Potomac NAVHDA Training Day Guidelines

# Safety Rules

* Dogs in crates or on a leash/stake out crates when not working on an exercises or actively engaged in field or water work
* Don’t approach other dogs without permission
* No dog/dog greetings or play during training day
* Owner must notify training director if their dog has had any aggressive behavior incidents whether at NAVHDA training days/events or elsewhere
* Dogs must wear a properly fitted flat collar (cannot back out of) with owner identification

# Training Day Equipment Recommendations

* Water for your dog
* 6 foot leash
* 20 - 30 foot check cord
* Remote collar
* Training collar (chain, prong, pinch, etc.)
* Treats
* Bumpers
* Whistle
* Stake out
* First aid kit
* Grooming supplies
* Battery powered fan
* Rubber boots
* Waders
* Long sleeve shirt and pants
* Bug Spray, permethrin
* Upland vest
* Blaze orange
* Bird bags
* Maryland Retriever Training Permit

# Training Day Outline

* Gather in McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area parking lot by 8:00 a.m.
* Verify liability waivers for visitors
* Warm Up Exercises
  + Standing on the leash
  + Walking at heel
  + Walking past other dogs
  + Honoring
  + Stop to flush/shot?
  + Physical handling (checking teeth, eyes, ears, feet, etc.)
* Short group presentation (topic varies each training day)
* Split into 3 groups - ideally have a helper for each group
  + Puppies (2 - 4 months) - Parking lot or pavilion area
    - Exposure/Nature Walks
    - Obstacles
    - Drive building
    - Play retrieves
    - Physical handling
    - Marker training
    - Recall and kennel conditioning
    - Dead game introductions
  + Pre-duck Search (5 months - 16 months) - Go to field first
    - Recall
    - Send away
    - E-collar conditioning
    - Swimming
    - Field search
    - Establishing point
    - Tracking pheasant
    - Allowing handler/guns to walk in front
    - Force fetch
    - Force to pile
  + DS (16 months +) - Go to water first
    - Water force
    - Duck search
    - Steady to wing/shot/fall
    - Double mark
    - Whoa
    - Heeling
    - Finish

# Becoming An Approved Gunner

* Own and supply your own break action shotgun
* Valid MD hunting license
* Meet maryland upland hunting orange requirements
* Field volunteer for three training days (can include unofficial) and observe at least 15 dogs’ field sequences. To clarify, these could be the same five dogs over the course of three training sessions.
* Sponsored by already approved gunner
* Training director, EC member, or second approved gunner, observes probate gunner at training day and finalizes approval