

Too many retrievers can Interfere with Training Your Retriever

Regarding: Give pup an unlimited diet of uncontrolled retrieves "to develop his retrieving"----

The practice of training the pup to retrieve by throwing him countless out-of-control retrieves is sheer foolishness. Pup is born with the retrieving instinct. It was given to him by his mother and whether you give him one retrieve or ten thousand retrieves you are not going to improve his genetic inheritance.

I have occasionally seen young dogs that show little interest in retrieving. Sometimes further investigation uncovers the fact that this pup retrieved wonderfully when he was younger, but suddenly quit. The cause can quite literally be too much retrieving. Thirty or forty retrieves in a row can bring the young pup to the edge of his physical capacity. He is growing at a phenomenal rate and most of his energy is going toward that growth. Unlimited retrieves can put him in a state of exhaustion and physical pain.

The greatest and most insidious danger of the practice of unlimited retrieving is the price that you make pup pay. You frequently see people throwing untold numbers of balls or training dummies for pup to retrieve at will. They rationalize this by saying, "I'm developing pup's retrieving". The real reason they do it is that it is easy and fun for pup's owner. They don't think of the trouble it will cost pup later when they change the rules and want pup to steady and under control. They plan to get him steady later.

They are training pup to be out of control on retrieves. They are training pup to break, thus insuring that they will have to use quite a bit of punishment later to train him not to break.

Pup did not inherit is obedience and self control. That's where he needs training and that's where out of control retrieves are totally counterproductive. Pup should have to wait for every retrieve he gets. Then you are training him to wait and to exert some self control. Then you are making it easy for him to learn the behaviors you want. You are making it easy to train him without a lot of punishment.

Please visit www.fetchpup.com , Robert Milner's retriever training site

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