



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR HUNTING DOG

EXERCISING AND TRAINING

"The best and easiest way to keep pup fit for hunting season is to keep him fairly fit all year. This is not rocket science; it's pretty easy to understand and not too difficult to achieve if you make hunting with pup a priority...

Walk pup one mile three or four times a week, preferably on grass or dirt. As with humans, walking/running on grass is easier on pup's joints than concrete or asphalt.

When pup is young try to walk him at a nearby park so pup becomes acclimated to people. This is especially important if you live alone or with just a spouse. We often think pup's development and behavior are fine but are surprised when pup barks at other people or dogs, or is afraid of them. Pup needs mental exercise and acclimatization as much as he needs fitness. Meeting people and other dogs helps pup's mental fitness.

Halfway through your mile walk find a spot to toss some training dummies for pup. Try to do that away from people until pup is a very strong retriever and unlikely to be distracted. Twenty or 25 yards is far enough for pup's retrieves.

Make him hup (sit) and stay until giving him the command (his name) to retrieve. Toss the dummy about four times, give pup a drink and continue your walk. Three-quarters through your walk repeat the retrieving drill, and then toss a couple more dummies when you're finished. This is a great dog exercise.

Do not forget to praise pup after his good retrieves, and hurry him along if he lollygags. Every once in a while give pup a small treat after a successful retrieve, but do not overdo it...

Do not forget to toss some dummies for pup; this gives him a break and keeps his interest up.

Something about parks: Know the rules regarding dogs when you take pup to a park for training. Some parks are very strict about "leash laws" and there is no sense getting fined for allowing pup to run loose. Often, but not always, one can bend the rules a bit if you arrive at the park very early in the a.m. before others arrive." - John McGonigle for *Gun Dog Magazine*

GUN DOG THE MAGAZINE OF UPLAND BIRD AND WATERFOWL DOGS <https://bit.ly/2IAJCCO>

BUILDING A BOND

"The trust between the handler and the beagle is very important for a life-long bond... Just do what normal dog owners do. Play with them, feed them, pet them, bath them and all those other things. Once they roll over and allow you to scratch their bellies then they are starting to trust you..." - *American Gun Association*



American Gun
ASSOCIATION

<https://bit.ly/3aH5YPO>

WHAT ABOUT FIXING?

"Proponents point to a reduced risks of prostate health issues, diabetes, and tumor growth, all in addition to the most obvious benefit of all—prevention of unwanted pregnancies... However, here at Valhalla Kennels & Gun Dogs, we are focused on what is best for the training bird dog. We believe in spaying or neutering our dogs. We have not found that spaying or neutering bird dogs affects their hunting ability or potential. A good pedigree and proper training are the true factors when it comes to performance." - Valhalla Hunt Club



Find low-cost or free spay/neuter here: <https://bit.ly/339ZLbT>