

STOP AND STAND STILL

By Mike Jones

Recently I was talking out in the training grounds and realized that for some the concept of teaching the pointing dog to stop and stand still was unfathomable. In an attempt to overcome this I thought perhaps an expanded explanation was a good thing.

The reason we want the dog to learn to stop and stand still is simply put if one grasps the idea that all of the different things except for retrieving is based on that idea. The point is basically that but more important than just that when we want to have a mechanism to control the situation and teach the dog to be steady to wing and shot. The dog is taught to point by a simulated wild flush repeated until the dog realizes on its own that it cannot rush or sneak up on the bird successfully and points instead. Now here is the problem if you have not taught a mechanism to reinforce the steadiness than it is reasonable to believe that the dog's steadiness will always be in question. This can be overcome by the processes previously explained in the Use of the Pinch Collar, and The Introduction of the Electric Collar. If you have taught as these articles support the dog to stop and stand on command than the mechanism exists to stop the dog on its break and using that conditioned response teach the dog to be steady to wing and shot.

An off shoot of this is that as we train the dog with the Pinch Collar and latter the E-Collar we use those opportunities that present themselves to us to teach the dog to stop on a flush and to honor another dogs point. In fact what we do is set the stage for the mechanism we have been developing to be used to also reinforce these two additional activities as well. Obviously if the E-Collar has been used to be the signal for the dog to stop and stand still than it can be used to stop the dog each and every time it encounters a wild flush or another dog on point. Once again after a sufficient number of repetitions the dog will begin to stop to the flush and honor a point.

Therefore it is to develop the mechanism for control that we teach the dog to stop and stand still. In the program developed by Bill West and Bill Gibbons we are developing a dogs potential and trying not to remove any of its enthusiasm. One of the biggest differences between their program and others I have observed is the word teach. It is a word that is not in the vocabulary of the breakers and I am sorry to say that the dogs reflect the difference in style and intensity.



Introducing the Stand. Easy touch, soft hands and no words. Slight and quick taps on the Pinch Collar. No jerking or excessive handling.



Here two starter dogs are being worked on the Stand with Pinch Collars. Both have been obedience trained so want to sit on stop. Note the dog on the right. Also note that the dogs are not out at the end of the check cord, but control is maintained by having your hands up close to the Pinch Collar. Out of the camera view helpers are walking around and putting birds in the air to increase excitement.

Two young Vizslas are worked on standing. Taken 4/28/07. Both of these dogs were obedience trained and will try and sit when stopped. The dogs are encouraged to stand by gently tapping the rear stifle bone on the hind legs.



Mike Jones, Chief Trainer for our Club works Stand on a new dog. This Vizsla has been obedience trained and wants to sit when she stops. Mike is correcting her with gentle hands and sharp, quick tug

The setting is a natural environment. One in which a dog would hunt and find birds. Stopping, enforcing the stand with slight almost imperceptible tugs on the pinch collar are used. There is not heavy jerking done on the dog while making it stand.



With the dog standing, Chris Sterner, one of the training staff, walks around the dog, reading it and ready to make a correction. Note the loose CC and no pressure on the PC. 4/28/07. This dog is behind another dog that is being worked at the same time.

The requirement is to stand so any thing other than that is not accepted. There is no talking or rendering of voice commands during the process. Total focus on the dog is mandatory.



The dog wanting to sit, Mike uses patience and gentle touch to correct the dog into the stand position. 4/28/07

The dog being made to stand while beginning to put some space between the handler and the dog. Any movement will be corrected by lifting the tail and pc and placing the dog in the correct position



This dog has progressed on the stand command and here our Chief Instructor Mike Jones is walking around the dog with a watchful eye for any movement. Note the position of Mike's hand on the EC trigger. This is a progressive process where the dog has gone through several steps in order to get to this point. At first using the PC and then transitioning to the EC. Both collars were worn by the dog when the "Stand" training started.



Here the dog has moved to watch the flight of a bird. He has been stopped with the EC. A sign of progress. All of this work has been done in the background with a group setting. The dog has not been put on a bird directly at this time. On this same day we took the dog up and allowed him to point his birds for the first time. That is covered under Teaching the Point.



Here the dog is standing with a bird in the air. Note the loose check cord as Mike moves away and around the dog.