

Glossary of Retriever Training, Field Trial & Hunt Test Terms

For folks new to the sport of dog games and retriever training, the terminology can be overwhelming. Have you ever gone to an event and wondered what other people were telling their dogs? Does it sound like gibberish when someone talks about their dog "Creeping." Isn't that what happens at 2:00 AM when my dog is trying to crawl under the covers?" Or, Recast "I think that's a fishing term." To help understand terms you may hear during training sessions, field trials or hunt tests, below is a list of terms commonly used in dog games and retriever training:

Air – To allow the dog to empty his bowels and bladder.

AFC – Amateur Field Champion. An AKC Field Trial Title. To attain the title of Amateur Field Champion with points earned in the Amateur All-Age, a retriever must be handled by an amateur and earn fifteen points, of which five must be for a first place. Open All-Age points combined with Amateur All-Age points also count toward the fifteen points required for the Amateur Field Championship. 1st Place – 5 Points; 2nd Place – 3 Points; 3rd Place – 2 Points; 4th Place – ½ Point.

AKC – American Kennel Club

Amateur – One who trains dogs for the pleasure of it and receives no payment for it. A person who has not earned any part of his or her livelihood from the training, trialing or handling of a dog in field competition at any level.

Amateur All-Age Stake – A field trial stake in which only amateurs, not professionals, are allowed to handle a dog.

Amish Training – The art of training a dog without the use of an E Collar.

Angle Back – Usually defined as the dog turning and going back at a 45-degree angle from the shoulder instead of turning 90-degrees and going straight back. Ideally, what you really want when you give an angle back cast is for the dog to leave the line he is on, move over several degrees at an oblique angle and then go straight back.

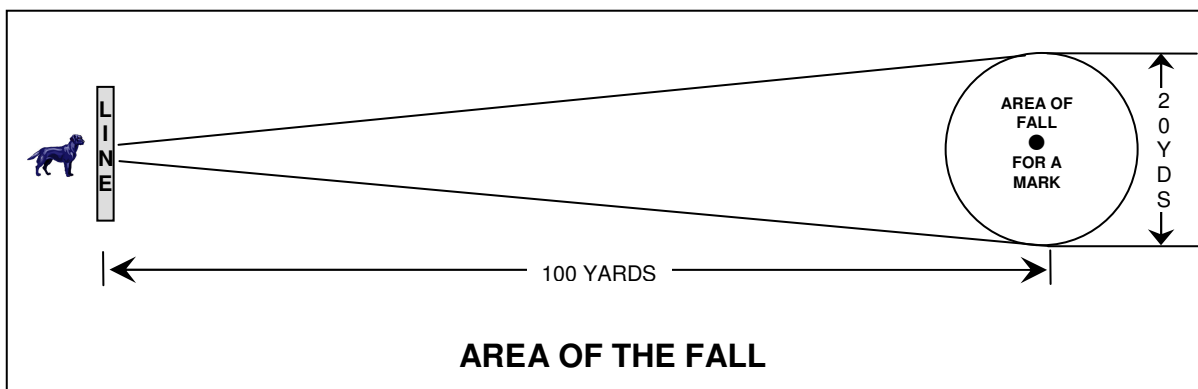
Angling – To cross terrain or enter water on a diagonal line.

Area of the Fall – Used to describe the place where the bird has fallen to the ground and the adjacent area around the bird. The dog should go to the area of the fall and establish a hunt to find the bird without leaving the area of the fall and disturbing too much cover. The size of the area of the fall for any given mark is a matter of judgment. Retriever folks have developed the following as an initial rough estimate:

The area of the fall is a circle around the bird with a radius measuring about 10% (or a diameter of 20%) of the distance from the "line" to the bird, the "line" being the spot from which the dog saw the bird fall. For example, for a 100 yard mark, the area of the fall would have a 20 yard diameter.

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Circumstances can affect the size, shape, and even location of the area of the fall. For example, in a double mark, the area of the fall for the second bird retrieved (the “memory bird”) is larger than that for the first bird retrieved (the “go bird”), because the dog must remember the former while retrieving the latter. A strong wind not only changes the shape of the area from circular to conical, but also shifts it downwind so the bird lies nearer the narrow end of the cone. Retrieverites make these adjustments to be reasonable in their expectations of their dogs. But no matter how it is defined for a particular mark, the area of the fall sets the boundaries within which the dog should hunt for the bird. As long as he is hunting diligently within that area, he’s doing a good job, even if he hunts quite some time before producing the bird.



Attrition – A method of teaching that relies on repeating a concept; the dog learns the lesson by doing it over and over until he does it correctly.

Balk – Refusal to leave on a retrieve when sent. Also called a "no-go".

Back – A command that tells the dog to leave the handler’s side and go in a straight direction away from the handler. Usually used on a blind, although in some areas of the country it is also used for marks. It is also a directional signal that tells the dog to turn and run straight back after being commanded to sit (via whistle or voice) in the field and look at the handler.

Bank Run – on a water retrieve, the dog runs along the bank (shore) before entering the water, or runs around the whole pond, doesn't even get its feet wet. Why? Well, the dog may really hate water: But, any untrained dogs will bank run occasionally, given the opportunity (i.e., part way on shore brings it directly in line with the bird, requiring less swimming). So, in the beginning, throws should be straight out from shore, not at an angle, with the dog sitting close to the water.

Basics – The beginning commands a dog learns as the basis of advanced work - heel, come (here), and sit. Also, simple handling and lining drills, force fetch.

Baseball – A beginning drill used to teach the dog to take hand signals. A precursor for blinds.

BB – Bird Boy.

Beer or "Beeeeeeeeer" – A positive reinforcement tool used to "treat" a handler into doing the right thing in expectation of a reward for complying with the correct response.

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Beer Dog – Alcoholic beverages are not allowed to be consumed while field trials or hunt tests are underway. The last dog to run in the day's event, is called the "beer dog," signifying alcoholic beverages may be consumed.

Big Hunt – When a dog cannot find a mark and runs all over the field looking for it. Not a good thing.

Bird Bolter – A dog who picks up the bird or dummy and runs away with it.

Bird Boy – The person who throws birds or bumpers during a trial, test or training session; may also be referred to as the gunner.

Birdiness – A desirable quality in a dog that describes a high interest in birds, high desire to retrieve birds.

Bitch – Female dog.

Blank Pistol – A pistol with a solid barrel, meant for firing blanks only, to simulate the sound of a gun.

Blind – Two meanings:

1. The bird or object (such as a dummy) to be retrieved that is placed at a distance and which is not seen by the dog. (As opposed to a "marked" fall, which is one the dog sees fall to the ground.)
2. A structure, usually camouflaged, from which birds or other objects to be retrieved are thrown and where gunners and throwers may conceal themselves.

Blind Planter – This is the person who places a bird or bumper at a designated spot for a blind retrieve.

Blind Retrieve – A retrieve of a bird that the dog did not see thrown, the dog is directed to the blind through the use of hand signals, whistle and/or voice commands.

Blink – When the dog goes by an object that it has clearly seen and is supposed to have retrieved and refuses to pick it up after locating it. The dog runs out to the area of the fall, looks directly at the bumper/bird, pauses next to it, then leaves and continues to hunt around acting as if he has never seen it.

Blinking—When a dog goes to the area of the fall, finds the mark, but refuses to pick it up.

