

## Handling + Foundation Commands

Kennel= kennel Example... Crate, hunting blind or outdoor run

Sit= means sit! (No stay is needed)

“OK”, Here, Heel or three or more short quick blasts on the whistle will release the dog from Sit.

Here= Come to you. If the dog ranges too far when hunting upland game, give the here command, when he/she has come in far enough then just give the “hunt em up” to keep hunting.

Heel= Come and sit at left side. Dog should be shoulder to shoulder facing the same direction. Walking heel same thing. Tap side of leg to get dog going or snap finger. Just say “heel” and start walking. If he is turned out at heel and you tap your leg and give the here command he will turn in towards your leg. Command heel for dog to heel out and put hand back behind you. Watch videos for better instruction on front to side heel and walking heel.

Down = lay down

Place = go on top of something

Let dog out of kennel or crate on its name with Okay, dog’s name. Last resort “here” command.

When dog is doing what you want say, “good girl” or “good boy” mixed in with the command to let them know they are doing a good job.

When dog makes a retrieve it you should give the “here” whistle, then the here command as it gets closer and then put your hand back behind you at your side as a target for the dog to come to and then command heel, then tell the dog to sit and then take bird or bumper from dog saying the drop command. If wanted you can just have dog come straight in and deliver to hand. We do this generally when hunting upland game.

Drop= command to release bird in hand when you take it from dogs mouth.

Whistle Commands= One blast means sit, two blasts is switch directions when hunting and three blasts or a rolling whistle is a trill and means here.

Hand Signals= Hold hand out palm facing dog for sit. Tap leg front of leg for here and float hand to side for heel.

Use dogs name to retrieve the object on a marked retrieve from the sit position. Use this when hunting waterfowl or playing retrieve. This is when the dog sees where the bumper or bird fell. He marked the bird. Tell the dog, sit, mark and then if the dog stays sitting, then send it for the retrieve.

Use the “fetch” command if dog drops a bird and you want it to pick up the bird or if you want the dog to take something from your hand. IF dog comes to “heel” and drops bird or bumper tell dog to “fetch” and the dog should pick up the object. We want to make sure the dog delivers to hand every time. If dog drops bumper use low level continuous stimulation and command “fetch” until dog grabs bumper or bird, once dog grabs object then release stimulation. Once dog is carrying around the bumper you can use “hold” command for dog not to drop bird or bumper and stimulation again for obedience. Sometimes toss or kick the bird away from you if the dog is struggling to pick it up at your side. Keep pressure on the whole time, only let off when dog grabs bird. As dog grabs bird, praise dog with good boy or girl and keep it positive. Refer to videos for help.

Use “drop” command for dog to release bird.

I use “leave it” if dog is trying to take bird out of your hand that you have just shot or if you put a bird on the ground by you and you don’t want the dog to mess around with it.

Hup hup! = Is a fun retrieve command. Just means free for all with the retrieve, always make sure he delivers to hand. Release dog from sit command with the “OKAY” command and then when you throw the bumper say Hup! Hup! When doing this we usually just have the dog come straight in and deliver to hand.

“Hunt Em Up”= means to find or hunt the birds or bumper that are out in the field. This command you use when hunting upland game or to search out a dead duck.

If dog ever breaks when hunting doves or waterfowl from your side before you send him, command No! “here”, get him to re-heel and then send him when you are ready. If he tries to break again, when you see birds coming get ready, tell him “sit” and give him a good “nick” with the e- collar. This will help to steady him and he should stay steady until you send him. If you don’t let him get away with it in the beginning he will be a steady dog down the road. Also, you can work on denials with him. Refer to the videos on the website for example of this training drill.

Use stimulation level with e collar between levels 2 to 4 for a continuous stimulation using e collar. Adjust as needed.

His e Collar is like his uniform for work, put it on when you are going to work him or go hunting.

The dog is e collar conditioned so you can give dog stimulation until the dogs obeys the command. Once dog does command immediately release stimulation. You can also first use a nick and then command if dog does not respond you can drop down to a burn or continuous electricity.

