth Weiss. Several of our members own Pudelpointers. Pat Beavers' Big Walter is one of the younger pudelpointers to ever pass the Invitational Test.

If you have not had the pleasure to watch a pudelpointer in action. Call some of our members who own them and ask to be apart of the gallery or a "gunner" when they train. You may be surprised with the speed that they work the field, the willingness and efficiency they possess in the water and their calm disposition towards people and dogs in spite of having an enormous amount of energy to work.

# 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](http://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 So. Cal. NAVHDA Trailer packed with versatile hunting dog training supplies for \$20.00 key deposit, refundable if you'll leave the chapter.
8. So. Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

## ***NAVHDA SPONSORS***





## Force Fetch—Step 4

By Guido Dei

Once you are confident with his table retrieving it is time to take the dog to the floor in front of the bench and make him sit at heel position with a dragline and a choker on him for control. Take a bumper or dowel with your free hand and put your other hand through the dog's collar and ask him to fetch as you offer him the object and he should take it without any trouble. Once he has it in his mouth keep him at the heel position and keep his head up high and pet him as he is sitting there next to you holding firmly. Now grab the object and give the out command, put your hand through the collar and be ready to pinch the ear if he tries to drop the object. We have to get the dog to realize that just because we are not on the table anymore that we must have the same manners on the ground with zero tolerance for sloppiness or any refusal. This is totally a new position for him because he has been facing you all of this time. Ask him to heel with the object in his mouth for a few feet and then ask him to sit and hold. Do this drill further and further having him sit a few times with it in his mouth. Take it from him from time to time then ask him to take it from you and hold. This drill will make him realize that the old days of running around and doing his own thing are a thing of the past. This floor drill should be as near the training bench as possible just in case things start to go downhill. We can start moving the dog outside for training after we get him retrieving a thrown dummy from a few feet away inside. Up until now for the past few weeks we have not thrown anything for the dog to retrieve. Sit the dog at heel with the drag rope and choker on and throw the bumper ten feet in front of you and command the dog to fetch it. As he picks it up, have him return to the front or heel position and sit down. Hopefully he holds the object firmly until you slowly grab it and give him the release command. If all goes well maybe you just got your first retrieve to hand for the first time ever. Keeping that drag rope on at all times is a must now when you train him out in the field or the yard. It only has to be about fifteen feet long or so to be effective for controlling the dog from a short distance. I know that this part of training is tedious and sometimes boring for both of you, but the end result is well worth the effort. Your dog will do what maybe only few other dogs can do out there in the field, and that is retrieve to hand proudly anything that you or your buddies have shot. Next lesson we will really get going on retrieving out in the field. Once your dog is confident at retrieving everything to hand from land and water, it opens up so many other training possibilities for future dog work.



I AM CONCERNED. Where are the BIRDS?!!!!



**Nancy Anisfield** is a full-time outdoor writer and photographer, and the creative entity behind the Ugly Dog Hunting Company. She is a contributing editor for *Versatile Hunting Dog* magazine and a field photographer for the Ruffed Grouse Society. Nancy also serves on the Board of Directors for Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever. Her background includes being a commercial illustrator, English teacher and corporate copywriter.

Nancy and her husband, Terry Wilson, live in Hinesburg, Vermont, where their lives are carefully managed by her German shorthaired pointer and his two German wire-haired pointers.

The following article is used with her permission.



Nancy has graciously allowed us to use some of the things she has written. Try and support she and her husband Terry by making your hunting dog purchases at Ugly Dog Hunting Company.

## German Shorthairs vs. Wirehairs: It's not Just about the Coat

German shorthaired pointers and German wirehaired pointers are much different than their names imply. Beyond the difference in coat length, they are two distinct breeds.

As with several other versatile breeds, German shorthairs were developed in the mid 1800s when the average European hunter needed one dog that could do it all - find and point upland game, retrieve waterfowl, track furred game and running birds, and perform optimally on varied terrain in a range of temperatures. The early lines of the breed are believed to have been created primarily from Spanish pointers, with English pointers and setters mixed in among different German hounds. German wirehairs were also developed by hunters seeking the all-purpose dog but using stichelhaars and pudelpointers as the basis of most early breeding programs, later crossing in griffons and German shorthairs among several other breeds.