Bolt – An escape mechanism a dog attempts when too much pressure is applied and it doesn't understand what's going on, so it decides to "leave" the area by bolting.

Break or breaking – This is when a dog that is being judged (either at the line or during the honor) goes for the bird before the judge has instructed the handler to release the working dog (as opposed to the honor dog). If a working dog breaks or an honoring dog breaks the breaking dog is disqualified.

Brucellosis – A contagious canine venereal (STD) disease, which can cause sterility.

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Bulldog – A mark that is thrown while a dog is returning from another retrieve. Also known as a diversion. The dog must not switch birds ie: must not drop the first bird he picked up in order to retrieve the diversion bird.

Bumper – A retrieval object; typically plastic or canvas, usually 2 or 3 inches in diameter, used to train the dog. They are available in a wide assortment of colors. However, white is the most visible and is generally used for marks. Black or orange bumpers are generally used for blinds. Most dogs cannot see orange and these are generally used on blind retrieves so a dog does not see them from a distance.

Burn – Terminology used to describe an e-collar correction that is continuous instead of a "Nick" which is a momentary correction. Used to correct a known command that the dog is choosing to disregard. There is no physical harm to the dog

Call Back – A list provided by Hunt Test or Field Trial judges prior to the next series in an event. This list denotes those who are invited back to continue participating in the event. Those who do not make the "call back" have been disqualified for some reason. Note: HRC/UKC Hunt Tests do not have Call Backs. You can continue to participate even though your dog will not receive a passing score for that day.

Campaign – Two meanings:

1. As a noun: A series of events such as field trials or hunt tests.
2. As a verb: the act of running a dog in competitive events.

Campaign or Campaigning – The pursuit of a title for a dog.

Cast/Casting – To give the dog a specific direction to a marked fall or a blind through the use of arm/body movements. The direction given a dog on a blind retrieve after he has stopped on the whistle. The handler gives the signal with his arm and voice, either a right or left "over" cast or a "back" cast. The dog, taking this direction, is considered to be on cast, or casting.

Cast Refusal – Dog fails to go in the direction ordered. The dog does not respond or respond correctly to the direction or cast given by the handler.

CERF – Canine Eye Registry Foundation. A registry created to evaluate and clear breeding dogs of hereditary eye defects including Progressive Retinal Atrophy and Retinal Displasia.

CH – Abbreviation for "AKC Champion" (bench or show champion).

Channel – A narrow body of water.

Channel Blind – A water blind run in an area that, due to the close proximity of the bank on both sides, makes it very tempting for the dog to exit the water and get up on land. A narrow channel.

Channeling – A dog that swims down the center of a narrow body of water (channel) lengthwise without touching land.

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Chain Collar – A strong chain collar with a ring at both ends that is put on the dog's neck in such a manner that the degree of tension exerted by the hand tightens or loosens the collar. The chain is slipped through one ring, and the lead snapped to the other to make a choke collar.

Cheat – To avoid obstacles.

Cheating – When a dog avoids cover or obstacles enroute to or returning from an item to be retrieved.

Check cord – A leash or light-weight lead of some sort that is lightly looped around the dog's neck (or through the flat collar) and held by the handler. When the judge signals that the handler may release the dog, one end of the cord is dropped to let the dog go while the lead falls free of the dog and is kept by the handler.

Choke Collar – See chain collar.

CKC – Canadian Kennel Club.

Cold – A term used to define the running of a dog on a concept it is familiar with but the exact placement of the object is new to the dog. (Example: Cold Blind). When we train, we generally run our dogs on "cold" marks and/or blinds. Our dogs know how to mark or run a blind, but they don't know the exact location of this specific mark or blind

Cold Blind – Means that the dog has no idea of where the bird is – he didn't see it fall, its location is not part of a "pattern" he recognizes, nor is it at a location he's been to before (a "permanent" blind).

1. A blind retrieve that the dog has never run before.
2. A blind retrieve before running any marks.

Collar Conditioning – A process by which the dog is taught how to turn off the electronic collar stimulation and how to respond to e-collar pressure appropriately. To acclimate a dog to accept electric collar stimulation as a training aid.

Conditioned Retriever – A dog that has been trained to respond to electric stimulation.

Controlled break— A dog that tries to break but is successfully called back by the handler after a short distance. Permissible but subject to penalty in some hunt test and field trial events

In Junior and Senior levels, the dog may have a controlled break. If the dog leaves for the birds before being released by the handler, but the handler is able to stop the dog by whistle or voice command, the dog and handler will be allowed to finish the series. Yelling NO! is not an acceptable command for stopping the dog. Most handlers will use HEEL! or HERE! to have the dog return to the handler. Judges will also establish an acceptable distance for the controlled break to occur within. If the dog is beyond that point before the handler recalls the dog, or if the dog does not respond to the handler's commands, the dog and handler will be disqualified. Controlled breaks are not allowed at the Master level.

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Cover – Indicates the various ground covers in-between the starting line and the objects to be retrieved. Can be grass, or any other growth, on land or in the water.

Creep – Dog moves a short distance in the direction of a mark(s) while they are being thrown and before being sent for the retrieve.

Creeping – When the dog moves forward on the line but does not break out of control. This is when the dog slowly inches from the handler's side (or from the designated starting point) a few steps at a time or, by scooting or creeping along the ground as the birds are being shot/thrown, but the dog does not break. Judges will determine at what point the creeping is too far away from the handler and may ask the handler to re-heel the dog before releasing the dog for the retrieve.

Cue – A voice or gesture from handler to dog used as a reminder. For example “dead bird” indicating a blind or “mark” indicating that a mark is about to be thrown,

Dam – Mother of a litter or dog.

Dead – A bird that has been previously shot. Can also mean a command given to the dog on the line by the handler preparing the dog for a blind retrieve.

Dead Bird – A cue given to the dog on the line by the handler preparing the dog for a blind retrieve.

De-bolting – A term identifying the process used to teach the dog it cannot "run away"/"bolt" from the stimulation caused by the e collar. Typically, “safe” places are provided for the dog to hide during the exercise, and then the dog is forced out of them, helping him to overcome his fear of pressure.

Delayed Bird – A bird that is shot after one or more birds in a set up have been retrieved by a dog.

Deliver to hand – This is used to describe how the dog should return with the bird. The dog must carry the bird lightly (no chewing), return to the handler and hold the bird until the handler signals the dog to release the bird into the handler's hand. The release should be easy and smooth—no tug of war or repeated dropping and picking up by the dog. **IF THE DOG DROPS THE BIRD, THE DOG MUST PICK THE BIRD BACK UP AND DELIVER TO THE HANDLER.** If the handler picks the bird up from the ground, or touches the bird on the ground, the handler and dog will be disqualified. The bird must be “fit for human consumption,” which means not eaten, chewed or damaged by the dog.

Derby – Derby Stake. AKC field event or “stake” for dogs over 6 months of age but not over 2 years, as of the first day of the event. A Derby is made up of marked falls only. Marking ability and style constitute the most important factors for placing in the Derby ***Blind retrieves are not required in the Derby stake.*** A Derby dog is judged on style and marking ability and is not expected to “handle” to a bird. 1st Place – 5 Points; 2nd Place – 3 Points; 3rd Place – 2 Points; 4th Place – 1 Point.

Derby List – The "National" list of Derby dogs earning ten points or more.

