

FROM NOTIFICATIONS



**Pete Aplikowski** shared a post.

Admin · 10 hrs

Puppy people take note!



**George DeCosta** Hunting Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Admin · April 14 at 11:54 PM

Training Tip...

Had a great time yesterday introducing a pup to water. Just thought I'd share with you a tip.

Have you ever walked into a pool slowly and then when the water gets to your business area you stop because it feels too cold to go in? That happens to a lot of pups especially on a pup's first introduction to water. And once they stop it can be hard to get them moving into the water. Now yes some pups love water and go right in, but I like to prepare for success and a positive on my introducing to water... or anything else for that matter.

What I do is have the owner on the opposite side of our pond where the pup only has to swim about fifteen feet. I first wet the pups chest, stomach and groin area. Then I go into the water with the pup while the owner calls the pup from the opposite side. I hold the pup and let it calm down, soon the pup starts to use its legs to paddle towards its owner. I release the pup slowly and let it swim across the pond to its owner. Who is praising the puppy the entire time.

A few more do that a couple of times I stand in the water with the pup on the opposite side

After we do that a couple of times I stand in the water with the pup on shore and have the owner start calling it. I too entice the pup to come in. The pup now knows it can swim, it has already swum across the same locations so it has confidence in it's ability and the fear of the unknown is now gone. Most pups will go right into the water straight to the owner on the other side without any problem whatsoever.

Now we can go to birds and bumpers knowing there will be no negative association with either when the pup is asked to enter the water. Remember to wet the pup's tummy area before asking it to enter the water, it makes the process much more enjoyable for the puppy.

Here you can see me reaching in the water to wet the pup's belly area, then I sit with the pup in the water and hold it in the water's edge with me, then release it to swim

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whatsoever. All positive, all fun and great success... thought I'd share for those who are interested, [George DeCosta](#)