

educational

DOGS

UNLIMITED

articles

Make your good dog better.

The Whoa Post

While the Whoa Post will not guarantee a broke dog every time, it will go a long way to help finish a partially broke dog, especially when the trainer/handler is forced to work alone.

Before attempting to use the Whoa Post, you must have given your dog time afield to build endurance and desire. It must also have been exposed to the check cord and understand what is expected of it while on the cord. Many trainers will use the check cord to teach a young dog to take directions. At the very least, the dog must learn to “give” to the tug of the cord. You will find that preliminary training with the check cord will make the training easier. One of the best ways to Make Your Good Dog Better is to make learning a happy experience. It’ll make you better too.

To start with the Whoa Post, the dog should be worked on a check cord into a situation where a bird has been planted. Planted birds work best because you can control the situation by maneuvering your dog into position using the wind. With plenty of repetitive training, you’ll learn to read your dog and know when he’s onto scent.

As soon as you detect the dog hitting scent, stop the dog with the check cord, unless the dog has already established point on his own, or has stopped at your command. Now you can work hand-over-hand up the check cord toward the dog (Delmar Smith describes this technique in his book).

When you reach the dog, take the Whoa Post from over your shoulder and place it at the approximate length of the carry strap from the dog’s collar and push it into the ground. Attach one end of the carry strap to the dog’s collar with the other end hooked to the Whoa Post which you have positioned alongside the dog. Keep as little slack as possible in the strap. You want the dog to have as little room to move around as possible from the spot he established point. Still holding onto the check cord, you may now move around to flush the bird.

At this point, keep the check cord a little loose. Keep your eyes on your dog. If he starts to move or jump around, flick your wrist to send a wave down the check cord that will bump or “chuck” him in the head (not whip, slap or slam him). If the dog continues to jump wildly, go back to him, get him under control kindly then go back to flushing the bird. The only thing a dog learns from abuse is to be afraid of you and to hate hunting. It is often helpful to have a friend to give you a hand in your first sessions with the Whoa Post. No matter how exuberant your dog, control must be maintained for your training to be effective.

Once control is established and the bird is flushed, move back to the dog, and either praise him for a good job, or reestablish your control, depending on his performance.



Now you can remove the post and move on to the next bird. Planting several birds in a field is common practice to help a dog learn from repetition.

A word of caution here: There is such a thing as too much of a good thing. Training sessions should end on a happy note, and always end with the dog wanting more. You don't want your dog burnt-out or to become mechanical. Hunting should always be a joy for a bird dog.

Which Hook Do I Use?

When working a dog new to the Whoa Post, use the hook close to the ground. This makes the post more stable and the dog will not be able to pull it out of the ground. As your dog progresses, you can use the higher hook since there won't be any thrashing around by your now well mannered pupil.

Remember Safety

It's very easy in the early stages of Whoa Post training to get caught up in the action and have to leave the Whoa Post behind. Always be sure to go back and get it before you leave the training

property. Its bright orange color will help you spot it out in a the field, but is no guarantee against someone tripping or running over it with a tractor or mower—and that someone might even be you!

A Word On Training

Dogs accomplish training at different speeds. While some dogs take to steadiness like a duck to water, many—if not most—will want to chase and catch that bird with every fiber of their being. Be patient! You're not going to get it all done in one day, but rather by consistent, methodical sessions. And just because you've established something that looks like bird manners on one day, it doesn't mean that you're not going to have to go back and reinforce it the next. Unless you have a real outlaw, your dog will come to understand the routine: "I find, I point, you flush, you shoot, then I get to retrieve." It's not unusual for this process to take weeks, even months. The name of the game is control—for both your dog and yourself—patience, and the great rewards for taking the time to Make Your Good Dog Better.



The Perfect Companions to the Whoa Post



Dura-Lon
Double Ring
Collar

Use the center "O" ring to fasten to the Whoa Post. Fasten your check cord to the "D" ring which will end up positioned under the dog's chin. A correction with the check cord will gently "chuck" the dog under the chin. An effective and safe way to encourage a high head.

Dura-Lon Collars are fade resistant, chew resistant, and they will not stretch or turn brittle. Lightweight, smooth finish minimizes irritation from rubbing. One inch collars are double riveted for strength and all rivets are capped. Nickel plated hardware. Comes in 3/4" and 1" widths in a variety of colors.

Our
"Almost
Famous"
20'
Check Cord



This solid core rope resists tangling and will not whip on the trailing end. Just under an inch thick, it's easy to keep hold of and it excels as a drag cord. Sealed ends prevent raveling. Includes a bronze bolt snap tied with a bowline knot. Additional lengths and optional rope clamp available through our Custom Shop.

#CC559-W White Almost Famous Check Cord
#CC559-O Orange Almost Famous Check Cord

#DCD1 3/4" Dura-Lon Double Ring Collar
#DCD2 1" Dura-Lon Double Ring Collar

Available in 13", 15", 17", 19", 21" Neck Sizes