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Diversion – A distraction, of some sort, including but not limited to a bird, a shot, a person moving, talking, yelling or walking, etc. done in dog games to test against switching, or dropping. Diversions in dog games are commonly a thrown bird as the dog returns from a retrieve. Sometimes these become part of a delayed mark.

Can refer to a “dry pop” which is a blank shotgun blast that is not associated with a mark or blind retrieve. Or, there can be a “diversion bird” thrown. This is when the dog has seen a multiple mark thrown (double, triple, etc.) and has been sent to retrieve at least one of the marks. As the dog is returning to the handler, another bird is thrown and a shot fired. The dog now has another bird to remember and retrieve as well as completing the multiple marks.

Dog – When referring to a canine by sex, males are referred to as "dogs", females as "bitches."

Dog Games – Field trials, hunt tests, Super Retriever Series.

Double – Two consecutive retrieves or marks. Two objects a dog sees thrown for it to retrieve. These objects are not thrown at the same time. A double tests the dog’s memory as it must pick up one object, return to its handler, then go get the other object and bring it back.

Dowel – An object used to teach the dog the "hold" command. Generally wooden and not larger than one-half inch in diameter. The dog should hold the dowel gently but firmly before moving on to the next phase of Force Fetch.

Dragback – Scent trail left by dogs returning to the line with birds from a mark or blind, especially through high cover where the bird’s scent is left on vegetation.

Drill – A training exercise that contains repetition of a focused theme of training.

Dry Pop – A shot that is fired without throwing a bird. The dry pop will provide a diversion when used with other retrieves.

Dry Shot – A shot from a gunner without any bird thrown.

Dual Champion – A retriever who has won a Bench Championship and a Field Championship title (not amateur). This title is used as a prefix to the dog’s registered name.

Dummy – An object retrieved by the retriever. (i.e., a bumper).

Dummy Collar – A collar that is the exact duplicate of an e collar in size, shape, and weight but cannot produce electrical stimulation.

E Collar – A tool used by the trainer and worn by the dog that enables the trainer to make an instant correction from a distance through the use of small amounts of electricity. It is an invaluable training tool when properly used. It is also the fastest way to ruin a good dog if used improperly.

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Estrus – Heat cycle of a female dog also ovulation period.

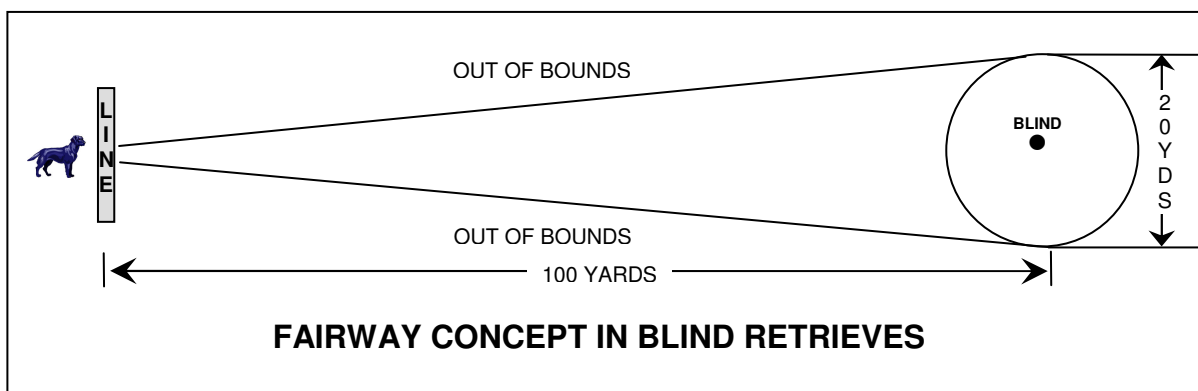
Entry – Two meanings:

1. The spot at which a dog enters the water on either a blind or mark. If it enters the water at a close angle to shore, it is called an “angle entry.”
2. A dog’s manner of entering the water is called his “water entry.”

Establish a hunt – When the dog goes to the area of the fall for the bird, but does not find the bird immediately, the dog gets into the area and starts to use its nose to locate the bird. This is perfectly acceptable behavior. However if the **hunt** becomes too broad, so it is out of the area of fall as established by the judges, the judges may score the dog lower on perseverance or marking (remembering where the bird landed).

Factors – Elements that can throw a retriever off course on a mark or blind. They include: wind, water, terrain, cover, and diversions. Most advanced training concentrates on teaching the dog to deal with these factors. The more advanced the dog, the more they are able to overcome various factors to hold the line.

Fairway – In dog games, the judges set up blind retrieves specifically to test the handler’s control over the dog under challenging conditions. They expect the handler to keep the dog reasonably close to the true line to the bird from the time he leaves the handler’s side until he picks up the bird. A dog that runs close enough to the true line is said to be “within the fairway.” The dog that drifts out of the fairway disturbs cover unnecessarily and could flush birds out of gun range while there. The width of the fairway is defined as similar to the width of the “area of the fall.” The fairway is narrow, almost a point, at the line and widens as it goes out toward the bird. Therefore, the fairway is cone-shaped, with the cone’s point at the line and the wide end out where the bird lies.



Fall – (a.k.a. Area of the Fall) – The spot on the ground or water where the object to be retrieved fell.

FC – Field Champion. An AKC Field Trial title. To earn this title a dog must accumulate 10 open points, including a win. 1st Place – 5 Points; 2nd Place – 3 Points; 3rd Place – 2 Points; 4th Place – ½ Point. He may be handled by either an amateur or a professional.

Fetch – The dog moves quickly towards the bird or bumper and picks up the object without hesitation.

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Field Trial – A working competition for retrievers. The American Kennel Club licenses individual clubs to give retriever field trials at which championship points are awarded.

Competition for retrievers for which dogs are judged on ability and style in retrieving birds. In retriever field trials, they are judged according to standardized objectives, and also against each other. Placements are 1st through 4th. AKC field trials started around 1931 and are considered by some to be the “big league” of field competition. With regards to retrievers, accurate marking is of primary importance. The marks range from 150 yards to upwards of 450 yards. Gunners and handlers wear white coats in the field to make them identifiable to the dog. However, guns will “retire” or go out of sight once the mark is thrown. A dog that marks the fall of a bird, uses the wind, follows a strong cripple and will take direction from his handler is of great value.

Field Work – Dog training generally conducted away from the area around the kennel. Includes concept work or marks and blinds.

Finalist – A dog who has completed all series of a competitive stake.

Flag – A visual attractant to help a dog identify either a pile of bumpers or a blind retrieve.

Flare – When a dog avoids continuing on a straight line on which he was sent due to pressure applied previously in that general area.

Flat throw – Also known as a “square throw.” A bird or bumper thrown directly across from the thrower, i.e., neither back nor in — from the dog’s point of view it is a 90° throw. Other types of throws are angle in and angle back throws.

Flier (Flyer) – A live bird released into flight during a field event and shot for the dog on the line.

Flier (Flyer) Station – A point in the field from which a bird is flighted and shot to be retrieved.

Flower Pot Marks – Two marks thrown from the same gun station in different directions. Also called a “Momma-Poppa.”

Force – An influence that causes motion or a gain against resistance. If used properly force can correct a behavior in a dog

Force Fetching – (a.k.a., FF, Forcing, Force Breaking, Conditioned Retrieving) The process of teaching a dog to Hold, Fetch, and Give on command. Generally accomplished after the adult teeth are in place in the 6 – 8 month age range and basic obedience and Collar Conditioning are complete. This is the foundation for beginning to teach a dog the concept of blind retrieves.

