

Kiowa Creek Kennels

Deuce's Puppy Month Review & Homework

At Kiowa Creek Kennels our training philosophy is to train dogs in a natural way, by reenacting the wild dog pack mentality. In the natural world there are no bells, whistles, leashes or electric collars to train dogs, the animals communicate through body language and influence, they work together as a team in harmony, with no words, to survive. Our main goal is to bring the very best out of each individual dog. In order to achieve such a task you have to be in harmony with the dogs, making sure they are happy, healthy, learning and doing what God created them to do, hunt!

Our friend Bill Tarrant use to say, "The dogs have all the qualities God said men should have but don't; Love, Honesty, Trustworthiness, Compassion, Patience, Fortitude, Dependability, Respect, Honor, Dignity, Productivity, Accountability, Responsibility and Team Work." Due to these qualities and many more we strive to put the "want to" into the dogs and not the "have to." We build a bond with these dogs for the rest of their lives because we treat them the way we "want to" be treated, we expose them to the Natural World and game birds and before you know it they are our best friends, because they "want to" not because we forced them to.

Our program starts with creating a solid foundation of obedience through repetition and consistency. We have seen the progress Deuce has made with us, but we want that progress to continue at home with you. In order to achieve success with Deuce at home, we want to make sure we are all on the same page, so we have put together an outline of commands that we would like you to work on while Deuce is home.

Here's what we practiced with Deuce while he was here.

1. Obedience/Yard work

- a. In order to make Deuce successful before we take him anywhere, aka to the pond, to the birds or on a fun walk, we always start with five minutes of obedience on the waist cord or checkcord. Start with putting the half hitch around his waist, then go through the heeling, whoa and here commands. Always stay positive with a good attitude and smile on your face. Remember this training program is all about repetition, consistency and training in increments. The training starts right by your side with the him heeling and whoaing, if you aren't getting the desired results with him right next to you, you will not get the results when he is 50 yards away from you.
- b. When we are training we use the waist cord with two points of contact around the neck and the waist. The two points gives us better control with his pulling desire. During this process they learn if they pull they pinch themselves, this is where avoidance training comes in. They avoid the pinch. When Deuce is heeling by your side like he is supposed to, the half hitch should be relaxed so he is not feeling the pinch.
- c. When you take Deuce anywhere, get him out and do 90 seconds of this yard work before you let him loose, especially before you take him into a bird field. This will remind Deuce that you are the leader, it will put him into a training

mode state of mind, which will remind him you mean business and that it is time to work.

2. Bobwhite Quail and the Gun

- a. Deuce is a maniac when it comes to hunting those bob white quail, he knows what he was born to do. He is animated and fun to watch hunt, and he has really started to hold his points. **We are always aware of the wind direction when we are hunting**, so we would let a bird out, watch where it went, go get Deuce, get him down wind from the bird and let him put two and two together! This is when they really start to use their heads and their noses together, fun to see the lights come on for this young puppy!
- b. We allowed Deuce to express himself in the natural world, we let him be a pup, sniff everything, play in the creek and most importantly we started to show him how important it is to stand on point when he located a bird. Through repetition and consistency we can help Deuce develop better manners in the bird field, he is a puppy right now so we have to stay patient with him. **If you want a great bird dog, you have to expose them to as many birds as possible.** We exposed him to a lot of birds while he was here, the birds are the magic.
- c. Deuce can be a little stubborn when he wants to be, he is just telling us we needed to work harder on his yard/obedience work, which starts with the **WHOA** command, which means stop and stand there no matter what. We started teaching Deuce what Whoa meant right by our sides while we did the yard work, then we were able to whoa him away from us in the field little by little and as soon as he knew what Whoa meant we took him back into the birds, in a controlled setting with the check cord we showed him that whoa still means the same thing around the birds, we will be working more on his steadiness when he comes back for his second month of training. This whoa process is all done in increments, ***VERY IMPORTANT to remember***, which is why it will be so vital that you practice his whoa every day and get him ready for the bird field just like we did here. This month was just a starting point for Deuce's hunting career, we are very proud of the progress he has made in the last four weeks and we are confident he will continue to get even better because of the work you will put in when he is home.
- d. ***When he goes on point, give him the Whoa command, and STOP EVERYTHING YOU ARE DOING.*** He is a pointing dog so we want him to stand on point for long periods of time, if he's 200 yards away from you on point you want him to hold those birds right there until you get there. It's our natural instinct as humans when our dogs go on point to rush in, flush the bird and shoot it! When we start doing that with a dog like Deuce it is telling him "READY, SET, GO." Which is where the creeping starts to take place, we want him to stand steady and not move for his own safety. So when he goes on point, stand back, get your phone out, take some pictures of your beautiful dog and enjoy the moment. Your patience in this part of his training is ***critical*** if you want a finished and steady gun dog someday, ***WHICH DEUCE IS FAR FROM right now.***