Paragraphs could be devoted to the history of each breed - how its story was affected by the politics and demographic movements surrounding WWII, the viewpoints of the breeds' parent clubs, and the inevitable differences today between the German breeders of the Deutsch Kurzhaar and Deutsch Drahthaar and the American breeders of the German shorthair and German wirehair. For most of us, however, the basics of appearance, temperament and hunting style are more important.

**GSP**—German shorthairs come in a variety of colors from all liver and all black to roan, brightly ticked, or predominantly white, some with large brown or black patches, some without. Their coats should be short, somewhat harsh and easy to maintain. They are considered medium-size hunting dogs with a medium to wide range and medium to fast ground speed.

**GWP**—German wirehairs' coats have a similar variance, with the brown roan most common. The amount of "furniture" - the facial hair - also varies from shaggy all over to just a touch of longer hairs over the eyebrows and on the chin. Some wirehairs have fuller coats with more wiry coverage; others are tighter and smoother. They do require a little more maintenance, particularly after picking up debris in the brush. All wirehair coats should be dense and able to shed water. Their size, range and speed are comparable to the shorthairs.

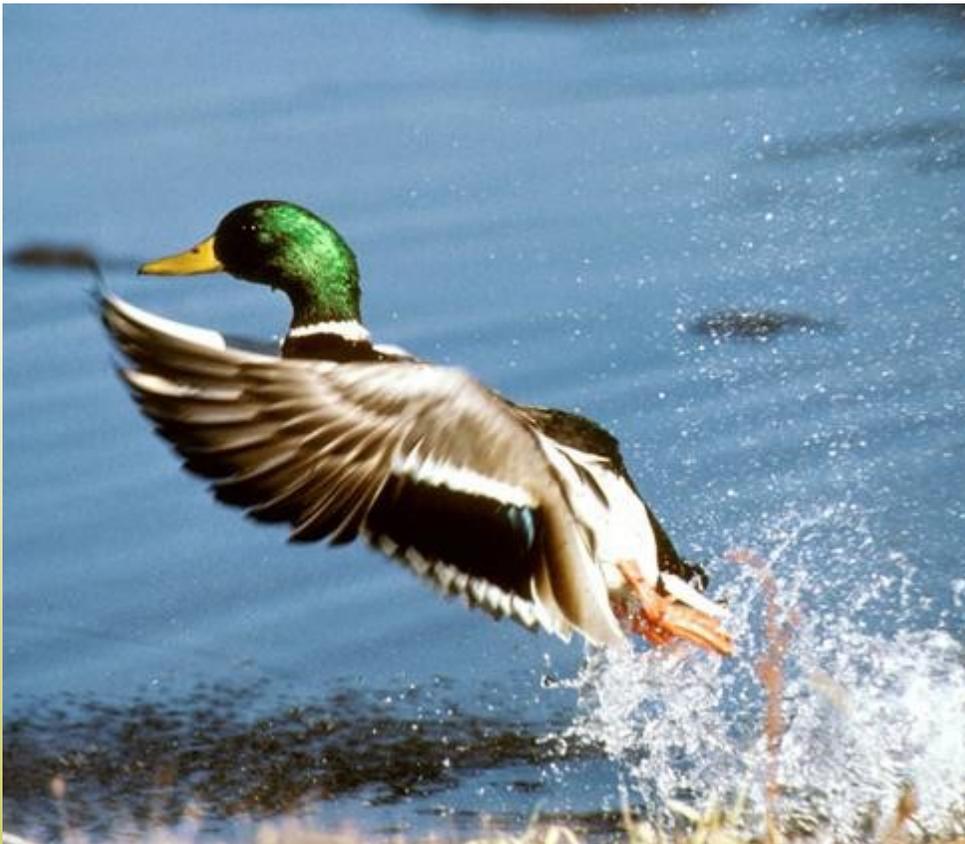


## German Shorthairs vs. Wirehairs: It's not Just about the Coat continued

**OBSERVATIONS**—Within any breed you can find dogs of widely varying personalities and appearances. Live with several and hunt over dozens more, and some generalities will surface. I live with two of each - my husband has two *GWPs* and I have two *GSPs*. We've hunted over many more dogs of each breed as well.

