



## Gun Dog Training Guidelines

Thank you for considering Pine Hill for purchase and/or training of your hunting dog. We are looking forward to working with you and your dog during the coming season. Following is some information related to our training services.

### **Gun Dog Evaluation**

Prior to beginning a lesson package or enrolling your dog in full-time training, your dog will undergo a thorough evaluation. We will examine every aspect of its talents and behaviors. This gives us an understanding of your dog's strengths and weaknesses. While in the field, we will discuss in detail your goals and expectations for your dog. We will then recommend lessons, fulltime custom training, or a combination of the two. After completion of the evaluation and discussion of your concerns, an honest knowledgeable assessment of your dog's potential will be offered. Gun Dog Evaluation (includes birds) \$75.

Once the evaluation is complete, we can custom build a training program to fit each individual dog and owner. We are committed to giving your dog every opportunity to reach its potential and become an enjoyable companion.

### **Evaluation During a Boarding Stay**

If your travel plans require you to make boarding arrangements, we can evaluate your dog during its stay with us. Please let us know when you call to reserve your dog's boarding dates. We will share the results of the evaluation and make future training recommendations at the time of pickup.

### **Full Time Training Program**

Dogs enrolled in one of our full time programs benefit in many ways. Our training grounds are second to none. We have four farms totaling over six hundred acres dedicated to game bird habitat and dog training. The properties are well stocked with birds to produce the most realistic learning environment for your dog.

Our focus in training is strictly on developing and training great hunting dogs as well as helping

teach the owners of these dogs how to reach their goals. We do not train any dogs for field trials or travel to compete in field trials. It is far too time consuming, and would hinder the progress with our string of hunting dogs.

You can have your dog with us knowing it will also receive the best of care during its stay. We operate a clean, modern facility which is designed for your dog's health, care, comfort, and safety.

Our experienced, caring kennel staff take care of the feeding, cleanup, and maintenance of the facility and grounds so that our trainers can focus on one job – training your dog.

Our monthly rate which covers your dog's care, feeding, and training is \$34 per day plus cost of the birds shot over your dog. The average cost of birds shot is \$175 per month. Your dog may need a little more or a lot less, depending on the training phase your dog is in. For a description of our programs, see our website at [www.michiganbirdhunter.com](http://www.michiganbirdhunter.com).

### **Private Lesson Program**

This program consists of a series of three, five, or seven sessions of private instruction for you and your dog. These classes are for pointing breeds, flushing breeds, and retriever breeds. Professional training of a young dog is a valuable service. Educating the owner may be even more critical to success. You can accomplish both with a package of one-on-one training lessons. Often ineffective handling techniques and training can erode a dog's hunting skills and confidence. Don't let this happen to you. The knowledge gained in these lessons will ensure your ability to bring out the best in your current hunting buddy and every dog you may enjoy in the future. The majority of gun dog problems are easily prevented yet difficult, costly, and time consuming to cure. It pays to do it right the first time by having an experienced professional be a training partner to ensure success. You will be given homework assignments after each lesson and the rate of your dog's progress hinges greatly on your commitment and follow-through between lessons. Our sessions will be spaced appropriately according to your dog's progress. Private Lesson Program (includes birds): three sessions \$475; five sessions \$775, seven sessions \$995.

### **Questions and Answers**

*Q: When my dog is enrolled for training at Pine Hill, how often is he worked?*

A: Dogs in training are worked six days a week. The structure of the daily workouts is always changing as the dog progresses and is always weather dependent.

*Q: Is there anything I should do with my dog before it starts training?*

A: Any pre-training suggestions would be detailed during the evaluation.

- Vaccinations – see recommended list.
- Pre drop-off physical conditioning is always appreciated.
- We recommend you talk with your family about your dog's stay away from home, and the importance of your dog's training at this stage in their life.
- Run your dog in new various terrains, fields, and woods. Young dogs need exposure so they are comfortable hunting anywhere, any time. This is the most important pre-training work you can do – and the most fun!

## ***Gun Dog Training Guidelines Continued***

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*Q: How do I, as the owner, fit into the training process?*

A: Upon the completion of your dog's training, we will schedule a time to work with owners to teach you all we can. Our focus with owner training is on the following areas:

- Reading your dog's body language and understanding why they do what they do.
- Becoming a good dog handler and hunting partner.
- Proper enforcement of commands.
- Maintaining the level of training.
- Building on what we have instilled in your dog.
- Demonstration of proper use of E-collar.
- One-on-one follow up owner instruction is available (see lessons)

*Q: How old should my dog be for training?*

A: The evaluation process will tell us when your dog is ready for training – the dog sets the pace. The dog will tell us what he's ready for. Development and training are closely intertwined. We can show and explain this after the evaluation process.

### **Vaccination Requirements**

All dogs must be current on the following vaccinations:

- DHLPP + CV
- Rabies
- Bordetella (Kennel Cough)

### **Heartworm**

Prior to your dog's stay, please be sure to have your dog checked for heartworm. We can give your monthly heartworm preventative when appropriate.

### **Visitation and Phone Calls**

We have open visitation for dogs in training every **Friday between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM**. As your dog progresses, we will schedule appointments to work one on one in the field with you and your dog. Keeping your phone calls to a minimum will allow us to spend more time in the field with your dog. Dog training is a very time-consuming process and to have to return a high number of calls per day is counterproductive to your dog's education. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. Friday afternoons - 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - is the best time for an update.

### **Payment**

A \$500 deposit is required at the time of drop off. Thereafter, we operate on a 30-day billing cycle. Method of payment includes cash, check, Visa MasterCard, American Express, and Discover.

For your convenience, we can set up automatic monthly billing with your credit card number on file with us.