



Minnesota Chapter of NAVHDA

Introduction To Water

1. Most versatile hunting dogs will enter the water the first time he/she is exposed to it (note, this does not mean swimming). Handler blunders or accidents can cause fear of the water at an early age. Be careful!!!
2. Introduction can take place as early as 10 weeks
3. In warm weather, run with the puppy through warm puddles
4. Wade with the puppy across a small shallow stream of water. The puppy should follow with no hesitation. If the pup does not come with coaxing, stop. **Never Force** the pup into the water. If the dog shows this fear of water early in it's life and has not had a bad experience, it indicates that the dog is timid. Be patient and proceed slowly with a lot of positive support and re-enforcement.
5. Wade with the dog gradually into deeper water.
6. Another dog or littermates can help to get the pup to follow them into the water
7. Chasing a wing-clipped duck with other dogs can also help get the pup into the water. (The duck should be able to dive out of the reach of the pup. Do not allow the pup to catch the duck at this stage. The duck might hurt the pup and cause other problems).
8. **Remember:** Be patient. What you do or don't do could have a negative effect on your pup the rest of it's life