- e. Deuce has a very strong prey drive for anything that flies. Take advantage of that prey drive when you are training him at home, use the birds in your backyard to work on his whoa and stop to flush. Practice makes perfect so take advantage of what's around you when you can. It was really fun to watch Deuce go on point this month, he's got a very strong nose and pointing instinct, just keep working on the whoa command.
- f. Introducing Deuce to the gun was not a problem, he was so birdie that he made it an easy transition. We started with the cap gun, introduced him to the 20 gauge and eventually started shooting birds for him. Making sure you are safe with the gun is very important, we would not recommend anything that would stunt his progress or make his desire for the birds less than it is. So keeping in touch with us before taking him out hunting or to a shooting range is highly recommended, just to make sure we are all on the same page and doing what's best for Deuce. PLEASE DO NOT take him out with a large group of guys, your first couple of hunts should just be you and one gun. if you take him out and surprise him with a lot of guns he could regress!

3. Practice Staying Focused

- a. Dogs communicate through posturing to one another, so we like to imitate that Alpha dog in the pack when we are training. We are so focused on reading Deuce's body posture and his escapes that we anticipate what move he is going to make before he makes it. This is called "reading" your dog, if you can pay attention and study Deuce's body posture, you can stop the undesired behavior before it happens, and that is when this training program really gets fun!
- b. Deuce has many escapes, all dogs do, keep this in mind when you are training. If you stay focused on Deuce while training he will tell you what he is going to do before he does it. Escapes include not coming to you when you call him, looking away, yawning, any movement, etc. So when you give a command, always be in the position to enforce it. Never repeat a command more than twice, and then enforce. When you are training Deuce should be looking at you, when he's not he is telling you he is going to move.

4. Influence Handling and Silent Commands

- a. This dog training program is like a pyramid, we want a really sturdy foundation at the bottom with his obedience so we can build on that for the rest of his life. If the foundation isn't solid the pyramid will crumble. We have really worked hard while Deuce was here with starting the foundation of his obedience, he is still a pup and has a long way to go. So for the next couple of weeks, practice all the verbal commands we taught him, stay consistent, and then try the commands with no words. Dogs can read our minds, they know what we are going to do before we do it! Influence handling is how dogs communicate with each other, through body movement and posture, NO WORDS.
- b. Also when you do take Deuce to a bird field or to the open space, practice the influence handling, when he moves West you turn around and move East, because he is so hooked up with you he will turn around and move in whatever direction you are going without saying one word to him!!! Deuce is the type of dog that loves to run, and he can go, but continue to practice this influence

handling when he does go out of sight and be patient knowing he will come back to you. As long as he is not going to get into any type of trouble let him run. This will really help when you hunt him this season, you don't want to be out there talking away to your dog in a bird field because the birds will know you are coming. So practicing the obedience, staying consistent and being in harmony with the Deuce as a pack will all pay off in the long run.

