

# Building Steadiness on a Foundation of Obedience for NATURAL ABILITY

RMC NAVHDA – March 10, 2018

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Our chapter's mission is to help you develop your versatile dog into an efficient, well-adjusted hunting companion. Remember that you are the primary trainer – and we can provide the tools and support to ensure that you reach your goals. This work list is one of those tools. It provides a training regimen to lay a solid foundation of obedience in your dog – all exercises can be completed in your home and yard. **Consider this your homework;** use it as guidance in the coming months. Once your dog masters all these exercises, it will be well on its way to future success in both field and water!

**Obedience Check:** Remember your homework from February 24? This set of drills will be a way to check on each dog's progress, and allow the leader of the NA training group to assess and offer suggestions on continued progress with basic obedience training for each dog.

1. Table- Go up and down the table with energy and enthusiasm one time. On the next time up the table, stop the dog at the end of the table with proper body language and a whoa. Goal: Can the handler stop the dog with no feet moving after the command?
2. Hold- Dog sits/stands on the table and can handler hold the dog's mouth on the outside or put a gloved hand in the dog's mouth?

## **New Obedience goals for March:**

1. Recall on leash- (show how we are going to expand this into an on-check cord recall)
2. Heel on leash - (exercise showing correct position at heel and how to maintain)
3. Leave it – (use two lines of decoys and dog walks down the middle saying leave it if dog leaves handler's side)
4. Whoa Table Obedience – (Handler can whoa dog on table and walk a few steps in front and behind the dog)
5. Bird on Table – Establish every dog's ability to point in presence of game

## **Stations for the day:**

1. Tracking
2. Field work - how to handle the dog on point with check cord to keep puppies from catching the bird

3. Bumpers on land- Two toy game to speed up puppy's desire to return to handler and build desire for bumpers
4. Leave it with Decoys
5. Table Whoa Practice
6. Intro to Gun Fire - at end of morning we have about 4 puppies from the February training day that need to be worked with

**Homework for April Training Day: Refer to the February Training Homework for the progression of each process. Listed below are the next step that most NA dogs will be working on. Each dog is an individual so make sure to work at your dogs pace and don't move to the next step of the progression until you and your dog are confident in the step you are working on.**

1. Recall on Leash - Dog will recall to end of leash and begin building toward working recalls on the check cord at longer distances.
2. Heel on Leash- Dog stays in position at handler's side while speeding up, slowing down, turning circles both directions. Also set out several toys (not bumpers!!!) while on heel and practice "leave it" during training time
3. Whoa- Dog is able to stand on whoa while handler walks all the way around the puppy (you can use a coffee table, place board, whoa table...be creative in finding a place where dog is off the ground and knows the boundary where he can't step off of as you move around)
4. Hold- Dog will accept gloved hand in mouth. Start working on step A of hold...dog will allow a wooden dowel or toy (not bumpers!!!) in their mouth and will hold without chewing or mouthing until handler commands out
5. Tracking: Practice 1-2 drags/tracks per week with a dead bird, wing, pheasant scent, hot dog, beef or chicken broth, or anything that has strong scent to get puppy focused on the track you leave.
6. Bumpers- keep building puppies drive for retrieving and love of playing the game with bumpers. Remember to keep bumpers fun and exciting and keep sessions short leaving puppy wanting more.
7. Down/stays- put puppy on a down/stay for 30 minutes 3 times per week minimum (daily if possible). This can be done while relaxing in the evening while watching TV. Work this on the floor with a foot on their leash and correct them every time they attempt to stand or sit. This exercise will help you work on controlling your puppy's emotions and discipline to remain relaxed until another command is given. Be sure to give release command and lots of praise at the end of your 30 minutes even if you had to battle -your puppy the whole time.

