

Dog Scouts of America

Hunting Retriever Training Instructions

LAND RETRIEVE

Buckle Collars Only On Dogs

Dog comes to handler on whistle command from a 'Sit Stay'

You can train your dog to come on a whistle command by having it on a "recall stay", calling the dog verbally and immediately blowing the whistle. Reward your dog when it gets to you. No "Front" is necessary, but dog should come close to you to get the reward. Let your dog run around and command it to come, using both the verbal command and whistle. Have that reward ready. At feeding time, have your dog where they cannot see you. In the bunk house, you can put them on a down stay behind one of the other bunks. Give a quick verbal come and blow the whistle and when the dog comes to see what that noise is, put the food bowl down. Lots of verbal praise.

Retrieve plain field dummy on level unobstructed ground, short grass.

Throw your field dummy ball or toy a very short distance. As soon as your dog picks it up, call to come and blow the whistle. Encourage your dog as they are coming in to you using your voice, "good dog, super job, etc". As the dog gets near to you, run backwards a few steps. Remove the object from the dog's mouth and reward. Try it again, just using the whistle.

Retrieve plain field dummy in moderate cover.

Same as above. Don't make the cover too thick. Keep the distance you throw the field dummy short to start with and slowly lengthen the distance.

Now try the above having someone else throw the field dummy, ball or toy. Before they throw it, they should get the dog's attention by yelling. A loud, "HEY,HEY, HEY," works well. Have that person watch the dog's head and if they look away from the sound, keep yelling. When the dog is looking at the sound, throw the article. Again, as soon as the dog picks the object up, call and whistle. Reward when the dog gets to you.

Retrieve scented field dummy in moderate cover.

The scent you use can be hot dog, ham, or anything that emits an odor that appeals to the dog. You throw the scented article first, then try it with another person throwing it, after getting the dog's attention. ALWAYS give your whistle command AS SOON AS THE DOG PICKS IT UP.

Retrieve wing covered field dummy in short grass on level unobstructed ground and slightly hidden in moderate cover.

Same as above, but with bird wing wrapped around dummy.

Blind Retrieve

Drag a hot dog or piece of ham on the ground for a very short distance. Place a field dummy, ball or toy at the end of the path. Dog should not see you do this. Back where you started the path, give your dog a piece of whatever you have used and point to the ground. Walk with them, pointing to the scented path if they are not going on their own. When they reach the article, have them pick it up and run back to the start of the path. Reward after they have given you the article. Plant another article and see if they will follow the path on their own. If not, try going with them again

WATER RETRIEVE

When calling your dog, use the whistle and if necessary your voice command. Always reward your dog for coming.

Dog is willing to go into the water at swimming depth, with handler.

Take your dog in the water and play around with them. If they have never been in the water before, stay shallow until they are used to it, then gradually move deeper.

Dog is willing to retrieve plain Field Dummy at swimming depth.

Keep the distance you throw the article short when starting. Retrieve plain field dummy in the water, at swimming depth. Have another person in a boat to throw the field dummy, ball or toy. Person in the boat should get the dog's attention first, before throwing it.

Retrieve wing covered field dummy in the water, at swimming depth.

Same as above but with bird wing wrapped around dummy.