

FOX VALLEY RETRIEVER CLUB TRAINING GUIDELINES



Fox Valley Retriever Club

TRAINING GUIDELINES

In order to promote successful training sessions the training committee established the following guidelines and recommendations as of 2004:

The purpose of the group training sessions is to allow each handler /dog team to achieve their potential, no matter which level they have achieved. ***Teamwork and respect for the dogs and other members is essential.*** All handlers are expected to coordinate between running their dogs and working in the field.

It is important that you arrive at all training sessions on time.

The ***Saturday*** sessions ***start at 8:00 AM.*** The ***Tuesday and Thursday*** sessions ***start around 4:30-5:00 PM.***

The goal of the weekday training sessions is to set up two training scenarios per evening, daylight permitting. Handlers arriving after a series has started should expect to work in the field before running their dog. ***There is no training on Holidays.*** Please see the FVRC website Calendar for current schedule and updates.

The training scenarios will be consistent of AKC hunt test concepts and include multiple marks and blinds. When situations allow, multiple training groups will be formed based on the number and level of the dogs in order to maximize the use of training time. Training groups will be divided into two levels; basic and advanced.

Basic Level: puppy through single retrieve on land and water.

Advanced Level: multiple marks, blind retrieves, and other advanced hunt test concepts. Dogs will be required to do a single mark and deliver to hand in order to participate at the advanced level.

If inexperienced dogs cannot meet these requirements they should participate by breaking down the complicated scenarios into teachable components such as running a triple mark as three singles or a double and a single.

No handlers shall run more than two dogs per set up.

When in doubt about the group training location, refer to your training calendar.

There is no training when the wind chill factor is below zero or a heat advisory is in effect.

When training is scheduled at Bong Rec Area, you should call ahead to find out if the Special Use Area is open for retriever training. The phone number at Bong Recreation Area is **262-878-5600**. Calling ahead may save you a disappointing trip. Bong can and does change the schedule of events as permits are obtained. Fox Valley Retriever Club does not have exclusive use of this area. We cannot guarantee having an area at Bong.

A Wisconsin State Park admission sticker is required to train at Bong, Ottawa, and Eagle training grounds. These may be purchased at the park entrance or ranger station or at any DNR office. A State of Wisconsin dog training permit is required when using live or dead game birds (ducks and/or pheasants) while training on State lands. Permits may be purchased from any DNR office or ranger station. All members of the group are required to have a permit on their person.

Non-members may participate in group training sessions, with the intention of joining the club, for a fee of \$5.00 plus the cost of live flyers(when available). The \$5.00 training fee will be applied to their membership dues if they join within thirty days.

Contributions to the cost of training are expected by providing your own equipment and ammo.

All handlers are encouraged to have the following items:
Suggested equipment for training your dog

- ❖ Clean fresh water and bowl
- ❖ Collar
- ❖ Short lead (dogs must be on lead unless being run)

- ❖ Training dummies
- ❖ Adequate clothing for weather conditions
- ❖ Whistles
- ❖ Duck call
- ❖ Training pistol with ammo
- ❖ Heeling stick / riding crop
- ❖ Hearing protection
- ❖ First aid kit
- ❖ Dog kennel in vehicle

New members and handlers are urged to attend and participate in the training sessions even though they haven't yet purchased all of the necessary equipment, but it is recommended that they do so as soon as possible.

WHAT TO EXPECT / TRAINING GROUP ETIQUETTE:

Working your retriever with a group of other trainers can be rewarding in several ways. Sharing the work involved in setting up tests, handling equipment, and throwing marks for each other's dogs keeps these tasks manageable. When the work is fairly divided, training sessions can progress smoothly, minimizing the likelihood of any participant being made to feel like a "workhorse" and others feeling left out.

Group training sessions are provided to assist all members in the training of their retrievers, and not to provide "professional training." To ensure a more organized training session, we have put together a brief outline of what group training days will entail.

- Set up land / water series, typically consisting of three marks and two blinds. All participants should be prepared to assist with set up.
- Individual handlers should indicate what they would like to run; ex. Triple, 1 single and a double, or 3 singles, senior blind or master blind. If you are not sure what you would like to run, or if you would like training advice, the handler should ask one of

the veteran trainer / handlers prior to coming to the line.

- Only four dogs should be “out” at any given time, all others should be crated or on tie-outs throughout the running of the series. The only dogs “out” should be one running dog, one honor dog, one dog in a holding blind / area, and one individual airing their dog away from the immediate training area.
- After running your dog, please kennel the dog and prepare to assist in throwing so others in the field can prepare to run their dog.
- Pro Trainer days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8 am – 3 pm.
- Members may bring guest(s) to group training session only.
- Guest charge will be \$5 per dog, two dog maximum. (Charge will be credited towards membership) 3 visit maximum.

NOTE: After both series have been completed, we will be glad to assist others with training issues and problems.

See you at the next training session.