

Here is some good information when training your dog. We believe this came from a Minnesota Chapter and credit goes to the author. Remember, there are lots of ways to train your dog!

The Purpose Of The NAVHDA Training Sessions

1. The purpose of the NAVHDA training sessions is to show you different ways to train your dog. No one way will work for every dog.
2. For you to obtain an understanding of what the judge wants to see during the “Natural Ability Test” and other advanced tests.
3. Remember, dog training is a progressive process which you have to build on the previous training sessions.
4. The basics are essential!
5. No dog is too old to go back and refresh the basics.
6. No dog can be trained in one day. However, by attending the training sessions, you will be exposed to many different dogs and different training techniques. This is important because what works for one dog and handler may not be the best solution for the next dog and handler.
7. You must decide to commit the time and effort to train your dog. The training sessions will help to start a foundation to work from and get you acquainted with the NAVHDA members for future support.
8. Remember that your dog’s problems are not unique, but your dog is. You know him / her best. Compile all of the information you can and select the techniques which fit your training goals the best.
9. Today, focus on the next training step you wish to accomplish. Always have a specific plan in mind for accomplishing that step before you begin the training session.
10. **Do not exceed the dog’s attention span.** If your dog is losing focus, put him / her up and watch the remaining portion of the session. After a brief rest, bring him / her back out.
11. **Do not exceed your attention span.** If you are losing focus or control of your temper, put your dog up, give yourself a time out, and watch the remaining portion of the training session. Don’t bring the dog back out until you have regained control of your composure.
12. Don’t go away from a training session without a plan on what you are going to train at your next training session.
13. **Remember,** NAVHDA is a training club which is based upon support, cooperation, and friendship, not competition. Don’t be afraid to ask questions if you are having a problem. No question is a dumb question because we have all been there at one point in time. Use the free advice from the judges and the experienced handlers to your advantage.