On point, the shorthairs are more elegant and sexy, body planed into the scent. The wirehairs' points tend to be less angular and more solidly balanced, like they are rooted to the ground. The shorthairs and wirehairs are equally intense. Their noses, drive and desire are equal. A notable difference is that the wirehairs can handle very cold waterfowling better; the shorthairs fare better in warm upland work.

Both breeds live well in the house and with the family. In our pack, the wirehairs are a bit more intense and take themselves too seriously sometimes. The shorthairs are more exuberant and have a better sense of humor (or at least they seem to think so). Both crave exercise and love to work. And when it comes to space in our bed, they all get equal dibs





These littermates pointed and retrieved this pigeon 3 or 4 times. They looked very comfortable working the bird. It's interesting how different littermates can look simply based on the coarseness of their coat.





Viszla Sam training at Prado on May 29. Below, waiting for others to gather as we decide which direction to flush the chukar. Gun safety is very important when afield with friends.





# Mike



His name, I think, was "Mike". It sounded a lot like "Meek" when the Mexican guides yelled at him as he bolted through the milo fields in search of wild bobwhite quail, but I'm pretty sure it was "Mike". And he was probably a German shorthair pointer, but he could have been an English pointer with a docked tail. On those rare occasions when he was close enough to offer a good, long glimpse, I could just about swear he was a GSP.

Meek Mike had many a fault. He ran way too big. I'm pretty sure he was gun shy (it's hard to tell when you don't shoot birds over him), and he whined when he was confined to his box, which was often. He did seem to be bilingual - and by that I mean he ignored commands in Spanish with as much aplomb as he did commands given in English.

But that dog could point. With style, too. The first time he locked up, some 17 seconds after our guides had put him on the ground, I was sure there was a covey of quail nervously twitching just under his nose.

"No, Meek," one of the guides said, jumpstarting the dog with a wee bit of boot leather. "No." Sure enough, as soon as the dog sprang forward, a butterfly emerged from the clump of weeds in front of him, fluttering upward into the morning sky.

But Mike proved useful on those times we did knock birds down. Although he would not retrieve a quail, he could sure find them, locking up and pointing a dead bird as if he had just walked into a scent cone the size of Texas. After a covey rise, when two other hunters and myself managed to knock down four or five bobwhites, Mike was released from the travel kennel in an attempt to find any birds that could have tumbled in the tall grass.

I was on one side of the fence line that had sheltered the covey while my two hunting partners were on the other. I was searching the tall grass with a guide; the other guys had a guide and Mike in front of them. (continued)





"Point! Point!" one of my hunting partners exclaimed when Mike racked up solid. "Either a dead bird or a single in here. Be ready!"

E.J. a 70-something chainsmoker from Arkansas, hustled in behind Mike, his shotgun at the ready. It happened so quickly that the synapses in my brain hardly fired, but E.J. shouldered his gun and shot twice at the ground. I guess I thought the old guy was finishing off a crippled quail.

"A #%#\$& rattlesnake!" yelled E.J. "that dog just pointed a rattlesnake! I just shot a pointed rattlesnake."

And so he had. By the time I crossed the fence to examine the dead snake, Mike was a good half-mile away, running into the wind. We laughed nervously, examined the dead rattler and calculated just how close both E.J. and Mike had come to meeting their maker.

Twenty minutes later we caught up with Mike, on point, many hundreds of yards from where the Battle With the Rattler unfolded. We approached the staunch dog, unsure of what laid beneath his nose, straining to hear the shake of bigger, meaner rattler's tail.

As we peered into the underbrush, of course, a small covey of about a half dozen bobwhites erupted from the ground and flew away without a single shot being fired.



This article used with permission from Nancy Anisfield from her book **Reverse Points**. Nancy is a very active NAVHDA member in her own state of Vermont and also at the national level. She and her husband Terry Wilson have both competed at the national Invitational and have won the Versatile Champion prize with their dogs. Terry is the owner of **Ugly Dog Hunting Company** which is one of the corporate sponsors of NAVHDA. Try and support their company when making your hunting dog purchases.



This is one of the two Pudelpointer pups training May 29 at Prado. The pups were littermates. One had a wiry coat while the other had a smooth coat. This pup showed great enthusiasm to fetch and retrieve the pigeon. Littermates given similar training will frequently end up quite similar. However during their adolescence it may seem as if one is much more talented. This causes many new owners to worry.