Basic Commands, you should try and practice every day. Five to ten minutes a day, twice a day. Try not to overdo the training sessions, it is very important that he's feeling good, smiling, wagging his tail and looking up at you saying "LET'S DO THAT AGAIN." The only reason we say this is because we had a client who took her dog home and thought she had to do obedience all the time when her dog was out on a walk. **START and FINISH with obedience, it's important that we keep the fun loving spirit in the dog, too much obedience can be a drag, so let Deuce have his head and have some fun!**

1. **HERE:** Here means come to me. Place your left hand by your side with your palm exposed and flex at the knees when you call him. When you give the command it is, "**Deuce HERE**". The here command is the most important at this stage in his training, no matter what he is doing when you say here he needs to come right to you. Set him up for success by putting a check cord or waist cord on him while practicing his retrieving, throw the bumper or quail inside the length of your check cord, and when he gets to the object he is going to retrieve give him the here command. It is very important, even if he doesn't retrieve the object the first time that he is coming to you when you say "here." If for whatever reason he decides he isn't going to come to you, you have the safety blanket of the check cord or waist cord, so you can reel him in with that. When he does come when we call him, we love him up and tell him what a great dog he is! Very important that he knows what a good job he is doing when he does it right!

2. **HEEL:** Heel means walk by your side with no tension in the lead, with his head parallel to your left knee. We use the waist cord and half hitch when we work on his heeling. When you are practicing the heeling on a leash, you will start with half hitch and Deuce on your left side. **When you grab the waist cord above his back with your left hand, make sure your thumb is pointing up towards the sky, very important to remember.**
 - a. **There's three stimulus that occur when we are teaching a dog to heel.**
 - 1.) We start by putting our left foot forward,
 - 2.) give a little tug on the leash and
 - 3.) say "heel" all at the same time.

When you stop,

- 1.) give the "whoa" command,
- 2.) a little upward tug on the leash and
- 3.) stop at the same time, as soon as he stops the tension in the lead around his waist should go away! **Practice makes perfect!**

3. **WHOA:** Whoa means stop and stand there until released on command with his name. The whoa command starts right by your side when you are practicing his heeling, eventually we want the whoa command to stop him when he is 100 yards away from us. *This program is all done in increments, so if he isn't whoa-ing right next to you, he won't whoa for you at a distance.*

After you have done a couple minuets of obedience on the waist cord practice Deuce's whoa/stay with the waist cord. With Deuce on your left side, give him the whoa command and a tug on the waist cord at the same time, then pivot on your left foot and turn to face Deuce with your right hand out, palm facing Deuce. Back up with your palm out, we want Deuce to stay there until we give him the here command. If he moves at all, run to him in a calm manner, put him back to exact spot he made the mistake and start over. When you call Deuce, say "*Deuce Here*" flex at your knees and put your left hand palm exposed by your side. This all builds to whoaing Deuce when he is away from you running in the field.

We started successfully whoaing him away from us, but he needs a lot more work, just want to let you know what we are building to. Eventually when we whoa him out in the field we put our right hand out, palm facing Deuce and back away from him. You can either call him to you or cast him to the left or the right, *(if you cast him to your right or left point your arm in the direction you want him to go, and look in the direction you want him to go. If you maintain eye contact when you are trying to cast Deuce he will most likely come right back to you.)* Practice staying focused on Deuce, he should be focused on you as well and maintain eye contact. Remember the further away you get from Deuce the weaker your energy gets and the more likely he is to make a mistake, so start this process in increments and set him up for success every time.

We have also got in the habit of whoaing Deuce before he comes in or out of every door he goes through, the front door of your house, the car door, the bedroom door and so on. Please keep this routine up with Deuce, it will be a life saver when he wants to dart out the front door of your house and into the street or chase a bird into a county road when you are hunting.

4. **TIMING:** Your timing is everything when you are training a dog, it makes all the difference in the world. We never give a dog a command unless we are in the position to enforce it, and we always set the dogs up for success and not failure. For example, when we are working Deuce out in the field, we give him the "whoa" command when we are assured that he's going to take the command. This goes back to anticipation and reading your dog. You can really be a great dog trainer if you time your commands right.
5. **DOWN:** Down means lay there until released on command. Dogs are very place oriented so when we give a command like down or whoa, and the dog moves we put them right back to the spot they made the mistake. This is where patience, consistency and repetition really pays off. So practice his down command on the dog bed in your living room, set him up for success by putting the waist cord on at first so if he does make a mistake you can catch him. This is just like the heeling on the leash, it all starts

right next to you, so it's important that someone is there watching him and making sure he knows if he moves you are going to come after him and put him right back to his down position. Practice staying focused on Deuce during the first couple weeks you are teaching him what down means at home. Eventually you can give him the down command and it will be permanent, but until you get the point across that you are going to be consistent with him and show him what you want, he is going to test you in a major way. Don't get frustrated, just anticipate what he is going to do before he does it by staying focused and try your best to be consistent, it won't be easy but the more you do it the better Deuce will be for it.

