

## RETRIEVER TRAINING - YARDWORK

Basic obedience skills are fundamental to successful retriever training. Training regarding the following commands are included in what trainers generally refer to as "YARDWORK":

RECALL ("here" or "come") - means come to me NOW!!! Initially train using a verbal command (here or come), then teach whistle command (usually a quick series of three short tweets on whistle)

SIT ("sit") - means sit and stay until next command (including "release" or "break") Initially train at "heel" or "front" position using verbal command (sit), then teach whistle command (usually a single blast)

Also WALKING SIT - train dog to sit on command while walking in "heel" position, dog should sit and stay while you continue to walk.

Also REMOTE SIT - train dog to sit at whatever location it is in when you issue a verbal or whistle command.

HEEL - ("heel") stationary heel - (come to heel position, sit and stay until next command) train to "swing" rather than going around behind you

Also MOVING HEEL - (walk beside handler in heel position)

STAY ("stay") - you may wish to use to reinforce "sit" for honouring situations

HOLD ("hold") - means take an item (i.e. a training bumper or dumbbell) in the mouth and hold it (without chewing or moving it around) until instructed to "give" or "drop"

GIVE - ("give" or "drop") means release the bumper or dumbbell ONLY on command. Train the dog to open its mouth and back off of the item, rather than you pulling the item from the dog's mouth.

FETCH - ("fetch" or "back") means to go out, pick up the item, and return (usually to heel position) with it

The "hold" and "give" commands are fundamental to good retrieving, and are best taught with the dog under controlled conditions (for example on a training table). There are numerous techniques for teaching dogs to hold, give and fetch, ranging from "clicker training" to "force fetch" training (also known as "conditioned retrieve", "trained retrieve", etc.).

There are several useful articles about retriever training in various dog training books, for example:

- "British Training for American Retrievers" by Vic Barlow (ISBN 1-57223-597-7)
- "Retriever Trouble Shooting", by John and Amy Dahl (ISBN 1-57223-783-X)
- "Positive Gun Dogs: Clicker Training for Sporting Breeds" by Barry et al (ISBN 1-16243-1822-E)
- "Clicker Training for Obedience" by Morgan Spector (ISBN 0-9624017-8-1)
- "The Power of Positive Dog Training" by Pat Miller (ISBN 0-7645-3609-5)
- "My Smart Puppy", by Brian Kilcommons (ISBN -13: 978-0-446-57886-8)
- "Dog Training for Dummies" by Jack and Wendy Volhard (ISBN 0-7645-5286-4)
- "Training Retrievers for Marshes and Meadows" by James B. Spencer (ISBN 1-57779-007-3)
- "Retriever Training Drills for Marking" by James B. Spencer (ISBN 1-57779-0327)
- "Retriever Training Drills for Blind Retrieves" by James B. Spencer (ISBN 1-57779-033-2)
- "Retriever Hunt Tests Book" by James B. Spencer (ISBN 1-57779-093-6)
- "Retriever Training Tests" by James B. Spencer (ISBN 0-931866-95-2)
- "Tri-tronics Retriever Training" by Jim and Phyllis Dobbs (ISBN 0-9638386-0-1)
- "The Working Retrievers" by Tom Quinn (ISBN 1-55821-767-3)
- "Gun Dog Training Made Easy" by Eric Begbie (ISBN 1-4116-7029-9)
- "Training Your Retriever" by James Lamb Free

also check the Winnipeg Public Library catalog - <http://www.winnipeg.ca/library> .

Useful retriever training information is also available on-line, for example:

- Dobbs Training Center - Training Tips for Retrievers - [www.dobbsdogs.com/library/retrievers/index.html](http://www.dobbsdogs.com/library/retrievers/index.html)
- Basic Training with the Tri-Tronics Electronic Collar - [www.tritronics.com/Manuals/basic.pdf](http://www.tritronics.com/Manuals/basic.pdf)
- Mike Lardy's Training Tips - [www.totalretriever.com](http://www.totalretriever.com)
- Mike Stewart Retriever Training Articles - [www.ducks.org/waterfowling/retrievers/index.asp](http://www.ducks.org/waterfowling/retrievers/index.asp)
- Working Retriever Central - [www.working-retriever.com](http://www.working-retriever.com)
- Retrievers ONLINE - [www.retrieveronline.com](http://www.retrieveronline.com)
- Oak Hill Kennel Library - [www.oakhillkennel.com/library/index.html](http://www.oakhillkennel.com/library/index.html)
- WC, NAHRA & Hunt Test Information - [www.geocities.com/beautawn/Hunt\\_Tests.htm](http://www.geocities.com/beautawn/Hunt_Tests.htm)
- CKC Rules re WC & Hunt Tests, Obedience, etc - [www.doindogs.com](http://www.doindogs.com)
- Basic Obedience training lessons - [www.hollysden.com/training\\_information.htm](http://www.hollysden.com/training_information.htm)