The whistle we use in the a pealess whistle by Sportdog called “the answer”, you can buy them on their website at sportdog.com It is bright orange amplifier with a clear whistle. The Roy gonia whistle that has the black megaphone and clear whistle piece with the pea in it will work too.

Walk dogs through decoys the morning of the hunt and just let dog check them out.

If you hunt dog off a boat, work dog off the boat and how you will be hunting before you take it out hunting on the boat.

When hunting upland game be patient, young dogs lack the perseverance a seasoned dog has gained through the years. The dog will persevere the more you continue to hunt the dog. NEVER shock dog to encourage it to hunt.

## MARKS

When you throw a mark for the dog tell it to “sit” and then “Mark” and when dog is looking in right direction, tell the dog good... and then put a hand out in front of dog lining it to the bird or bumper 50 % percent of the time. You want to do some with no hand in front incase you work on remote sends. Then send dog on its name to make the retrieve. When running double retrieves, bring the dog back to your side after it picks up the first bird and then cue the dogs memory by saying, “where’s your mark” and then when the dog looks in right direction tell the dog good...good and then float hand above dogs head pointing dog in direction of the bird or just talk to the dog and when looking in the right direction, then send dog on its name to make the retrieve.

## HANDLING

We handle the dog when we want the dog to pick up a bird that it does not know is there. Handling is fun, but timing is real important, especially with a young dog.

Let’s say we shot down a pheasant or duck and the dog was in the bushes and did not see it go down.

Step1= we will then get the dog at heel facing the direction we want the dog to go. The direction should be towards the bird.

Step2 = When dog is at heel or just before you get it to heel, we will then tell the dog, “dead bird” this let’s the dog know you will be running him on a blind retrieve. We then get the dog looking in the right direction by using the heel command and here command to get dogs body lined up in direction you are sending it.

Step3= When the dog is looking in the right direction say, there... and then put your hand out above and a little in front of the dogs head and command “back”. Only send dog when he is looking in correct direction. Use your here and heel commands to get dog lined up.

Step4= the dog should then leave your side in the direction of the bird and the way you are pointing. If the dog gets off the invisible “line” between you and the bird, we will then sit the dog with one sharp blast from the whistle. The dog should then spin around and look at you for a cast. If dog does not turn all the way around, give the here command or whistle “here” command to get the dog to square up sitting at you.

Step5= When the dog is looking at you we want to have your hands together or a hand at your close to your face area and slowly with straight arms point the dog towards the bird.

Step6= any bird behind the dog on a blind retrieve, be at an angle or straight behind we use the verbal “back” command with the arm cast. If the bird is directly to the left or right we use the verbal “over” command with the cast. “Remember slow casts with your arms so dog can see the

casts.” Only use the verbal commands if the dog is not taking silent casts or going in the direction you want it to go when you move your arm.

Step7= When handling dog, if dog goes wrong direction, we will sit dog with the whistle and then nick the dog giving it a correction. I give the dog one opportunity to correct itself before I correct the dog with the e collar. Once dog is focused on you again, you will then re-cast the dog to the bird. You can also use attrition to bring the dog back towards you if it goes the wrong direction and then recast the dog towards bird. Use this and the Nick to correct the dog for taking wrong casts. Remember to move arms slowly to point dog in direction you want it to go.

Always reinforce the go, stop, and here commands. When you say “back!” he better leave your side. If he does not leave your side, “nick” dog with electricity and heel forward a step or two in desired direction and command, “back!” again. Dog should then leave your side. This is not an option to sometimes go. Dog must always leave side when sent. When dog is running a blind and you blow the “sit” whistle the dog should stop or slow in water to look at your for the cast or sit on land. If dog does not sit, then apply continuous electricity giving him the sit command verbally or with the whistle until the dog sits. If you give the “here” command and he does not come back towards you, give him a “nick” with e- collar and give the “here” whistle or verbal “here” command. Always make sure the dog sits when told, goes when told and comes in when told. Always keep momentum moving forward and use positive praise as dog does good job. Call with any questions.

Please watch how to handle your dog videos on the website and watch the example dogs that are on there.

If you have any questions or get confused about anything give me a call or send us an email.  
Thank you!