Force to a Pile – An extension of Force Fetching. Pressure of some sort is applied in association with a command to go. Helps to create the obligation upon the dog to so when sent to a blind retrieve. When done properly, a dog can develop dependable and positive attitude toward his work.

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Force Training – The phase of training a retriever, in which he is taught to pick up, hold and deliver on command. The training which teaches a retriever that he must pick up, hold and deliver to hand any object that he is commanded to retrieve. It is usually done fairly early in a retriever's training program. A dog who has had a thorough course of force training is said to be force trained, and should make a totally reliable retriever.

Force to a Pile – An extension of Force Fetching. Pressure of some sort is applied in association with a command to go to the pile of bumpers.

Fountain – Two marks (a double) are thrown from two different gun stations in opposite directions, one right, one left.

Freezing – A dog that refuses to release a bird to his handler is said to "freeze" on the bird.

Freezing on the Whistle – When a dog working on a blind retrieve stops and sits to the whistle and refuses to take a cast — refuses to move at all, but just sits there — he is freezing on the whistle.

Gallery – The spectators at a field trial or hunt test.

Gift – A term describing a test or series in which the judges set up something that dogs whose owners expect some trouble cruise through with no problem

GMHR – Grand Master Hunting Retriever. A NAHRA title. Certificate is awarded to a dog that earns 300 points (15 qualifications @ 20 points each) in the Senior testing category.

GRHRCH – Grand Hunting Retriever Champion. A UKC/HRC title denoting that a Retriever has qualified in 2 of the annual HRC Grand events and has accumulated a minimum of 300 points. Earned by acquiring 220 points at the Finished level and 80 points from the HRC Grand Hunt. One (1) Grand pass is worth championship 40 points. This is the highest possible hunt test title offered in the UKC.

The judges look for demonstrated versatility and excellence in performing under all hunting conditions, ranging from various waterfowl environments found in coastal marshes, inland waterways, flooded timber, western prairies to upland game conditions while hunting grouse, pheasant or dove. The Grand Hunting Retriever is to be steady and under control at all times and is eager and prompt to respond to all commands with style and precision. Consists of tests over 4 days, and will contain at least five tests, a multiple-marked water retrieve; a multiple-marked land retrieve; (either or both of the marking tests must include an honor and a diversion retrieve); a blind land retrieve and a blind water retrieve and an upland game and quartering test.

Go-As-Sent – Dog takes a straight line, overcoming diversion factors and remains on the course he was sent on. This is one of the themes of advanced retriever training.

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Go Bird – The last object the dog sees thrown. In a multiple mark situation, it is generally the first item a dog will pick up.

Gun Dog – A dog trained to work with its master in finding live game and retrieve game that has been shot.

Gun Shy – Fear of loud noises such as gunfire to the extent that a dog is not able to perform its retrieving task or hunt.

Gun Station – Location of one or more gunners in the field who throw/shoot a mark.

Gunner – A responsible and capable shot gunner who must shoot each live bird (or, with a dead bird, shoot blanks) from various designated points in the test.

Guns – Those who shoot the birds at a field trial, hunt test or in training.

Handle – To direct a dog to a bird/dummy by using whistle, voice and arm signals.

Handler – The person releasing the dog to make a retriever and directing the actions of the dog.

Handling – Whistle, arm and hand signals that enable the handler to get the dog to a specific location on marked and blind retrieves. The ability to direct the dog to a bird preserves game and contributes to wildlife conservation.

Hand Signals – A series of hand/arm motions used to indicate to the dog which way you desire it go.

Hand Shy – Fear of the handler's hand, usually seen when the handler lowers his hand in position prior to sending the dog or confirming the dog's line to a fall. This is a manmade problem.

Hard Mouth – The action said to occur when a dog uses too much force in picking up or holding a bird. A dog that is very rough on, abuses, or eats the birds when sent to retrieve. This action renders the bird unfit for human consumption and is a major problem. It is difficult, but not impossible, to cure once the habit has been formed.

Head Swinging – When a dog looks away from a mark before being cued to do so by the handler; head swinging is a bad habit and is detrimental to marking.

Heel – The old definition meant to “walk by my side.” Trainers for hunt tests and field trials now use it to make a dog back up when forging ahead such as when doing to line at a test or trial.

Heel Position – Dog is by the handler's side, traditionally the heel position is on the left hand side; but dogs can heel from either side.

Heeling Stick – A riding crop or other object carried and used on the dog to remind it of its proper place. This is not used to abuse the dog, rather provide a gentle, but firm, reminder of the place.

Here – This obedience command means to come directly to me.

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Hidden Gun – A field trial mark thrown by a BB when the BB is totally concealed from the dogs view. The dog hears a shot or call and sees the object to be retrieved thrown by does not see a BB.

Hold – A command used during force fetch by some to ensure that the dog knows that he must hold, in his mouth, any object placed there. Hold means keep your mouth still when holding an object.

Holding Blind – A blind or series of blinds erected prior to the "line" in an effort to keep dogs and handlers available to run the test.

Honor – When one dog must watch another dog retrieve while remaining steady. An honoring dog should watch the entire sequence of birds decoying, flying, being shot and falling without interfering through sound or motion with the "working dog".

Honoring – Where a dog has to watch another dog run while waiting calmly and quietly (without additional commands) at their handler's side while the other dog takes their turn. The act of sitting quietly and steadily on line while another dog works.

Hot Blind – A blind that has been placed before marks are thrown and which may influence dog to leave the area of the fall for the marks.

HR – Hunting Retriever (Seasoned) – A United Kennel Club/Hunting Retriever club title used as a prefix, before the name. This title is achieved upon attaining 40 Championship points. Ten Championship points are awarded per UKC Licensed Seasoned Hunt test. This test is for a dog with a couple of seasons of hunting experience. The judges look for steadiness on line, delivery to hand, style, natural ability and a reasonable degree of control. It consists of five tests, a doubled-marked water retrieve; a double-marked land retrieve; a walk-up, tracking or quartering test; a blind land retrieve and a blind water retrieve. Distances rarely exceed 100 yards on land, 75 yards on water, and 60 yards on blinds. Steadiness at the point of origin and delivery to hand is required. Each Seasoned pass earns 10 points towards the HR title.

HRC – Hunting Retriever Club, the United Kennel Club (UKC) sanctions HRC.

HRC 500/1000 Clubs – These are recognition programs within the HRC that recognizes dogs and owners for achieving 500 and/or 1000 UCK Champion points in the HRC Hunt Test & Upland Hunt programs.

HRCH – Hunting Retriever Champion (Finished) – A United Kennel Club/Hunting Retriever club title used as a prefix, before the name. This title is achieved upon attaining 100 championship points, 60 of which must be earned at the Finished level. Fifteen Championship points are awarded per UKC Licensed Hunt test. The judges look for style and accuracy coupled with natural ability and a trained performance. A retriever who competes in this area must respond promptly to voice or whistle commands and remain steady and under control at all times. They should be “a pleasure to hunt with under any conditions.” Consists of at least four tests, a multiple-marked water retrieve; a multiple-marked land retrieve; (either the land or water marks must include an honor and a diversion retrieve); a blind land retrieve and a blind water retrieve. The judges can, as an option, include an upland game test.

