



TRAINING PROGRAMS

Northwoods Bird Dogs offers one of the finest facilities in the country for training grouse dogs. It is managed by husband-and-wife team Jerry Kolter and Betsy Danielson who have extensive experience with upland bird hunting, guiding and field trial competition.

In addition, Jerry is a nationally recognized bird dog trainer with more than 20 years experience. He brings each dog to its fullest potential through proper conditioning, proven training techniques and extensive exposure to birds.

The goal of training at Northwoods Bird Dogs is simple: development of the dog so it hunts with intensity, handles kindly and points birds with impeccable manners. Betsy and Jerry want owners to be proud of their dog's confidence, desire and style as a result of their training.

Training grounds

The location of Northwoods Bird Dogs in east central Minnesota is ideal for abundant wild bird exposure. Right out the kennel door, Jerry has access to more than 2,000 acres of training ground. Within a short distance are thousands of additional acres of public and private land that include excellent habitat for native populations of ruffed grouse and woodcock. Trips to North Dakota in late summer and to the south in winter provide other training opportunities.

Owner Participation

Northwoods Bird Dogs believes it is imperative that the owner understands how to carry on with the training process. Jerry encourages at least one visit during a training session. Training programs conclude with a one-hour, hands-on, in-the-field session, in addition to a written evaluation and continuation plan.

Excellent dog care

All dogs receive excellent individual care while at Northwoods Bird Dogs. Dogs are fed top quality Purina Pro Plan Performance and weight is closely monitored.

- Facilities have spacious indoor/outdoor Mason kennels and radiant in-floor heat.
- Jerry and Betsy are sticklers about cleanliness and do everything possible to ensure clean and sanitized runs.
- Individual runs have Mason dog beds, sanitized chew toys and ample fresh water.
- Generous time is allowed for supervised exercise sessions with other dogs in large, fenced-in pens.

Each day ends with a special pat and a dog biscuit.



Northwoods Bird Dogs

Training Programs

Northwoods Bird Dogs offers training programs for all stages of a dog's life—from Puppy Foundation to Finished Gun Dog. Each program is designed to prepare the dog for the next phase of training. In most cases, the program length is the minimum time necessary to accomplish the goal. In addition, special training programs are offered.

- Puppy Foundation
- Puppy November Quail
- Gun Dog Basics
- Gun Dog Finished
- Wild Birds: Grouse & Woodcock, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Prairie
- Winter
- Pre-Season Tune-up
- Private Training



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Northwoods Bird Dogs

PUPPY FOUNDATION

The Puppy Foundation program will bring out the natural instincts of a puppy and prepare a sound foundation for its life as a bird dog. It will become confident, bold and accustomed to gunfire and it will develop its inherent desire for birds. The puppy will have birds shot for it during pointing exercises and field work. It will be taught to handle in the field and will be introduced to basic commands such as *Here* and *Kennel*. In addition, it will stop and stand still (prerequisite to *Whoa*) and become accustomed to collar corrections.

The system at Northwoods Bird Dogs uses pigeons and wild-acting, liberated bobwhite quail flushed from a johnny house into native grouse and woodcock habitat. These birds are used to teach a puppy to use its nose to hunt and find birds. The puppy will develop its pointing instinct in a natural manner through bird contact.

An additional benefit of this program is to get the puppy away from familiar things—routine, kennel, outdoor spaces—and expose it to new situations, other people and different dogs.

PUPPY NOVEMBER QUAIL

An additional Puppy November Quail program is offered. The bobwhite quail are strong flying and wild acting. While one of the hardest lessons a young bird dog must learn is how to point a grouse, it isn't as simple as smelling and pointing. A good bird dog usually smells where the bird has been moving and then follows the scent to the bird and points. Generally, such training takes repeated contacts with grouse but wild-acting, liberated quail provide an excellent alternative.

At the end of these training programs, the puppy will:

- Hunt and find birds in native grouse cover.
- Find birds with the handler.
- Understand *Here* and *Kennel* commands.
- Be excited and bold around birds and gunfire.
- Hunt in front of and for the handler.

PROGRAM	AGE	OFFERED	LENGTH	PRICE
Puppy Foundation	4+ months	July – October	4 weeks	\$815
Puppy November Quail	4+ months	November	3 weeks	\$695



Northwoods Bird Dogs

GUN DOG BASICS

The dog will learn to obey basic commands such as *Whoa* and *Here*. *Whoa* is used to teach a dog three things: stay on point until the handler flushes the bird; stop-to-flush; back another dog on point. The dog will be taught to hunt in front and to take direction in the field. This training is done in a controlled area with extensive use of pigeons to ensure the dog gets a sound understanding of what is expected.

The dog is taught in two parts. In the first, the dog is shown what is expected of and is guided using points of contact on its neck and/or flank. In part two, the collar is overlaid on these points of contact to give control at greater distances.

At the end of this program, the dog will:

- Hunt, find and point birds.
- Hold point until the bird is flushed.
- Back another dog on point.
- Stop to flush of the bird.
- Hunt in front and handle to voice and/or whistle.
- Understand and obey *Whoa* and *Here*.

GUN DOG FINISHED

This program builds from everything the dog learned in Gun Dog Basics. It uses more repetitions and higher levels of training in different locations using pigeons and liberated birds. The dog's hunting pattern will be fine-tuned to both voice and whistle. The dog will be trained to be *steady to wing and shot*, i.e., remain on point until released.

Note: At the end of the program, your dog will be finished on pigeons and liberated birds.

Additional training on wild birds will be necessary for a finished dog on grouse.

In addition to what was accomplished in Gun Dog Basics, at the end of this program, the dog will:

- Be steady to wing and shot until released.

PROGRAM	AGE	OFFERED	LENGTH	PRICE
Gun Dog Basics	7+ months	April – September	8+ weeks	\$815/4 weeks
Gun Dog Finished	12+ months	July - September	4+ weeks	\$815/4 weeks



Northwoods Bird Dogs

WILD BIRDS

Northwoods Bird Dogs offers training on wild birds at various times of the year. Wild Bird training is time-consuming and a very limited number of dogs are accepted. At the kennel, training is offered on ruffed grouse, woodcock and sharp-tailed grouse. Training on pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse and Hungarian partridge is available from a North Dakota training camp in August.

PROGRAM	AGE	OFFERED	LENGTH	PRICE
Grouse & Woodcock	N/A	April September – November	variable	variable
Sharp-tailed Grouse	N/A	August	variable	variable
Prairie	N/A	August	variable	variable

WINTER

During winter months, Northwoods Bird Dogs offers trips to the south where training takes place on bobwhite quail. These trips are perfect to continue training and bird exposure when it can't be done from the kennel in Minnesota.

PROGRAM	AGE	OFFERED	LENGTH	PRICE
Winter	N/A	February – March	6 weeks	variable

PRE-SEASON TUNE-UP

This program is a great way to ensure a dog is properly conditioned for the upcoming hunting season and that it will be focused on hunting birds. Northwoods Bird Dogs will refresh response to *Here* and *Whoa*. The dog will be worked on staunchness and backing using pigeons and game birds. It will be conditioned through pulling in a harness from a four-wheeler and in free-running workouts.

PROGRAM	AGE	OFFERED	LENGTH	PRICE
Pre-Season Tune-up	N/A	August - September	2 - 4 weeks	\$815/4 weeks

PRIVATE TRAINING

Northwoods Bird Dogs offers private training for specific performance requirements or issues.

PROGRAM	AGE	OFFERED	LENGTH	PRICE
Private Training	N/A	N/A	call for details	\$60/hour