



DUCK DOG
TRAINER.COM



2014 Duck Dog Guide



Brian Johnson - Owner - Duck Dog Trainer

Thank You For Downloading our 2014 Duck Dog Guide

My name is Brian Johnson and I am the owner and master trainer at Duck Dog Trainer. I realize that there are plenty of options for you to choose when it comes to buying a dog or training your dog. I have created this guide to help you along your journey to ensure that you get enough information to help you make an informed decision. If you're anything like the average internet user, you **spend time tons of time researching a purchase online**. This guide was created for you!

I grew up in Port Neches, TX and graduated from PNG High School. I then moved to Northeast Texas where I graduated from East Texas Baptist University. Since my college years, I have been a dog trainer for duck hunters and pastoring local churches. In addition to training duck dogs, I currently am the pastor of the Outdoorsman's Church of Winnie, TX. I am married to my beautiful wife Dan'Na and enjoy spending time with her and our four children: Drew, Caleb, Brianna, and Noah. When I'm not preaching, **training duck dogs**, or hanging out with my family, you can find me somewhere on a golf course in pursuit of a different kind of birdie!

I understand entrusting your dog to a trainer for several months can seem daunting. **I am available** to visit by phone or in person so you can get to know me better to determine if I am the best fit for your dog. We believe that **your dog deserves the best** possible experience during its training and we happen to believe that we offer that. Feel free to call me today: **(409) 460-2314**.

the top 5

Myths About Having A Dog Trained

#1. *"It doesn't matter what my dog is like as long as I send it to a pro trainer he can fix it and make it hunt."* **#FALSE**

A pro trainer is only able to bring out what is inside of the dog. In order to be a "champion" hunting dog, your dog must have the heart of a champion. Cowardly dogs rarely succeed at anything.

#2. *"Since I have already kind of started my pup in the right direction it only needs another month or so with a pro trainer to be perfect."* **#SortOfButNotReally**

This is a half truth. If you have an excellent basic training program and you take no short cuts, then you are on the right track. It is most often the case that it takes longer to fix some bad training than it would to start your puppy from scratch with a skilled duck dog trainer.

#3. *"If I pick my trained dog up on a Friday then he should be able to hunt the next morning."* **#NotSoFastMyLittleFriend**

On average it will take 2 or more weeks for a dog to readjust to its new environment. During this time you should play games and go over basic obedience drills. Do not expect your dog to work as he did for the trainer overnight. Your dog must learn to trust you and to work as a team.

#4. *"I can train just as good as a pro trainer."* **#Maybe?**

This may be true. However if you get busy at work or with other obligatory duties, your consistency in training will vary. A good pro is held to a schedule come rain, sun, heat, cold or whatever. Also pros have access to equipment and training grounds that most folks don't have.

#5. *"I should find the nearest pro and let them train my dog."* **#NotNecessarily**

Trainers are usually specific in their training. If you want a field trial dog then go to a field trial trainer. If you want a hunt test dog, go to a hunt test trainer. If it is a duck hunting dog you want, go to Duck Dog Trainer!!!

What to Look for When Buying a Trained Duck Dog

When purchasing a dog, the terms “**started**”, “**seasoned**”, and “**finished**” are often used in a very broad sense. To simplify it as much as possible, I would say a started dog is simply...just getting started. He has fairly good obedience, likes to retrieve and is just entering the game. This dog needs a lot more training. A seasoned dog has likely had more experience, has good obedience, and should be able to hunt in most scenarios rather successfully. He should be steady to shot, able to mark, and take some hand signals and whistle commands. He will need more training to be perfect but will likely be better than most dogs and will satisfy the majority of hunters. A finished dog is done!