6. **LOOK IN THERE/HERE:** "Look in there" or "Look in here" are very powerful statements to Deuce. When Deuce first started hunting with us down at the birds, every time we said "Look in there" he found a bird, so he associates look in there with the birds, it will be a great aid for you when you take him out to hunt.
7. **NO:** No means the same thing as Whoa, stop what you are doing. The first thing we teach puppies when they start coming into the house are the commands No and Down. Starting at a young age with these permanent commands really makes life a lot easier for everyone later down the road. Make your no command count! We as humans tend to talk way too much to the dogs, you don't want to tell your dogs no a hundred times because they will have your number and will not take you seriously. Don't dilly dally, make your no command mean something to Deuce, give the verbal command and then enforce it.
8. **Fetch:** Keep practicing his retrieving with a frozen quail or a canvas bumper. Don't use anything else, squeak toys and tennis balls create bad mouthing habits, which will cause problems when he is retrieving a fresh bird. Deuce's retrieving was good when he checked in, due to the hard work over the last four weeks Deuce's retrieving with the birds has improved, practice makes perfect when you take him home. The frozen quail will help with his mouthing because they are so hard, but keep the retrieves short and your sessions short as well. You always want him looking at you and saying, "Let's do that again!"
 - a. When you throw a frozen quail or bumper say the command "*Fetch*," as you are throwing it, as soon as he gets to the object you want him to retrieve say, "*Deuce here*" and drop to one knee so you are putting yourself on his level. He likes to play a little keep away instead of coming right back to you, so put the waist cord on him and make sure you are in a position to pull him back to you with the waist cord to enforce the "here" command. When he does it right and brings the object back to you, **DON'T REACH FOR IT**, give him a good butt scratch and tell him what great dog he is. After you praise him for doing it the right way, take the object from him. When we start reaching for the object in his mouth, he has a tendency to drop it short of your hand or he starts thinking he is going to play the keep away game. Like we said set him up for success before you start the retrieving drills and put a waist cord on him, that's your safety blanket for now and it reassures Deuce that it's training time.

9. Influence Handling and Silent Commands

10. Reading Your Dogs: Anticipation and Timing

Reading your dog is all about being aware and paying attention to the subtle clues Deuce has been giving you since the day you brought him home. In order to properly decode the messages Deuce is sending you, you need to start thinking more like a dog. When you are able to open your heart and mind, close your mouth and really pay attention to Deuce he will tell you exactly what move he is going to make before he makes it. If he is not looking you in the eye, he is not focused which means he is probably going to make a mistake, the best part about this nonverbal communication that the dogs use is they are reading you as well. They have your number and they know exactly what move you are going to make before you make it. So if you can get in the habit of studying Deuce, thinking the way he does, you will start to be able to anticipate what he will do next, and when you can fix a problem before it happens, that's GREAT dog training.

Deuce does not have human emotions like we do, he is a dog and so much simpler than we are. He needs consistent leadership from your pack, along with some obedience to add some structure to his life to really be fulfilled. We are not here to hurt the dogs, it is important that you don't dilly dally when you are working on his obedience, if you have to tighten him up a little with the waist cord to stop him from pulling you all over the place or jumping up on you, just do it and get it over with! One good pinch is all it takes, 1,000 little ones don't mean much to Deuce. Have confidence in yourself and be the best leader you can be for Deuce.

11. Body Posturing

Dogs do not use words to communicate with each other, they use their bodies. We as humans tend to talk way too much to our dogs, we need to start using our posturing to communicate with them. Whether you are aware of it or not you are always sending some type of message to Deuce, through your energy(mood) and what your posture(body) looks like. So when we give him the whoa command we are very dominate (standing tall, shoulders back, arm extended with your palm facing Deuce and focused on him). When we call Deuce to us, we bend down, sub missing to him with our body, and give him the here command at the same time! Before you know it you will be able to stop and call your dog with no words, just your body posture!!!

