

# Rocky Mountain

## NAVHDA

### 2019 Training Packet

**February  
Indoor Training**

### March—August Cobb Schedule

7:00—8:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign In</li><li>• Bird Purchases</li><li>• Set up Training Equipment</li></ul>
8:00—10:00 a.m.	Natural Ability Sessions (20 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field</li><li>• Water</li><li>• Track</li><li>• Table</li><li>• Obedience</li></ul>
10:00—11:00 a.m.	Utility Group Drills <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heeling</li><li>• Steady and Remain by Blind</li><li>• Retrieving Drills</li><li>• Multiple Marks</li></ul>
11:00—12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break (Bring your own lunch/chair)
11:30—12:00 p.m.	Youth Handlers (Lunch Area) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drill Challenge</li><li>• Relay Race</li><li>• New Skill Assignments</li></ul>
12:00—3:00 p.m.	Utility Field Work (Back Field) Dog and Handler session assignments will be given morning of each training day
2:00—3:00 p.m.	Utility Duck Work (Main Lake) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duck Chases on Land</li><li>• Duck Chases on Water</li><li>• Duck Drag</li></ul>
3:00—End of Day	Utility Duck Work (Main Lake) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duck Search</li></ul> Fields are Open for Natural Ability and Utility Individual Training

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## Safety Rules

We share a passion for our dogs and training. With a large chapter membership, it is important to take the time to explain the prevailing rules and etiquette so that it is not overlooked. In an effort to welcome new trainers to RMC NAVHDA and provide a reminder to returning handlers, we have outlined this information below to assure everyone enjoys a safe, stress free start to a new training season. As we are very fortunate to have access to some wonderful training grounds, many of these items address good stewardship so that we will continue to be welcomed back to these training venues.

### Safety First!

Please follow these rules at all times:

1. Blaze Orange is required in the field at all times (hat/cap, vest, shirt or jacket). Do not go into the training fields without ample blaze orange. This includes all spectators, auditors, and youth. Orange must be worn when leaving the parking lot!
2. **Gunners:** Individuals handling training shotguns or shotguns utilizing live ammunition must be members of NAVHDA International. All gunners must have a Hunter Safety Certificate. All live fire gunners must have a current Colorado Small Game License.
3. Live fire training situations will take place in designated fields only! No Exceptions!
4. A break open shotgun (Single Shot, Over/Under or Side by Side) is recommended in the field. Carry the gun in the open position until a dog is on point as a visible indication of safety to others. Where a pump or autoloader is used, the action should remain open until the dog goes on point.
5. Nonmembers may not utilize a firearm to discharge blank or live ammunition at any NAVHDA testing or training event. This is inclusive of a "Starter's" gun or other device capable of discharging blank (non-projectile) ammunition, primers, or creating noise by use of explosive compounds.
6. Know your target and what is beyond. Visible sky ensures birds are above our dogs. If in doubt, don't take the shot.
7. Do not discharge a firearm towards the parking area or the gallery. Maintain muzzle control!
8. Extreme weather such as lightning, strong winds, extreme temperature, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. The event leadership has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted due to weather and at what point the event shall resume.
9. Any member wishing to use NAVHDA owned equipment such as duck launchers and release traps, must receive proper instruction on the use of the equipment from an experienced and qualified member of RMC NAVHDA prior to "first use"
10. Any handler in a kayak must wear a life preserver at all times.

