

Flushing Breeds Basic Upland Gun Dog Commands

Kennel: This command means for the dog to go into something. This could be a crate, inside a car, inside a door into a room. Anything you want the dog to go into use the “kennel” command.

Here: This command means to come to you.

Sit: This command means to sit and stay until released. We don't verbally tell the dog to stay, sit means sit and then we release the dog from sit with either, “okay,” “here,” or the dogs name. When we give sit command we want the dog to come to a stop and sit and stay there until released. We always put a flat hand up at the dogs face like you are stopping traffic. The flat hand is basically the stay command. You don't need to keep your hand up the whole time, but every once in awhile you can put it up towards them as a reminder not to move.

Ok: Command to release the dog from any obedience command.

How to Reinforce the Commands: When using the electric collar to reinforce the commands you can try two ways. First would be to try giving the dog with a “nick” with the electric collar and second using “constant” electricity at a low level from the electric collar to reinforce the command. Basically, give the dog the command if the dog does not respond and you know the dog heard you follow up with a “nick” from the e collar or if needed hold the electricity in until the dog starts doing or does the command, then IMMEDIATELY release the electricity when the dog does the command. Follow up with lots of positive praise when the dog does the command.

If the dog does not have an e collar on and you give a command, follow through and still make the dog do the command. This might involve you physically making the dog do what you are asking. They know when the e collar is on or off, so follow through always. Sometimes a correction on the rear end with a heeling stick or leash is enough to get the dogs attention and to let it know that you are serious and that e collar on or off it still needs to dog what you are asking. Some times a quick tug on the regular collar will get the dogs attention too. Tell the dog “no” when doing something it is not supposed to and good boy or girl when it does what you are asking of it. Remember to be a pack leader and always follow through, but be calm and fair at the same time. Never take stress out on the animal or loose your temper.

Hunt Em' Up: This is the search command that you use when taking the dog hunting. This means to search and flush the bird. Encourage the dog with this command as much as you want. Every time we have put the dog on birds we have used this command.

Never shock the dog and say this command thinking that shocking the dog and telling it to hunt em' up will make it want to hunt. It will do the opposite and the dog will think it is in trouble. The electric collar is used to reinforce the obedience, not to make the dog hunt.

Young dogs sometimes lack perseverance. Be patient, keep the hydrated and try to hunt the dog in areas where it has chances to come in contact with game birds. If young dogs hunt around for a while and do not find birds, sometimes you will see that perseverance start to lesson. Bird farms are great to get your new dog on birds and you know that it will have some success. As the dog ages it will learn to hunt harder in between birds as it's confidence increases and they find success. The more birds the better when it comes to any bird dog.

Whistle Commands: Give a trill or rolling whistle for the “here” command. Two whistle blast means to switch directions when hunting and is a quartering whistle. If dog does not switch directions give a little electricity on e collar until dog switches and then immediately turn off.

E Collar Tone button: Use the tone on the e collar for the recall or here command. Just keep tapping the tone button until the dog starts coming back. If dog does not respond reinforce with electricity.

Fetch or fetch it up: Command to encourage the dog to pickup and retrieve the bird. Say this command and then the “here” command once the dog has the bird in its mouth to stay, “Hey pick it up and bring it to me.” At the basic level no formal force fetch training has been taught, we are just encouraging the dog to retrieve with it’s natural abilities. Dog’s retrieve will vary at this point. Try to encourage dog to deliver bird to hand.

Use of Electric Collar: Give the command always first and if dog does not respond, give it a second time and follow through with the e collar. Only use enough electricity to get dog to respond. If dog is not responding to the command, increase the level until dog responds. Sometimes in exciting moments you will need to increase the level to get the dogs attention. The dog should be responsive, but not acting like it is in high level of pain or acting super nervous. We want it to feel more like an irritation that it needs to turn off. Remember when using electricity as soon as the dogs starts doing or does the command turn off the electricity.

When the dog is making a retrieve with the bird, be careful using the e collar when the dog has a bird in its mouth. Sometimes if you correct the dog with a bird in it’s mouth and the dog is not force fetch trained, the dog will sometimes drop the bird and think it was the bird that did something to it and not want to pick up or retrieve the bird. Use low electricity levels when the dog has a bird in its mouth or avoid using all together and just give verbal commands. If a dog is force fetch trained you can reinforce the obedience when the dog has a bird in its mouth and the dog should not drop the bird, if it does you can command the dog to pick up the bird. This is part of the foundation level bird dog training.

No Bird: This command is given when a bird is shot at gets away. Give this command, mixed in with the here command or here whistle. You can also mix in “leave it” if the dog is acting like it want to go in that direction of the missed bird.

Leave it: Means to not touch something or grab something like a bird from your hand. Generally, if it is something on the ground say, “leave it” and then give the “here” command to pull the dog away from the object.

Watch the videos on the website for added direction and training. If you have any questions after reviewing any of the written commands or videos please don’t hesitate to reach out for help. We are here for you and want to be successful handling your dog. The whole life of your dog if you have run into any training questions please reach out for help. Thank you for letting us work with you and your dog and good hunting!