He is pretty good about not jumping on people but if he starts here's how to fix the problem; it's all about the certain individual he is jumping on, so it will be your job to educate people on how to stop him from doing that. We DO NOT want to knee the dog, it can hurt them and you, instead we anticipate him jumping on us and move into his space first. You have to be very dominate in your posturing and really paying attention to stop the undesired behavior before he has the chance to jump on you. So when you see him running at you and you know he is going to jump on you take two or three vigorous steps into him before he can jump. As soon as you show him jumping is not acceptable, he will stop.

12. **Heyop:** This command just means come around and turn, it does not mean come back to me like the HERE command.
13. **Dead Bird Drill:** As hunters it is our obligation to be conservationists and find every bird we shoot, dead and wounded. So we do our best to set Deuce up for success in those types of situations. We will take a frozen quail, check the direction of the wind, throw the bird into some cover and go get Deuce. We take him down wind of where the bird is, when he hits the edge of the scent cone and gets birdie we say, "*Dead bird*." In this drill he has to use his nose to find the bird, we like to stay patient and let him take as much time as possible to find the dead bird. You want a dog in the field that uses his head and doesn't give up. Please continue this drill, it will come in handy some day and more importantly Deuce loves it.
14. **WWMDD? (WHAT WOULD MY DOG DO?)** Dogs have all the qualities God said humans should have but don't. In order to achieve true harmony in your pack with your dog, and with life in general, you need to ask yourself this question. A large part of our training philosophy is founded on empathy for the dogs. We like to put ourselves in their "shoes" and do our best to see the world on their level. In order to give your dog the best life possible, you need to start thinking more like a dog and less like a human. Treat them with the same respect you would your very best friend. The time and love you put into living with your dog, will be given right back to you, so give it your all, and ask yourself What Would My Dog Do? Would they put you in a crate for 12 hours with no bathroom break? Would they ignore you all day to go hang with friends? Would they get frustrated with you if you had an accident in the house or chewed something up that was left out? Would they let you sleep alone? The answer to all these questions (and many more) is NO! Dogs live in the moment, it's your responsibility to set them up for success. You are their WHOLE WORLD, so take them with you everywhere you go, be considerate of their lives on a daily basis and ask yourself What Would My Dog Do? When you start thinking like a dog and less like a human, life gets less complicated and more fulfilling.
15. **Putting on the Half Hitch:** When you put the half hitch on Deuce there is a right way and a wrong way to put it on. We have taught Deuce to heel on our left side. When you put the loop of the waist cord around his neck you want to make sure it is right up behind his ears, with the knot/loop of the waist cord on his right side. In order to put the half hitch around his waist, grab the end of the rope, take it under his belly and bring it back under the leash towards you. This is very important to stick with the avoidance training, Deuce avoids the pinch, so when he is doing something the right way he shouldn't feel that pinch. In other words the half hitch around his waist should not always be tight, if you put it on the wrong way so the waist cord cannot slip then it might lead to a little confusion for Deuce as to why he is always being pinched. Very important, the picture below is of Chance, this is the correct way to put the waist cord on when he is on your LEFT SIDE.



"You will always get a positive response from the dogs when you are kind and tolerant, considerate and patient."

Bill Tarrant

Thanks again,

Gary & Eryn Ruppel

PS. Could you do us a favor and give us a like and a review on our Facebook page when you have time pretty please!? Dad's teaching me how to train dogs and I am teaching him how to build our "online presence" and the difference between a text message and an email lol! Guess that's why it takes a good team to be successful! Thanks again!

Gun Dog Training; New Strategies from Today's Top Trainers; by Bill Tarrant

Introduction

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were in awe when they asked, "Who is that guy?" Not knowing for sure, they jumped off the cliff into the roaring rapids and bobbed away.

Well you can keep dry. Cause I'm going to tell you who the awesome people are in this book. They're the new breed of American gun dog trainers, and they are featured here because they fit the ideal as I see it. They fit the Tarrant Standard. Not all of them fit perfectly. But each of these gun dog trainer has one or more exceptional talents or philosophies or characteristics. If we could have all these values in one person, we'd have a Dog God.

