THE HIGGINS METHOD

From an inexperienced pup to a learned *Higgins Gundog*

Packleader Walk

Pup learns about pack dynamics, leadership, claiming of space, etc.

Intro to field

Natural predatory instinct develops. Pup learns to hunt, bump & chase, catches a few birds. Intro to gun.

Pup learns that a consistent recall is required

"Here" command is taught using a checkcord.

Intro to the Magic Brushpile

Pup learns from the birds. If you're pushy, birds leave. If you're steady and wait for the shooter, you'll be successful (you'll get a bird in your mouth). Pups are encouraged to try all their options. No pressure, no commands. Pups learn steady to flush, shot, kill, stop to flush, honoring and, for pointing dogs, steady while shooter goes out front.

Field Training

Steadiness (success) learned at the MBP is associated to the hunting field. "Stop to Flush w/Payoff" reinforces previous understanding that being steady leads to success. Pup (pointing dogs) learns to be steady on scented birds using Higgins Remote Releasers then loose birds. Learns to manage moving birds & handle for the shooter.

Retrieve

Pups natural retrieve is nurtured or "trained retrieve" is addressed