



NAVESINK RIVER HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB

The goal of our training guidelines* is to provide a logical, structured approach where one skill builds on another for your training. We will follow these guidelines when planning club training sessions.

If you, as the handler, do your yard work on a regular basis both you and your dog will be more successful at club training sessions, when you train privately as a group, at tests and when hunting. Yard work skills are your responsibility. You need to commit 10 minutes a day to working with your dog.

At the end of the outline there is a Resources page where you will find links to publications, videos, websites and books. For those of you with young dogs we strongly suggest you enroll in a pet training class to begin your dog's career. You will learn HOW to teach your dog the basic obedience skills that are critical to moving forward.

Training can and should be fun!

Dog to the line!

**We have adapted Mike Lardy's Total Retriever Flow Chart to create the guidelines. For more information on Mike Lardy please visit his website at <http://totalretriever.com/about/Mike-Lardy-Handjem-Retrievers.html>.*



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Training Guidelines

Foundation Skills/Beginner

Yard Work (done at home)

- ▶ Simple obedience with treats
 - ▶ Coming when called
 - ▶ Sit
 - ▶ Walking on leash
- ▶ Casting Games with treats
- ▶ Platform work with treats
- ▶ Introduction to retrieving
- ▶ Introduction to water (if possible)
- ▶ Introduction to birds (if possible)
- ▶ Impulse control, add distractions as dog becomes successful

Training Session

- ▶ Introduction to gunner-thrown marks
- ▶ Introduction to gun fire (at a distance)
- ▶ Introduction to steady on leash
- ▶ Single retrieves (focus on returning to handler NOT necessarily on hold)
- ▶ Intro to decoys, duck calls, boats
- ▶ Impulse control (honor, steady)

Started / AKC Junior

Yard work (done at home)

- ▶ Formal obedience
 - ▶ Two sided heeling
 - ▶ Recall return to heel position
- ▶ Sit to whistle / Remote sit
- ▶ 3 handed casting
- ▶ Pile work
 - ▶ Single, double T
- ▶ Swim by
- ▶ E-collar conditioning (if applicable)*
- ▶ Force fetch (if applicable)**
- ▶ Platform

Training Session

- ▶ Singles off multiple guns
- ▶ Lead steady (taut lead with use of hand on release)
- ▶ Intro to simple or retired hidden guns
- ▶ Require delivery to hand
- ▶ Bird in mouth procedure with singles off multiple guns
- ▶ Teach land doubles
- ▶ Steady with limp lead or no lead
- ▶ Long non-cheating water marks
- ▶ Simple conventional de-cheating
- ▶ Simple water doubles
- ▶ Occasional e-collar use allowed for obedience going to/from line and steadiness

*We will not be offering any instruction in the use of E-Collars. We recommend the following resources for an E-Collar program:

Pat Nolan and Connie Cleveland-Nolan. Details can be found at

<https://www.dogtrainersworkshop.com/digital-obedience-guides/electric-collars---an-instructional-guide>

Bill Hillman. Details can be found at

www.billhillman.net

IMPORTANT: Many a good dog have been ruined by the improper use of an E-collar. The correct use of an E-collar to teach a dog the concept of pressure is a methodical process and should never replace good foundation training.

**We will not be offering any instruction in Force Fetch. Please refer to our Resources Page at the end of this section to locate a FF program if you are interested.

Transition (Blinds & Trail) Hunter/Intermediate/AKC Senior

Yard work (done at home)

- ▶ Blinds (land and water)
 - ▶ Walk out blinds
 - ▶ Sight blinds
 - ▶ Pattern blinds
 - ▶ Pattern blinds with diversions
 - ▶ Simple cold blinds
 - ▶ Lining drills
 - ▶ Channel blind
- ▶ Refer to Carol Cassity book
- ▶ Intro to trail

Training Session

- ▶ Blinds (land and water)
 - ▶ Sight blinds
 - ▶ Simple cold blinds
- ▶ Problem solve
- ▶ Trailing

Transition (Marks & Drills)

Yard Work (done at home)

- ▶ Change in cover marks (land)
- ▶ Cross wind marks (water)
- ▶ Wagon Wheel drill
- ▶ 8 handed casting
- ▶ No-No drills
- ▶ Obstacles
- ▶ Happy Marks
- ▶ Upland
- ▶ Honor

Training Session

- ▶ Marking progression
 - ▶ Simple cheating singles
 - ▶ Simple retired memory marks
 - ▶ Increase complexity of multiples
 - ▶ Build marking concepts
- ▶ Handling for marking errors such as switching, fading, going to area of old fall
- ▶ Happy Marks
- ▶ Upland
- ▶ Honor
- ▶ Handler with gun
- ▶ Walk-ups
- ▶ Send from bucket
- ▶ Remote send

What is a Happy Mark and why do it?

A happy mark is a short mark thrown either by you at the line or from the field that you know your dog will be successful at. Happy marks relieve the stress and pressure of drills and keep your dog's attitude positive. Happy marks are not a 'throw and let the dog go'. Your dog needs to sit until released and deliver to hand.

Master

Yard work (done at home)

- ▶ Build on previously learned skills
- ▶ Review
- ▶ Teach

Training Session

- ▶ Build on marking and blind concepts
- ▶ Emphasis on steadiness and willingness to handle on marks
- ▶ Multiple blinds to factors such as dry shots, old falls and other diversions including poison birds
- ▶ Diversion marks, poison birds
- ▶ Long retired guns
- ▶ Secondary selection
- ▶ Obstacles
- ▶ Cross winds
- ▶ Technical water concepts
- ▶ Steady to shot and fall
- ▶ Honor

RESOURCES

Building a Retriever Drills & More 3rd Edition

Carol Cassity

Available at www.gundogsupply.com

(this book is a MUST HAVE)

Bill Hillman Videos & Blogs

www.billhillman.net

Pat Nolan Online Instruction, Videos, Blogs

<https://www.pushpulltrainingindrive.com/store>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=pat+nolan+dog&docid=608015825493690553&mid=ED1FF2BF502272373DA7ED1FF2BF502272373DA7&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Retriever Journal

<http://retrieverjournal.com/>

Dobbs Training Libraries

<http://www.dobbsdogs.com/library/retrievers/index.html>

Retrievers Online

<https://www.retrieveronline.com/>

Robert Milner's Retriever Training Site

<http://www.fetchpup.com/training/>

Ducks Unlimited Retriever Training

<http://www.ducks.org/hunting/retriever-training?poe=hometxt>

Pat Nolan and Ponderosa Kennels

<http://ponderosakennels.com/dog-training-article-directory>

Raising and Training Retriever Puppies with Pat Nolan

<http://www.trainingretrieverpuppies.com/>

YouTube – Pat Nolan

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PatNolan>

Retriever Training Basics

<http://www.retrievertrainingbasics.com/>

Outstanding in the Field - By Lori Jolly

http://www.everythinggolden.com/field_article.htm

Gun Fire De-Sensitization CD

[Puppy Sounds CD - Clean Runwww.cleanrun.com › product › puppy_sounds_cd](http://www.cleanrun.com/product/puppy_sounds_cd)

E-Collar Training Program by Pat Nolan and Connie Cleveland-Nolan

<https://www.dogtrainersworkshop.com/digital-obedience-guides/electric-collars---an-instructional-guide>