

MN NAVHDA Training Rules and Etiquette

As a community, we share a passion for our dogs and training. As new members join in training events, someone taking the time to explain the prevailing “rules and etiquette” is sometimes overlooked. In an effort welcome new trainers to MN NAVHDA and assure they enjoy a safe, stress free start; we have outlined this information below. As we are very fortunate to have access to some wonderful training grounds, many of these items address good stewardship so that we will continue to be welcomed back to these training venues.

Safety First! Please follow these rules at all times:

- Blaze Orange is required in the field at all times. Do not go into the training fields without ample blaze orange.
- A break open shotgun (Single Shot, Over/Under or Side by Side) is recommended in the field.
 - Carry the gun in the open position until a dog is on point as a visible indication of safety to others. Where a pump or autoloader is used, the action should remain open until the dog goes on point.
- Know your target and what is beyond.
 - Visible sky ensures birds are above our dogs
 - If in doubt, don't take the shot. We don't want to disappoint our four legged fiends, but a pellet in our two legged friends is NOT acceptable.
 - Do not discharge a firearm towards the parking area.
- Maintain muzzle control
 - Do not sweep people or animals
 - Do not discharge too close to people or unannounced

Politeness and Courtesy:

- Dogs must be on a lead and under control at all times when not performing a drill
 - Run your dog(s) ahead of training. Please do not free-run them on the grounds prior to the start of training. The extra marking and fecal matter in the fields is an unnecessary distraction to the training process.
- Puppies must be on a lead and under control just as adult dogs. Puppies should be introduced to unfamiliar adult dogs in a careful, controlled situation to preclude any aggressive behavior by the adult dog.
- Police your refuse
 - Dispose of your dog(s) poo where others will not accidentally 'find' it.
 - Check around your vehicle before you go to make sure all garbage is collected.
 - Your dead birds are yours and yours alone. Please make sure you take them with you for disposal.
- Tread Lightly
 - The grounds are often muddy, drive slow and use 4x4 if you have it.
 - If in doubt walk in; do not muck things up. We will lose the grounds.
 - Stay on the road and parking area. Do not drive into the fields or other perceived trails.
- Be respectful and cognizant of others and their unique needs and circumstances.
 - Everyone is at a different stage of dog training and ability.
 - Not everyone has the same access to resources and tools
 - There is more than one way to skin a cat -- seek first to understand and then to be understood.
- Dive in and lend a hand
 - If you don't know how to do something, ask and someone will gladly help
 - If you see someone needs help, ask and they will generally welcome your offer.
 - Go the extra mile, these friendships open doors and last a long time ○

Lots of work goes into each of these events and many people go above and beyond for the betterment of the rest of us. Many knowledgeable people come to help out those that are learning. Volunteers organize the purchase, transport, housing and feeding of birds made available for training. The club provides grounds and equipment that many would not have access to. Take time to thank those around you that help make it happen. Also, it never hurts to ask the organizers “is there anything I can do to help?”