



## Wolf Den Retrievers- Training programs

### **“What do you see your dog’s job is?”**

We believe that **“...every pup is a custom job”** (Josh Cochran. 3-Ring Kennels) here at the Den. This schedule is a basic guideline set on average age and behavior traits. A full assessment of each animal must be conducted to know how quickly they have developed and where they fall in their training and advancement plan. We have several training options available- **Puppy Start program, Basic bird and Gun, and training beyond 6 months of age- (intermediate program)** . All levels are built on a dogs own progress and individual strengths.

A rule of thumb to consider is that it takes approximately the first month for a dog to learn to trust a handler-- and for the handler to gain a proper assessment.

#### **Puppy start program – ages 8 weeks-4 months**

We begin to “crate- train” the pup and get them to go outside for their business. We also introduce basic obedience commands such as sit, stay “heel- on- leash” training and introduction to live birds. Working on basic retrieving is introduced to build their prey drive.

**Training fees for this is set up on a 30-day month plan \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( plus birds if utilized).** This is usually a 1-2 month program, *depending on when we get the pup and their individual progress.*

#### **Basic bird and gun program- 5 months and older 2-week program**

Puppy intro to bird and-gun is the time in which we build on the basic obedience commands and beginning force-fetch. All adult canines must be in before we attempt force fetch. A dog should be able to sit on command, heel, and have basic play-drive to retrieve. Once the basics are achieved, we begin with live birds. These are full-grown Bobwhite quail, pigeons, pheasants, or ducks. The client should discuss whether they wish to obtain a flushing or pointing achievement. Pointing Upland is very different from water marks.

Basic Bird-and-gun short program’s mission is to introduce the pup to dead and live “flyers” or “set birds” in the field. Here, we begin to expose the dog to gun-shot or pop-gun work over the dog. This is one of the most important portions in training a pup to establish proper habits in pro-gundog training.

**The 2-week intro to bird and gun program cost is \$\_\_\_\_\_ plus birds.**

**Continued...**

## **Training beyond 6 months (Intermediate retriever training)**

***“The only way you’re gonna get a dog to “whoa” is to set as many live birds as possible- I’ll throw 200 birds per dog in one season.” Andy Schoberl, High Caliber Retrievers***

This program is developed for dogs ages 6 months and older. Here, we conduct an “assessment” to see where the dog is at in their training and your objectives. We work with the dog’s natural abilities and talent. We begin with obedience and retrieving. Then, we move into collar conditioning and force-fetch. Dummies and live flyers such as ducks and quail are utilized for both upland and water work. If the dog is showing drive and basic point instinct, we introduce “Whoa” breaking. This is done with patience and free flying quail. We utilize advice and training methods discussed in Julie Knutson’s book- Training the Pointing Labrador (also available on Podbean Podcasts.)

Cost for this is \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month plus birds .

**Nightly training opportunity**- If you are interested in coming out with the Den for a night of dead and live flyers, we will accommodate and help with training. This fee is \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour plus birds.

### **Caring for client dogs**

We will occasionally care for our Den Pup clients as a service up to one week. After that, a dog needs daily structured training opportunities- a program should be discussed and implemented- Our 24-hour fee for this is \$\_\_\_\_\_ plus tax and includes basic care, grooming exercise, feeding and socializing.

**Duluth Retriever Club**- The DRC has many technical ponds and upland training opportunities near the Den. **If clients wish us to utilize the Duluth Retriever club grounds, they must purchase a \$50 membership and agree to volunteer for 2 events during the current season. Duluth Retriever Club will ask to hold a \$160 check to be cashed should a member fail to volunteer.** Membership forms can be found on their web page.