

Development of Successful Bird Dog

- Do not let your dog catch birds! This applies to call dogs, yours included.
- No juvenile stakes! This means not puppy, derby, Junior or Senior stakes, no NA NAVDHA testing. Do not put your pup in a competition where they learn to catch birds and learn not to listen. Wait until your pup is broke before entering in stakes.
- Direct results from bird catch – flagging, circling the bird, not pointing at all just flushing, hard mouth, eating birds (tremendous pressure to break your dog once they've learned to catch) direct result of juvenile stakes is becoming trial or hunt test wise.
- Remember your dog's instinct to point birds is based on the birds getting away. If the bird does not get away (pen raised birds do not get away) your dog will no longer point or will point with poor style and flagging. This is why we preach wild birds.
- Dog's cannot learn to stand birds before they have some understanding of pointing and chasing wild birds as well as retrieving and marking. Once proficient at this they are then ready to break.
- It is important to develop a dog in this order:
 - Puppy: Start 16 weeks, Bird Intro, Here Training, Gun Acclimation (shoot 8-10 pen raised birds)
 - Wild birds, Wild Birds, Wild Birds
 - Finish Program: Whoa training, standing through Shot
 - Wild Birds, Wild Birds, Wild Birds
- Competition- field trials first if FC/AFC is goal, then Hunt Tests. If you're not going to trial then Hunt Tests can be started at this point. There are exceptions to this and we will discuss on an individual basis.
- One you start competing your number one goal should be to get your dog through clean each stake or brace. Run in only one stake or brace per weekend (no double doubles, no AGD and OGD in one weekend) then run some more before entering again. Once your dog is reliable 4 or 5 stakes/test then you can start to enter two per weekend.
- Creating a great bird dog takes miles and miles of shoe leather. It takes giving up weekend competitions to go find birds, it takes making choices about not entering juvenile stakes so your pup can success as an advanced dog.
- This is the process we recommend for all our dogs and it's the process we use at Perfection Kennel with our own dogs. The average age an FC/Master Hunter is obtained is five years of age.
- Fact: it is easier to fix gunshy dogs than it is to fix rial wise or hunt test wise dogs (we recommend creating neither of these)
- Our program is successful and easy for your and your dog if you follow the methods and development. Perfection Kennel Is here for you as a resource, You may call or test us anytime with any questions. Your success is our success and we want to help you achieve your goals with your dog.