### Politeness and Courtesy

1. Loose and unattended dogs are prohibited. Dogs must remain on leash and under the control of the handler or designate at all times when not actively training or testing in the field. NAVHDA Invitational qualified dogs are permitted to work on off-lead heeling but must remain in a controlled heel position the entire time. Please do not free-run your dogs on the grounds prior to the start of training or after your dog has finished an exercise.
2. Puppies should be introduced to unfamiliar adult dogs in a careful, controlled situation to preclude any aggressive behavior by the adult dog.
3. Police your refuse. Dispose of your dog(s) manure appropriately. The port-a-potty is not an acceptable disposal receptacle.
4. Females in season should be kept in a crate at the vehicle through the main training events. At the end of the formal training, female's in season can work through training exercises. Be courteous of other handlers and their dogs. Make sure everyone is aware and can keep all dogs under control and safe at all times.
5. Check around your vehicle before you go to make sure all garbage is collected.
6. Your dead birds are your responsibility. Please make sure you take them with you to eat or use for training at home.
7. Be respectful of other members. Everyone is at a different stage of dog training and ability. Not everyone has the same access to resources and tools. Seek first to understand and then to be understood.
8. Jump in and lend a hand. If you don't know how to do something, ask and someone will gladly help. If you see someone in need of help, ask if you can assist. Go the extra mile, these friendships open doors and last a long time. Lots of work goes into each of these events and many people go above and beyond for the betterment of the group. Many knowledgeable people come to help out those that are learning. Take time to thank those around you that help make it happen. Also, it never hurts to ask the organizers "is there anything I can do to help?"

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### Training Day Etiquette

1. NAVHDA Training days are designed to show different ways to train a reliable hunting companion. There is no “one way” or “right way” to train a dog. Have open eyes and open ears. Search for a training style that suits you as a handler and your dog’s personality.
2. Have a plan on what you would like to accomplish at the training day with your dog. Dog training is a progression that builds on the foundation that you have previously trained. Don’t leave a training session without a plan of what you are going to work on at your next training session!
3. Stay positive and look for moments to praise your dog. In more distracting training situations, behavior may not be as “accurate” as it is in the dog’s normal training environment. Be willing to find the good things the dogs does that day.
4. Be prepared to gun, plant birds, throw retrieves for your training partners. They should be prepared to do the same for your turn in the field. Make sure to give the training day polite consideration for all that are attending. Running your dog and leaving without lending a hand doesn’t open others up to wanting to help you with training situations in the future!
5. Be on time at the beginning of the day and at the start of each exercise. Be prepared when you leave the parking lot for the drills you will be working.
6. Questions are gladly welcomed! Arguing is not! Group leaders have volunteered their time, knowledge and experience to help you learn how to work through training progressions with your dog. Nobody will deliberately give advice that would mess up your dog. If you are uncomfortable continuing to work the exercise, then don’t do it and quietly watch until the end of the session. Just don’t argue with someone who is trying to help everyone reach their goals.
7. Don’t expect to work every component of a NAVHDA Test at a training day. Work a few things and then take a break. Remember you usually train for roughly 30-60 minutes during a normal day at home. Don’t expect your dog to perform at it’s highest level for an 8 hour day without some down time. Work within your dog’s attention span.
8. Dogs are not perfect and training days provide a very distracting and exciting environment. If you are loosing focus or feeling frustrated with your dog’s performance, let your dog take a break in their crate. Watch the rest of the training session and make notes of things to work on when you train your dog next.
9. Train your dog at his/her level. Join in the group work and have a plan of expectations for your dog. Don’t try and push your dog just because someone else is working a little further in the progression. Remember, not all dogs and handler’s progress at the same speed!
10. Please be courteous of handlers that are testing in an upcoming test. Be willing to let their dogs be used for demonstrations and use the opportunity to watch and learn from it. Watch the handler and their communication with their dog. Watch the dog’s performance and think about how you would train the situation as it develops. Your dog doesn’t need to be in the field for you to learn something new!
11. Do your homework! Work on the foundation daily. Spend time on obedience. No dog is too old or too advanced not to review the basics! Set your dog up for success so the group training sessions can be utilized for working on things you can’t do alone.
12. Remember we are here to support, encourage and work towards common goals. There is no competition between handlers and their dogs. Enjoy the friendships you make. Appreciate the volunteers, mentors and Judges that share their advice and knowledge. Everyone started in the same place at one time with their first hunting dog! Never be afraid to ask a question...we want to see you and your dog reach your hunting goals!