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Hunting Retriever Club (HRC) – The United Kennel Club puts on one of the most realistic hunt test programs in the country in affiliation with the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. HRC utilizes actual hunting situations including distances, cover and terrain. Tests dogs against a written standard instead of against each other. As a handler, you will be required to hold, aim and discharge a shotgun loaded with blank popper shells in the intermediate and advanced levels. Can earn a Started (SHR), Seasoned (HR) and Finished (HRCH) hunt test title as well as Upland Hunter (UH). By completing the Grand, a retrieve can earn the Grand Hunting Retriever Champion (GRHRCH). All UKC/HRC titles are used as a prefix, before the name of the dog.

Hunt Test – Non-competitive field designed to reflect a typical day in the field (camouflage, duck calls, etc.). Dogs are judged against a standard and either pass or fail. Those that pass, earn points toward a hunt test title.

Indent – A term used to identify the placement of a shorter mark in relation to the other marks in the field. A triple is thrown, the first is 150 yards away, the second is 75 yards away, and the third is 125 yards away. The second mark is called "indented" because the dog must go long, then short, then long again. A difficult concept to teach.

Indirect Pressure – A technique where the dog is corrected on one command for failure to respond to another. Most e-collar corrections for cast refusals are given with the "sit" command. That is, if you give an "over" and the dog goes straight back, you might stop the dog with the whistle and give a "nick" as the dogs sits. He is getting corrected on the sit whistle for his failure to take the cast.

Inline – Guns are all in a straight line, not the throws of the marks. There can be variations of the inline concept including throwing direction, shift in placement of gun stations, retriever guns, terrain considerations, flyer placement, throwing order as well as factors such as wind and weather. The debate is whether or not this is a test of a dog's marking ability or their ability to take a line. While seen in tests and/or trials, some feel it is a training concept and should not be used in competition.

Instinct – Behavior that is naturally ingrained in an animal.

J.A.M. – Judges' award of merit is awarded to the dogs who complete all the tests in a satisfactory manner but to not achieve one of the four placements. A field trial designation.

JH – Junior Hunter. An AKC title used as a suffix on the dog's registered name. The Junior Hunt Test consists of two single marks on land and two single marks on water. For a title, a dog must received 4 qualifying scores at a licensed or member test. This is the beginning level in the AKC Hunt Test program.

Judge – The individual who establish the tests for dogs and evaluates the dogs' performance.

Land – Where the birds or "marks" are on land thru diverse cover and at varying distances. (Versus water).

Licensed Trial – A field trial licensed by the AKC at which championship points are awarded.

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Limited Stake – This is a field trial stake that is limited to dogs over six months of age that have placed or been awarded a JAM in an Open Stake, or that have placed first or second in a Qualifying Stake, or placed or been awarded a JAM in an Amateur Stake that is carrying championship points.

Line – Three meanings:

1. **Retrieving Line** – The location where you send and receive the dog while it is working – Also known as “Point of Origin.” The line the dog must stay behind, while under judgment, before being sent for the bird.
2. **Line to the Mark or Blind** – An imaginary straight line from the point of origin and the bird on either a blind retrieve or mark.
3. **The Line** – Direction the dog is sent on for a blind retrieve.

Line Breeding – The mating of a dog within the same breed within the same line or family, to a common ancestor. For example, mating a dog to his granddam or a bitch to her grandsire.

Line Manners – A term used to describe how a dog acts while sitting at the "line" or "Point of Origin" under judgment. Vocalizing (barking or whining), jumping, excessive fidgeting or soiling the line are all examples of poor line manners. A dog and handler can be excused for excessive vocalizing or other detrimental behavior. A screaming dog is not a good companion in the duck blind!

Lining the Blind – A perfectly run blind; the dog successfully completes a blind retrieve without requiring any whistle commands or hand signals from the handler.

Literal Casting – A cast that, if taken properly, would lead directly to the blind.

Loose Hunt – Hunting outside the area of fall for a significant period of time.

Mark – Four meanings

1. The fall of a bird/bumper which a dog should watch, remember and retrieve when released to do so; a thrown bird or bumper.
2. The dog's ability to see and remember where a bird fell (to “mark” the bird).
3. A cue used to communicate to the retriever to "get ready", "pay attention", something's about to fall or be shot.
4. An object a dog sees thrown for it to retrieve. Usually a game bird or a training bumper.

Mark the Pile – Throw a bumper to the pile to show the dog exactly where he will be sent.

Mechanics – The many operations involved in running a field trial or hunt test.

Memory Bird – Any object in a multiple mark situation, other than the last item, a dog has seen thrown for it to retrieve. In a multiple mark series, the memory bird(s) is not the last bird down. Usually, the last bird down is picked up first by the dog. He must then remember where the others are on his own. In a hard triple, this is quite challenging when cover and distance are added in

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MH – Master Hunter. An AKC title used as a suffix on a dog's registered name. For this title, a dog must receive qualifying scores at 6 licensed or member tests. If the dog has already received a SH, the dog need only qualify 5 times. The Master Hunt Test consists of land blinds; water blinds; multiple marks on land (triples or quads); multiple marks on water (triples or quads); multiple marks on both land and water; a walk up; diversion shots and/ or marks and an honor. The Master Hunter represents a truly complete hunting dog.

MHR – Master Hunting Retriever. A NAHRA Hunt Test title. Certificate is awarded to a dog that either earns either:

- ◆ 100 points (5 qualifications @ 20 points each) in the Senior testing category, or
- ◆ 80 points (4 qualifications @ 20 points each) in the Senior testing category and already has a Working Retriever title.

Mild restraint – Only allowed at the Junior level. Junior dogs may be brought to the line wearing a flat collar or a check cord and the handler may lightly hold the collar or check cord until signaled by the judge to release the dog.

Mama-Papa / Maw & Paw – This is marking situation where two marks are thrown off one station in opposite directions. This can be difficult because an over trained dog may be reluctant to go back to a gun where he's already retrieved one mark out of respect for his training that taught him not to return to an old fall. Also called Flower Pot Marks.

Momentum – The force or drive that a retriever exerts in order to drive to a mark.

Money Bird – The absolute last item, in a multiple mark situation, the dog picks up. Called "Money Bird" because in a Field Trial, if your dog doesn't get it, you get no money!

Multiple Marks – More than one mark is thrown before the dog is SENT (allowed to retrieve). For example, on a DOUBLE, the first bird down is called the 'memory bird' and is followed by a second fall ('diversion'). Almost all dogs pick up this last one first.

NAFC – National Amateur Field Champion. An AKC title used as a prefix to the dog's registered name. It is the title given to the winner of the national open. The title also carries the year of the win, ie: 2004 NAFC FC-AFC Chickamauga Choo Choo. Eligibility requires that: Dog must be winner of preceding National Amateur Stake under an Amateur Handler; Be the winner of the preceding National Amateur Championship Stake; and win a first place and a total of 7 championship points in Amateur All-Age stakes during the preceding fiscal year.

National Amateur Retriever Trial – The trial for dogs that have qualified during the previous year to determine the National Champion for the year. Dogs can only be handled by amateurs.

