



## Minnesota Chapter of NAVHDA

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### Field Search

1. The field search is an area of evaluation that is difficult to describe. The dog must have controlled energy focused towards locating game. The dog must cover the field in such a manner that if there is game in the field, the dog will locate it.
2. At a very young age, allow the pup to explore and develop confidence.
3. Always start the field search with a release command, ie: Get On, Go On, Hunt, etc
4. At the age of 5 or 6 months the pup should be searching 60 yards in front and 30 yards to each side of you.
5. As the pup matures, it will be apparent what range the dog will have throughout out its life. In the same litter, there could be several different working patterns and ranges.
6. Remember, you are training a pointing dog and not a flushing dog. The more ground the dog covers, the less you have to.
7. A pointing dog is not mechanical or symmetrical in its quartering. It will rely on its nose more than other types of dogs. It might seem that it missed some "Good looking cover" but like in tracking, some dogs need more or less scent than others. Unless you are certain the dog is missing game, don't try to make him/her work an area that they have already covered. Be conscious of the wind direction, density of cover and scenting conditions as you observe your dog. As the dog matures, it will become more experienced in using the wind to its advantage to when searching the field and cover.

### Increasing the Search Pattern

1. Instead of planting the birds for your pointing exercises in a narrow path, expand out to your right or left.
2. Make sure the dog starts off strong and full of energy. Make sure the dog finds a bird early in the search training. This will build their confidence. If they don't find a bird until 20 – 30 minutes into the search, they might develop a bad habit of not waking up until they make contact.
3. If they continue to have "Low energy" in the field search, consult a NAVHDA member or a trainer for some ideas that are designed for your young dog.

#### Note:

These versatile dogs have the high ability to track running game. If they are working a field at 200 yards in front of you and the bird is running, there will be a good chance once the dog catches up to the bird it will flush out of range. Controlling the distance your dog works from you is very critical. We are not trying to develop a big running "Field Trial" dog.