These two sisters and their mother attended the youth pheasant hunt that SOCAL NAVHDA assisted with at San Geronio Wildlife Refuge. They each shot two pheasants while their proud mother watched.

# SCHEDULED EVENTS

June 12- Training Day Prado -vaccinations

July 10- Training Day Prado

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

August 14 - Training Day Prado

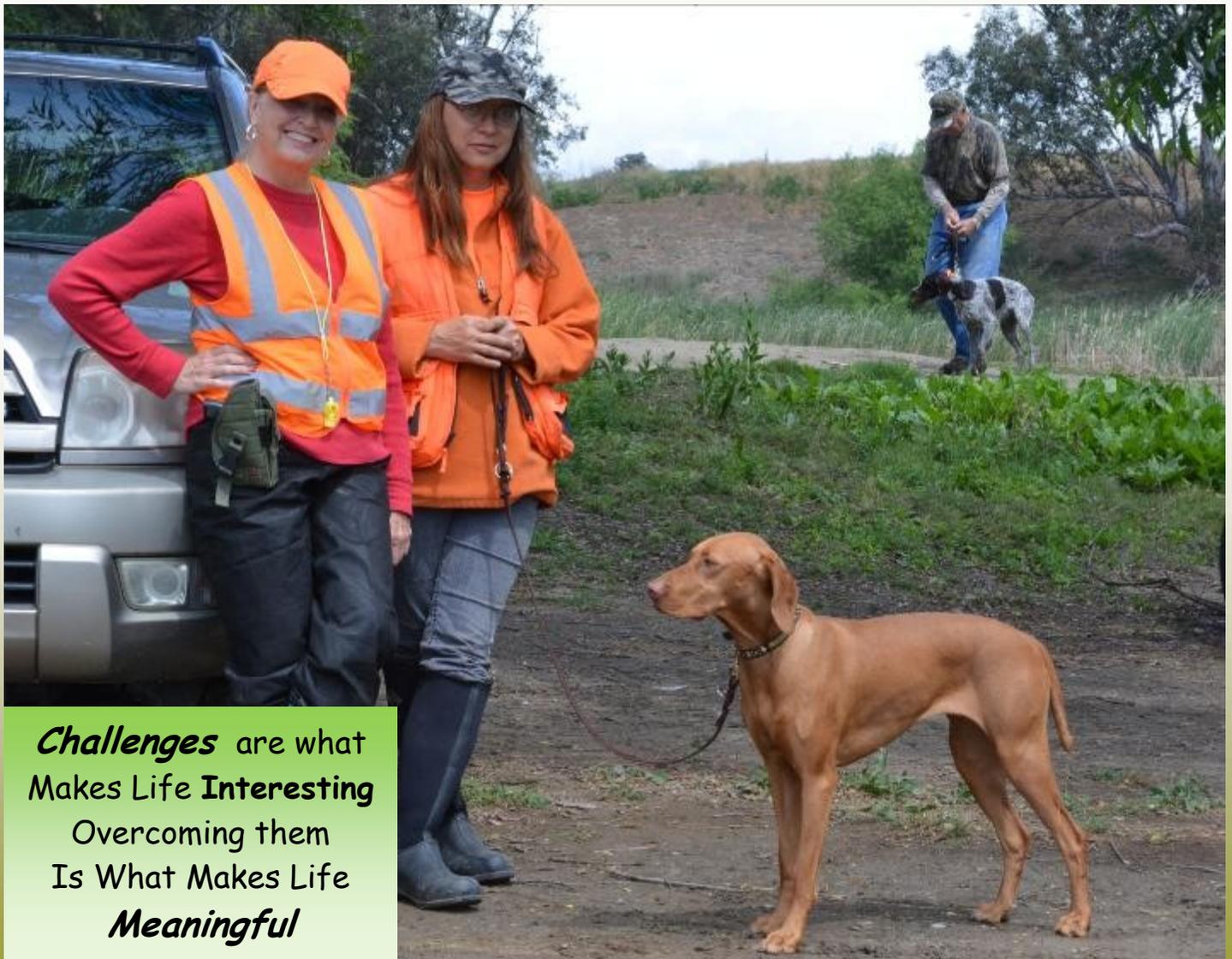
September 11—Training Day at Prado

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



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