National Field Retriever Association (NFRA) – A relatively new organization that offers competitive field-tests for retrievers. This organization merges the best aspects of contemporary hunt tests with field trials. The dogs are scored via an innovative scorings

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system called “deductive-objective” and “deductive-subjective” scoring. The four dogs with the best scores are designated by the judges as “Field Test Winners.” Each year the NFRA awards the overall High-Point Dog for each Stake regardless of sex or breed. The High point dog by breed and sex are also awarded. The dog with the greatest number of Derby points accrued before the dog is 30 months of age is awarded annually. Dogs compete in stakes such as junior, derby, senior, master and open. The titles earned are Junior Field Retriever (JFR), Derby Field Retriever (DFR), Senior field Retriever (SFR), master Field Retriever (MFR) and Field Test Champion (FTC). All titles are used as a prefix to the dog’s name.

NAHRA – North American Hunting Retriever Association. A non-for-profit organization set up to provide the average hunter a place to show case his/her retriever in a non-competitive environment. The concept is based solely on simulating real hunting situations, both upland and waterfowling. Each test is based upon a hunting scenario. NAHRA's purpose in establishing this concept is to discover and reward dogs that can fulfill the hunter's needs in the field by performing in a manner consistent with the demands of actual hunting conditions. The objective is to recover the bird as quickly and efficiently as possible, to create the least amount of disturbance in the marsh and upland and to give the hunter the maximum amount of time to actually take game. Dogs are placed in four categories based on ability not age: Beginner, Started, Intermediate and Senior. Dogs do not compete against one another for placements, but rather their performances are judged individually against a "standard." Thus, the dog should be scored on its hunting Performance as stated for each category.

National Retriever Trial – The field trial for dogs that have qualified during the previous year to determine the National Champion for the year. Dogs can be handled by amateurs or professionals.

NFC – National Field Champion. An AKC title used as a prefix to the dog’s registered name. It is the title given to the winner of the national open. The title also carries the year of the win, ie: 2004 NFC FC AFC Dewey's Drake Of Moon River. Eligibility requires the following: Be winner of the preceding National Championship Stake; Be the winner of the preceding National Amateur Championship Stake; Win a first place and a total of 7 championship points in Open All-Age stakes during the preceding fiscal year.

Nick – A correction applied with an e collar set to a "Momentary" setting or a tap and immediate release of the button for those e collars without a "Momentary" setting.

No Bird – A term that refers to a poorly thrown mark and the handler or judge indicates that the mark was not acceptable and it will need to be re-thrown.

No-Go – See Balk. This term is used when a dog is sent on a retrieve and he does not go; commonly called balking.

“No-No” Drill – Any drill that is attrition based, and does not rely on the e-collar for corrections.

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Non-slip Retriever – A retriever that won't leave your side until commanded to do so. Not just an issue of obedience but also practical in the sense that a dog who breaks, bolts or runs out prematurely upon hearing the shot will not be able to mark the fall. It is also a safety issue. Accidentally shooting a dog that has broken into the hunting field has taken place. He should sit quietly on line or in the blind, walk at heel, or assume any station designated by his handler until sent to retrieve. When ordered, a dog should retrieve quickly and briskly without unduly disturbing too much ground, and should deliver tenderly to hand. He should then await further orders. Commonly referred to as "steady".

North American Hunting Retriever Association – (NAHRA) A non-for-profit organization set up to provide the average hunter a place to show case his/her retriever in a non-competitive environment.

Obedience – (OB) THE foundation task for dog training. Comprises a broad spectrum of commands some of which include: Sit, Stay, Kennel, Heel, Down.

Obstacle – Any physical factor that a dog must contend with while on the way to a mark or blind; typical obstacles are: logs, rows of cover, water, hills, ditches, roads, etc.

OFA – Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. An organization which maintains a registry of hip and elbow data to help determine that joint confirmation is ideal and free of hereditary defects. Typical OFA hip ratings, in order of preference are: Excellent and Good followed by Fair. Initially spawned in an effort to curb the prevalence of Hip Displasia occurring in many large breed dogs.

Open All-Age Stake – The toughest and most important stake at a retriever field trial, open to professional and amateur handlers, in which the field champions as well as young hopefuls are competing. Marks and blinds are long and technical in nature, up to 400+ yards. Dogs must gain one "win" and points in order to obtain the coveted title of field champion.

Open Bitch – A bitch that can be bred.

Open Stake – This stake is open to dogs over six months of age.

Outcrossing – The mating of unrelated individuals of the same breed.

Over – Directional signal given to dog by handler. The handler's right or left arm & hand are raised horizontally from the waist telling the dog to move in the direction indicated by the arm. Most common on blind retrieves but can be used as a term to send the dog on a mark. (see blind retrieves)

Pattern – A drill designed to teach a specific routing or routines, such as lining or casting.

Pattern Blinds – A series of objects (bumpers, birds, etc.) placed in the same location every time, generally in the shape of a Crow's Foot. One of the handling drills first taught in the Transition Stage of Training.

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Pattern Field – A series of bumpers placed in the same location every time, generally in the shape of a (t) or a double (t) where two lines, separated by 40 - 50 yards intersect the centerline. Used to teach handling skills to dogs.

Pedigree – The written record of a dog's ancestry of the dog showing titles and achievements of each generation, depicting 3 generations or more. The American Kennel Club and the United Kennel Club registers dog breeds and provides the ancestry or the pedigree of each puppy registered. Pedigrees can be as simple as three generations ie: grandparents to an eight to nine generation pedigree. The rule of thumb is to view the achievements of the parents and grandparents in order to see where your puppy may have potential to excel.

PennHip – An alternative registry/database to OFA. This method utilizes a "predictive test" testing the "play" or joint looseness by manipulating a joint to measure looseness. While not a commonly accepted as the OFA, PennHip is considered by some advocates to be more predictive of future issues. PennHip scores ratings on a "living percentile" rating current tests against the existing database of previously analyzed animals.

Perseverance – One of the qualities scored by the judges. Willingness to get to the area of the fall and hunt until the bird is found and retrieved. Can also be referred to as "courage" or "hunting" abilities.

Pick Up – Two meanings:

1. When the handler calls the dog back to the line before he has completed his series, usually because the dog is failing the test. The judges ask the handler to "pick up" his dog based on the dog's performance.
2. The style or manner in which a dog retrieves a bird and returns with it. An example of a poor "pick up" is when a dog dawdles along the way or stops to relieve himself. A dog that moves swiftly and purposefully to the bird gently picks it up and immediately heads back to the handler shows a stylish "pick up."

P.I.L. – Poor initial line.

Pig – A slow moving, disinterested retriever in the field. A retriever with no style.

Pile – A group of bumpers placed near each other. A pile is used in repetitious type drills where the handler is repeating a concept. The bumpers should be placed far enough apart that the dog picks up the first one it comes to without looking through the rest of the pile, and then will quickly return to the handler.

Pin – When a dog runs directly to the fall and picks up the object without a hunt.

Pointing Lab – A lab that points at birds during an upland hunt instead of flushing them. There are people who breed specifically for Pointing Labs.

Poison Bird – A mark the dog must ignore to successfully complete the assigned task, usually a blind. It's call "poison" because, in a Test, if the dog picks it up, it might as well be dead because it will be out of competition. A bird that must not be retrieved until after a certain order, typically a poison bird is a mark that must not be retrieved until the dog has picked up a blind.

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Poor Man's Double – Two marks are thrown in opposite directions from a single gun station. This is similar to a fountain double and has also been called a “Maw & Paw” or “Mama-Papa.”