I have often had prospective clients come to the kennel to watch dogs train. At the end they ask...why there are only a few super advanced or finished dogs in our kennel. I explain that most of the finished dogs are ours because when a client has a dog reach this level he is gone from our facility. It is time to go home and be with his owner. My job and the dog are finished. Other than seasonal tune ups, this dog is ready to be with its owner and in the duck blind. This dog is truly a champion duck dog. His obedience is soldier like and he is the master at duck hunting. He pays attention well, remembers where the birds fall, and takes hand directions like a remote control car! He is the envy of most duck hunters and a joy to own.

Before purchasing your dog, it is a great idea to make a trip to watch and possibly train with him in person. If you hunt from a boat, ask to see him run from a boat. If you hunt in a big group, ask to have him run from a blind with four or five shotgunners shooting. Watch him swim, run him in heavy cover, and pay close attention to how he handles the birds. Is he soft mouthed or rough with the birds? Does he like cold water? Has he seen a goose spread? Will he load up in a truck when commanded? How does he act around other dogs? Is he fighter? Is he scared? Spend the day duplicating what you want him to do for you. If he doesn't perform as you desire, don't fall for the ole “he usually does better” story. What you see is what you get!

What about pricing? Remember...you get what you pay for! Most dogs that are well started bring from \$2,000 to \$3,000. A well seasoned dog is likely \$3,500 to \$5,000 and a truly finished duck hunting rock star is \$6,000 on up. The younger the dog and the stronger the pedigree the more the price goes up. A labrador that is healthy can be expected to hunt until 9-10 yrs of age on average. He will reach his peak around five. Keep these numbers in mind when purchasing and use them to negotiate a good deal. The local economy and area of the country where the dog is located will also play a role. Before shelling out your hard earned cash, always ask why the dog is being sold? What are his strengths and weaknesses? Are there any health issues. Be sure to get vet records and any health clearances at this time as well.

Once you have asked these utterly important questions, seen the dog work, and are pleased with his ability and attitude, you can then purchase the dog with confidence knowing that you have done your homework. You should be rewarded with a great hunting companion for years to come.



The Top 10 Reasons to Use a Professional Dog Trainer

- 10.** Professional trainers have a great deal of knowledge about puppies and bloodlines and they can help you pick a good prospect. Remember, it is in the trainer's best interest to help you find a great dog if he is going to get to train it.
- 9.** There are likely to be issues that arise throughout your dog's life that you will need answers to. Having your very own professional trainer who knows your dog is priceless.
- 8.** It seems like everyone is busy these days. A full time trainer, unlike a part time trainer or novice wakes up with his first priority being to train your dog and train him well. If he doesn't produce results he will soon be jobless!
- 7.** Equipment. Most full time trainers have all of the latest bells and whistles to help them train dogs efficiently. From high tech launchers to training collars and more, most pros have thousands of dollars tied up in equipment that individuals rarely do.
- 6.** Team Work. Simply put, professional trainers seldom work alone. They have people to help them. Bird boys throw birds that create realistic marks. With multiple trainers, DuckDogTrainer has the ability to get the most out of your dog.
- 5.** Birds. Ducks, Pigeons, quail, pheasant and more. Professional trainers have a year round supply of frozen birds or live birds to help train your duck dog with the real thing.
- 4.** Training grounds. Most professional trainers have great places to train. At DuckDogTrainer, we have 5 ponds with various duck blinds and decoy spreads on our property. A professional trainer is able to simulate real world hunt situations.
- 3.** Trucks and Trailers. Most trainers have specialized vehicles designed to keep dogs cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Your dog's comfort and safety are king. Professional trainers have the ability to safely transport your dog.
- 2.** Distractions. Every dog seems to do ok in his own back yard. The more the distractions the more difficult time the dog has remaining focused. At a full-time kennel, there are many dogs, scents, and lots of people around to offer plenty of distractions. Training through these makes your dog better!
- 1.** Experience! Nothing beats experience. With thousands of dogs trained, an experienced trainer has seen it all. The more dogs you have trained, the more you know about training...period! A seasoned pro has likely encountered the problems your dog may be having and knows how to work through them.