

Training Group Etiquette Checklist

Published in *BUILDING A RETRIEVER — Drills & More*

By
Carol F. Cassity

Remember when working with your Training Group:

1. Stay positive. Every dog has an off day. So does every human.
2. Have a plan for what you would like to accomplish on the training day.
3. In general, work 1 or 2 dogs only. This does not apply if it is the landowner.
4. Be prepared to throw again and again for your training partners. They should be prepared to do the same for you.
5. Offer to chip in for poppers, birds, primers, etc., if you are unable to provide your own.
6. Be on time.
7. Ask questions but don't argue. Nobody will deliberately give advice that will mess you dog up. If you are not comfortable with what the lead trainer is telling you, don't do it. It's your dog – just don't argue with someone who is trying to help.
8. Don't hog the line time. Work a couple of things and then move on.
9. Give directions to your gunners before you run. Use landmarks if possible and have them point out angle of the throw before they throw.
10. Know your dog and his limits. Just because your training group is doing a triple that doesn't mean you can't do singles. Train your dog at his level, not the groups.
11. Be ready to throw and not run if your training buddy has an upcoming test and you don't.
12. Don't get mad about poor throws. Everyone makes them and nobody does it on purpose.
13. Do your homework. Work on recalls at home and other basics alone. Save group training time for things you can't do by yourself.
14. If you can't stay and throw for everyone: don't come. Running your dog and then leaving is the ultimate in rudeness.
15. Pick up after yourself. Leave the training grounds cleaner than you found them.