Pop – When a dog stops and looks back to the handler for guidance or direction without being commanded. An undesirable habit and something we try to prevent with training. This is a serious fault in a field trial.

Popper – A blank shotgun shell.

Popping – When a dog is sent for a mark or a blind, runs part of the way, but then turns, and sits or stands, looking at its handler for instruction. This can be considered a lack of perseverance or trainability and will be scored accordingly. In AKC Master, popping is a disqualification.

Post-Estrus – The stage of heat following ovulation in the bitch.

Pre-estrus – The early stage of heat in a bitch prior to ovulation or "standing heat".

Professional – One who derives any portion of their income from the training of dogs.

Premium – A notice sent out by the Club holding an event. This notice usually includes the time/date/place of stakes being held, entry cost, Judges names, directions and other information concerning the event.

Punch Bird – A term used to identify the placement of a longer mark in relation to the other marks in the field. A triple is thrown, the first is 100 yards away, the second is 200 yards away, and the third is 125 yards away. The second mark is called a "punch bird" because the dog must go short, then short, then long and "punch" through the short bird marks.

Quad – Same as for double and triple only now you are throwing four objects. Four consecutive objects that must then be remembered by the dog and handler.

Qualifying Stake/Qualified All Age – For dogs that are over 6 months old that have never placed or been awarded a JAM in Open or Limited Staked or placed in an Amateur Stake or won two first places in qualifying stakes. This event is commonly viewed as the stepping-stone to all age events, although some say it is a pronouncement that the dog is now proficient enough to be competitive in all-age events. The qualifying is one event where you can see the greatest variability in the difficulty of each series. There is typically a set of land marks, a land blind, water blind and water marks. The designation of QAA means that you can run a Limited or Special all age stake.

Recast—When a dog makes a start toward a marked fall, but stops within a short distance (usually 15 feet) and returns to—or is called back by—its handler. The dog is then sent again to retrieve the mark. This is allowed at the Junior or Senior level if the recast seems to be due to confusion by the dog as to whether it was actually released to retrieve or not.

Release Command – Used to signal the dog when it is no longer working and can relax

Remote Cast – A cast that is given while the dog is in front and facing handler; a blind starts with the dog being sent back from the heel position, after that initial cast all casts are remote casts.

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Retired – (As in a “retired gun” or a “retired mark.”) In field trials, gunners/throwers hide so they don’t give the dog any clue as to where the marks landed. Usually done on a memory bird.

Retired Gun – Used in field trial multiple marks. After the BB has thrown the object to be retrieved, the BB moves to a concealed location so when the dog returns to the line and looks out to their mark, they are hidden from view.

Sanctioned Trial – An informal field trial that is sanctioned by the AKC, but no championship points are awarded.

Scoring – Judges score each bird/retrieve individually, on such scales as 1 to 10 or ABCD, to record an overall impression of the *relative* merit of the dog’s work compared with others being tested.

Secondary Selection – When the handler decides which bird will be picked up next. They may not follow the order in which they were thrown. This is used mostly in Field Trials but is a useful tool for any retriever.

Series – A group of retrieves marks or blinds. Generally, you must pass each series to be called back for the next group.

SH – Senior Hunter. An AKC title hunt test title used as a suffix. The Senior Hunt Test consists of one land blind; one water blind; one double land mark; one double water mark; a walkup; a diversion shot and/ or mark and an honor For a title, a dog must receive 4 qualifying scores at a licensed or member test if the dog already has a junior hunter title. Otherwise, a dog must receive 5 qualifying scores if they do not already have a junior hunter title.

SHR – Started Hunting Retriever (Started) – A United Kennel Club/Hunting Retriever club title used as a prefix, before the name. A started hunting retriever should be able to perform a simple dove or waterfowl hunt, retriever both from land and water. This test is for inexperienced or young retrievers where the judges look for natural ability rather than trained performance. Consists of four tests, two tests shall be marked water retrievers (singles) and two will be marked land retrieves (singles). Distances rarely exceed 75 yards on land and 50 yards on water. Awarded to a dog that has earned 10 pts. and passed four started tests. A maximum of 10 Championship points can be earned in this category towards a higher title.

Shopping – The retriever picks up and drops various bumpers at the pile during yard work, “deciding” which one he wants to pick up. This is a form of avoidance and can be controlled by reinforcing the “fetch” command or giving a “here” with a nick on the e-collar.

Sight Blind – A blind, which has been thrown first as a mark, and then repeated without any throw as a blind. Also, a blind the dog can see before being sent.

Single – A single retrieve or mark.

Sire – The father of a litter or individual dog.

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Sit – The dog is taught to put his rear end on the ground. A reward-based method is to pull gently up on the lead, applying steady pressure. You may need to gently touch the dog's rear or the back of his "knees." Once sitting, tell the dog "good" and reward with treat, if desired. The dog is taught to sit for longer and longer periods of time and cannot move from the sit command until released.

Slips A Whistle – The dog does not stop on a whistle to be given a cast by his handler. Sometimes the dog cannot hear the whistle due to great distance or running water, and other times the dog doesn't *want* to hear the whistle!

SOB – Stumble-On-Bird

Socialization – Social interaction prepares a puppy for more serious training later on. Important skills are learned during this time period such as how to approach another dog, what is acceptable with other dogs, what other breeds look like, and how to behave around other people. It is important to expose the puppy to as many different situations as possible ie: going to the pet store, meeting children in the park, etc. All of these activities are done under a controlled and watchful situation. It is important for the puppy to be handled by as many people as possible. This will bring out confidence in your puppy that it will need for later hunting, tests or trials.

SR – Started Retriever. A NAHRA Hunt Test title. Certificate awarded to a dog that earns 10 points (4 qualifications @ 2.5 points each) in the "Started" testing category.

Steady – (steadiness) The term used to describe when a dog sees a bird or birds fall while remaining in the position commanded by the handler. A steady dog should remain steady until commanded to do otherwise by the handler.

In the Senior and Master levels, the dog must be steady without restraint (no collar, no leash, no contact with handler). You may hear or see the phrase, "steady to wing and shot," which means the dog will sit or stand by the handler when a bird is flushed (or thrown) into the air and when shots are fired.

Steady to Shot – A steady dog holds even after you shoot.

Steady to Wing – A steady dog holds even after the bird flushes.

Stake – Each field event has several levels or stakes of competition. For example, the Amateur Stake is for non-professional handlers and the Derby Stake is for young dogs.

Sticking – A very slow release of a bird, to the point you'll question whether or not the dog will give up the bird.

Style – One of the qualities scored by the judges. How the dog proceeds to the mark and returns to the handler. The dog should be enthusiastic and willing to complete the task. The dog should also respond quickly and obediently to any directions from the handler. A stylish dog is eager, moves well, has a good water entry and generally is a pleasure to watch.

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Suction – Any factor that causes a retriever to deviate from a line to a blind; suction can occur from an old fall, terrain, water, wind bird boys are some factors that may act as suction to a bird or bumper.

Swim-by – A drill for teaching control around the water. The handler requires the dog to take a “more-water” return to enforce water/shoreline discipline.

Switch – A dog is sent to a mark, establishes a hunt, then leaves that area and establishes a hunt in the area of another fall.

Switching—This is when the dog has gone to the area of one fall and has established a **hunt**, but then leaves that area and goes to the area of another fall. This can happen on a multiple retrieve (double, triple, etc.) or can happen if a dog has retrieved one single, is sent for a second single but after establishing a **hunt**, returns to where the first single was retrieved. This is a disqualification.

