



CLASS NAME	TRAINED RETRIEVE
CONTACT	Sara Heesacker <surefirekennels@gmail.com>
TIMELINE	February 6–March 27 2025, 8 Week Course

CLASS OBJECTIVES

- To provide step-by-step instruction through the Trained Retrieve progression
- To share strategies of how to work dog through frustration, slow progress and other challenging scenarios

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Desire to be hands-on with every step of the training process
- Willing to spend 10-15 minutes per day working on the tasks assigned
- Eager to learn more in depth how to read a dog and apply the appropriate correction
- Excited to continually challenge their dog with harder scenarios
- Want to have live feedback versus gathering training information from books and videos

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

All dogs must be up to date on all the following vaccinations:

- Bordetella
- Rabies
- DHLPP
- Heartworm Test

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Dog should have been through:

- E-collar conditioning
- Exposure to dead/live birds

COMMON QUESTION

What if my dog has already been through a Trained Retrieve program or is older?

If your dog's retrieve is not as complete or effective as you would like, then working through this small group will increase your dog's understanding and build further corrections to enforce a solid and consistent retrieve.

CLASS GOALS

- Hold and Carry with Objects, Dead, & Live Birds
- Incorporating elevation changes to solidify hold
- Driving toward Objects with Ear Pinch Overlay
- Overlay E-Collar Correction
- Transitioning to Groundwork
- Consistent Delivery Positioning
- Yard Work Drills
 - Line
 - Ladder
 - X
 - Wagon Wheel
 - Clockwork
 - Baseball
 - Marked Retrieves
 - Search on Land
- Preparation for Future Drills
 - Marked Retrieves at Water
 - Utilization of Place Boards
 - Incorporating Dog Blind
 - Cripple Duck Recovery

PROPOSED TIMELINE							
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
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↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Introduction Hold & Carry	Object & Elevation Challenges	Hold & Carry Live Birds Ear Pinch Begins	Ear Pinch Driving Down Table	E-Collar Overlay	E-Collar Overlay Live Birds	Transition to Ground & Develop Finish	Groundwork Drills

CLASS SCHEDULE

Thursdays 5-8pm
at Surefire Kennels

COST

\$500 for entire course
(dead & live birds included)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Excel File to Track Progress & View Training Graphs
- Retriever Drill Document to build muscle memory and confidence
- Skill Application Drill Document to Implement Hunting Scenarios after Retriever Basics have been completed

TOOLS NEEDED

- Training table isn't required but makes corrections easier. 8-16' table with ramps on both ends would be the ideal setup but the program can be modified for all situations.
- Short clip lead about 18" with a snap on one end and a loop on the other.
- Recommend a flat collar that only has the d ring loop and not a circle in the middle. There's a chance of getting a finger caught in there. Hands are precious so it's a good safety precaution.
- Assortment of objects besides bumpers. PVC pipes filled with sand or rocks, wooden dowel with thicker ends to make dumbbells.(Link to my objects)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Every dog is going to move through this progression a differently so it won't look as "step by step" once class gets underway. Understanding how your dog handles pressure, values praise and correctly incorporating challenges will be based on the individual while moving the whole group towards a solid retrieve!

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS:

- Spending some time after the hunting season revisiting place boards and e-collar conditioning is a great way to get your dog back in a training mindset.
- Reviewing some fun games such as box game, attention, place boards etc. The main focus of this being on the "yes" marker before rewards are given so we can utilize that verbal tool through the trained retrieve process.
- Focused heel repetitions and recalls will strengthen your ground basics when we start moving with the dogs during trained retrieve.

RUNNING INTO PROBLEMS BETWEEN SESSIONS?

Upload your daily video to @SFK-TrainedRetrieveGroup-e3r and we can share ideas or insights of how to work through the challenges you are encountering.