Bill Tarrant Standard

1. Train with your head, not with your hand.
2. Train with intimacy, not intimidation.
3. Position the dogs to self-train.
4. Use the dogs to train other dogs, so any resentment the dog many have is vented against his own kind and not against a human.
5. Try to let pup run wild for six to eight months before taking them into a yard drill.
6. The training emphasis of many good trainers is pen-raised and wild birds. They believe you can't train a bird dog without a bird. And if you want a lot of bird dog, you use a lot of birds. Many of these trainers even say go to birds first, and you'll have a hunting dog. Go to yard drills first and birds later, and their contention is you'll have little to nothing.
 7. Never place a dog in a position where he has to say no.
 8. Never place a dog in a position where he can disobey.
9. Train with sensitivity, influence handling and bonding; which requires two things:
 - a. Unlimited time/commitment
 - b. Lots of sincere love
10. In all things the dog is given the benefit of the doubt.
11. If the trainer and the dog disagree on matters of the wild, such as are the birds in the soybeans or the lespedeza?, the dog is always right.
 12. Domination in gun dog training is dead.
13. If you train for compliance, your program will fail. If you train the dog for self-drive and independence, your program will succeed.

14. All training enhances the dog's natural ability and gives the dog total discretion in the field.
15. Ninety five percent of all dog performance comes born in the dog. Five percent is plastered on by humans. If that dog you're training had been left in the wild, he would have learned to hunt on his own. He really don't need you.
16. Consequently, the most important thing in dog training is what you've got to train: i.e. breeding. You can't shoot 12-gauge shells out of a .22. So if it ain't in the dog, your never gonna get it. And God puts it in- not humans. The future of gun dogs is based on quality breeding. A hit and a lick won't do it. You've got to know exactly what you're doing. Also, the top gun dog trainers will not breed a dog they had to train to performance. They don't want a human-made dog, they want a God-made dog.
17. Most gun dogs are superb athletes, but not all of them are smart. So breed for intelligence. Like Bob Wehle of Midway, Alabama- the world's most successful gun dog breeder says, "I don't want a dog eighteen months old that's still a pup." And what's one way Bob checks for intelligence? He adds, "The pup in the litter that can figure out how to get through the gate is one worth considering."
18. Not one trainer in this book teaches anything that ain't needed. i.e., if it don't apply to hunting a bird, why teach it?
19. The happiness of the dog is more important than anything else. The trainers in this book produce dogs that hunt because the dog "wants to", not because they "have to".
20. If a dog makes you mad he's defeated you.
21. Therefore, it's more important the trainer control him- or herself than control the dog.
22. Paramount to all other tenets in the standard, you'll find that any trainer who is a puppy person is tops in producing class gun dogs. Puppy success shows the trainer's patience, tolerance, good nature, kindness, sensitivity- all those positive things demanded of anyone who teaches.
23. To train with pain is not training at all, but senseless brutality.
24. You must learn to use the land and the effects of nature to train your gun dogs.
25. There's not a gun dog problem that can't be solved with a bird.
26. The breaking's in the breeding.
27. And as we go along, you'll be learning more requirements needed to make a great gun dog trainer, that went into making the master trainers who are featured here. And the kind of dogs that came into their lives and permitted them to break out of the pack.

BECAUSE

America's got something it never had before. The world's best gun dog trainers. People who know domination in gun dog training is dead.

Where today's gun dog prospect is let go- free to roam the hills and knock holes in the skyline and bump birds and flop on cow pies and eat dead toads.

Gun dogs of the past were too often controlled with domination, threat, and sometimes barbarism. The new gun dog is mentally manipulated with what Gary Ruppel of Parker, Colorado, calls "influence handling." What Mike Gould of Kamiah, Idaho, calls "the invisible rubber band." What the author of this book calls "bonding with FIDO."

What it all amounts to- and you'll know the system and how to use it when you finish this book- is we now leave all the dog in the dog.

*“I’ve found in the dog all the virtues
God said men should have, but don’t.*

*Love, honesty, trustworthiness,
compassion, patience, fortitude,
dependability, respect, honor, dignity,
productivity, accountability,
responsibility and team work.”*

Bill Tarrant