Test Dog – A non-competing dog that is run first to demonstrate the mechanics of the tests imposed by that days’ series- to show what the terrain is like and what challenges to expect. The test dog also shows strengths and weaknesses of the test to the judges before actual scoring begins.

Texas Double – A marking test where a long retired dead bird memory mark is thrown such that the line to the bird requires running just behind the back of the diversion flyer guns. This test is difficult because the inexperienced dog is tempted to search for another flyer rather than drive out to the retired memory bird. This concept is said to have originated in Texas where land is flat without much cover in order to judge the more natural aspects of marking.

The Line—this is the area designated by the judges for the dog and handler to approach for the test. The handler may be required to reach the line, sit the dog and signal when ready, or the handler may be told by the judges that the scoring of the event will start as the dog and handler are approaching the line (called a walk-up **test**). “The line” can also be used to refer to the preferred path from the starting point to a mark or a blind retrieve. Handlers or judges may refer to “lining the dog,” which means positioning the dog by the handlers side handler’s side so it will run the direction desired toward a mark or a blind.

Thrower –The person at a station who throws a bird or other object to be retrieved.

Tight Hunt – When the dogs runs directly to the area of the fall and after a short hunt in a small area directly around the fall, finds the item.

Trainability – One of the qualities scored by the judges. This is measured by obedience, control, responsiveness, steadiness and delivery.

Trial-and-Error Training – Training method in which the dog is allowed to make mistakes and then be corrected each time he does.

Trial-and-Success Training – Training method where a dog is lead through a stimulus/response sequence under circumstances in which he has almost no chance to make a mistake.

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Triple – Three objects (bird, bumper, etc.) a dog sees thrown for it to retrieve. These objects are not thrown at the same time. A triple tests the dog's memory as it must pick up one item, return to it's handler, then go get the other item, bring it back, then go get the third item and bring it back.

Two-Down-The-Shore – Generally, a water double thrown so as after picking up the go bird, the dog must swim by the go bird fall area and pick up the memory bird. This is a tougher concept than it sounds and is a basic concept for advance dog work.

UH – Upland Hunter. A United Kennel Club/Hunting Retriever club title used as a prefix. Dogs do not have to have earned championship points in any other regular hunt test in order to participate in the upland test. This title is achieved upon attaining 40 Upland Hunter Championship points. A pass is worth 10 points. Upland points only count toward the Upland Hunter Title and HRC's 500/1000-point clubs. The test consists of a simulated walk-up hunt, a quartering test and an optional tracking test. Dogs must be steady to wing and shot and return to the previous hunting range upon being called by voice or whistle. The dog must hunt all available cover diligently and be under control. Honoring of another dog is required. During the test the dog will be required to locate and retrieve game as directed by the judges.

UKC – United Kennel Club. An alternative registry to the AKC. With 250,000 registrations annually, it is the second oldest and second largest all-breed dog registry in the United States. Founded in 1898 by Chauncey Z. Bennett, the registry has always supported the idea of the "total dog", meaning a dog that looks and performs equally well. The performance programs of U.K.C. include Conformation Shows, Obedience Trials, Agility Trials, Coonhound Field Trials, Water Races, Nite Hunts and Bench Shows, hunting tests for the retrieving breeds, beagle events including Hunts and Bench Shows, and, for Cur and Feist Squirrel and Coon Events, and Bench Shows.

Under-The-Arc – When the line to a blind takes the dog between a mark and the BB who has thrown that mark, the dog is said to have run "under-the-arc."

Unsteady – A dog that breaks from the line before he is sent or moves while honoring another dog's work.

Walking Singles – A single mark thrown by a bird boy (BB) for a dog and, as the dog is released, the BB walks away from the area if the fall. This teaches the dog to concentrate on the object thrown and not the BB.

Walk Up – Used to simulate hunting.

A mark or marks that occur while the dog is in motion, progressing with the handler. A typical walkup will expect the dog to cease progress upon the first mark and shot, usually in a sitting position, and to remain there until all marks have fallen and the handler commands the retriever to pick up a mark.

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This is when the handler and dog must walk from one designated area to another with the dog at heel, while the marks are being thrown and shot. the dog must stay under control and steady until the handler has been told to send the dog for the retrieve. This is used at the Senior and Master level tests and helps the judges determine trainability and control of the dog.

Water – Where the birds or “marks” require the dog to swim. (Versus a retrieve made completely on land).

Water Entry – A dog’s manner or style of entering the water. Eager leaps into the water are said to be stylish.

WC – Working Certificate. AKC title. A one-time performance test designed to validate the natural instincts of a retriever. A WC requires the dog to do several retrieves on land and water, with real birds, and is scored on a pass/fail basis.

WCX – Working Dog, Excellent. AKC title. The upper level of a Working Certificate requiring the dog to work under a higher level of control and with each series requiring multiple retrieves.

Whelp – The act of giving birth to puppies. Also the name for a newborn pup.

Whistle Commands – The commands used via whistle to communicate with the dog. A single blast means to “sit” and repeated blasts (usually three) mean to “come in.”

Whistle Refusal – Failure of a dog to respond to a whistle command.

White Coat – A term used to identify those people who participate in Field Trial events. Used because, in part, handlers wear white coats so as to be easily identified by their dawg when the dawg is a great distance away.

Whoa – The dog is going in to flush a bird, and the handler will tell him “whoa” to make him stop in place so that the dog will go in easy.

Wind Direction – Extremely important factor in successful handling and the ability to design field event tests. Birds, either long dead or newly shot, give off scent that the dog can then detect. Depending on the direction and strength of the wind, a dog may pick up the scent from a great distance.

Wipe-Out Mark – A mark that crosses the line to a previous mark; by throwing a mark across a line to a memory bird the memory bird is wiped out.

WR – Working Retriever. A NAHRA Hunt Test title. A NAHRA title used before the dog’s name. Intermediate dogs that pass the standard should be hunting dogs. They should be obedient and have a good knowledge of hunting situations. A good Intermediate dog will most likely have two or three seasons of hunting behind him and some good training on

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marks, doubles and basic retrieving problems. Intermediate dogs must have perseverance, ability, desire and a higher level of training. They should be steady and not be out of control. They should heel, sit, stay, come, mark, run basic water blind retrieves and deliver to hand. They should go through cover and hazards and also display a good nose. They must show concentration and desire to locate and follow the trail of a crippled bird or hunt for upland game. The marked retrieves should be done with precision. If the dog does miss a mark, he should hunt with confidence and perseverance or be handled crisply and cleanly to the bird. The dog should not hunt the whole field on each bird. The dog should display memory and intelligence. The dog should prove its nose without a doubt and also its eyes. He should run his blinds extremely well displaying style and control. A dog receiving a Qualifying score in the Intermediate testing category at a Licensed NAHRA Field Test shall be credited with five (5) points toward the title Working Retriever (WR). The title Working Retriever (WR) will be issued to the owner of a dog acquiring twenty (20) points in the Intermediate testing category at Licensed NAHRA Hunting Retriever Field Tests. Certificate is awarded to a dog that earns 20 points (4 qualifications @ 5 points each) in the “Intermediate” testing category.

Yard Work – The term used to describe any number of drills that can be done in and around the kennel area.