

# NAVHDA ZIA



## JOIN US!

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NavhdaZiaChapter/](https://www.facebook.com/NavhdaZiaChapter/)

# WELCOME!

Are you looking for a way to train your hunting dog – whether a new pup or an older dog? Would you like to take advantage of learning from other dog lovers and training experts who encompass a breadth of experience at all levels? Read on!

NAVHDA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering, improving, promoting, and protecting the versatile hunting dog in North America. In addition, NAVHDA promotes conservation of game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs before and after the shot; and aids in the prevention of cruelty to animals by discouraging nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs. Finally, and most importantly, NAVHDA fosters the knowledge and expertise of the individual in training his or her own hunting companion.

NAVHDA is an excellent complement to the activities of sporting dog breed clubs and field trial organizations. It was created to supplement the activities of those clubs by providing a proven, standard method of evaluating the performance of all versatile hunting dogs, consistent with North American hunting practices, regardless of breed. NAVHDA is unique in that during tests, the dogs are evaluated only against a standard, not against other dogs.

NAVHDA is organized on two levels: the first, or parent organization, NAVHDA International, operates under bylaws approved by its membership. These bylaws provide for officers elected by popular vote who, together with appointed directors, constitute an Executive Council charged with furnishing direction and guidance to NAVHDA programs. The second level incorporates local chapters of NAVHDA throughout the United States and Canada. These are the "grass roots" organizations, which sponsor the training and testing programs. You must be a member of NAVHDA International to join a local chapter. The NAVHDA ZIA Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association serves the state of New Mexico. NAVHDA ZIA is a nonprofit organization that conducts regularly scheduled training sessions, educational activities, social activities, fundraising activities, and sponsors NAVHDA sanctioned tests annually. If you are passionate about the versatile hunting dog breeds and wish to become more skilled in training your canine hunting companion, we would love to have you join our chapter.

Whether you just acquired a new pup, or have an older dog that needs additional training, participation in the ZIA chapter of NAVHDA has a lot to offer. Working towards one of the tests provides structure to your training program, but it is not required. You can learn a lot by simply participating in training. NAVHDA membership is truly the beginning of a journey for many people. Below you will find a list of benefits of becoming a member of NAVHDA. In addition to the tangible benefits, you will discover the most important intangible benefit which is becoming an addition to a family of dog lovers, hunters, and supporters of the outdoor way of life.

- Each new member will receive the NAVHDA Aims and Programs and Test Rules booklet, the NAVHDA automobile window decal and NAVHDA informational brochures.
- Membership in the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association includes a subscription to the monthly magazine Versatile Hunting Dog. The magazine offers in depth training articles, a calendar of tests and activities, test results and much more!
- NAVHDA maintains and manages Testing and Judge Development programs. Members test their dogs at any of over 200 tests per year sponsored by NAVHDA chapters.
- International NAVHDA maintains a versatile hunting dog Registry. Each registered dog receives a three-generation pedigree for a single registration fee. NAVHDA pedigrees list test results of tested parents, grandparents and great grandparents along with many other types of pertinent information such as hip dysplasia certification when available; placing the emphasis on quality versatile hunting dogs through selective breeding and education.

# TRAINING

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Currently, our Chapter holds training days on alternate Sundays from March through early October. Check out our website or Facebook page for more information about times and locations of upcoming training days, sign up to attend one of our scheduled training days, or contact our Training Coordinator for more information.

## TRAINING RULES

- Training is permitted only on scheduled training days or by permission from the appropriate Ranch contact.
- A Ranch Waiver is required annually at the start of the training season.
- Check in at the kennels before the start of training.
- Hinged frame (break-open) shotguns of conventional gauge will be used. Autoloaders and pump action guns are strictly forbidden, whether loaded with blank ammunition or not. All guns will be carried in the open position until just before the shot.
- When blank ammunition is called for, it must be 12 gauge, professional factory manufactured, smokeless powder, blank ammunition (field trial poppers).
- All persons shooting birds must have a valid New Mexico hunting license.
- Training Supervisors will ensure the gallery remains at a safe distance in a position away from the line of fire. All persons in the field, while live ammunition is being used, must wear one or a combination of the following blaze orange garments: hat, vest or jacket.
- Individuals may accompany the handler and the gunners in the field during training after consultation with the handler.
- Loose and unattended dogs are prohibited.
- Appropriate language is required at all times and especially in the presence of children.

### Other Information:

The timing and length of training sessions vary seasonally. Please be prepared for a day in the field as you might for a hunting day. Bring food, water, appropriate clothing, and any other necessities for yourself and your dog. A portable chair can be nice for watching and waiting your turn in the field.

We are fortunate to have the use of the excellent grounds located on the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch. The following rules apply with respect to the Ranch:

- Drive only to/from the gathering place for training and on the training grounds.
- An escort is required any time you are on the campus of the Ranch.
- Do not initiate interaction with the residents of the Ranch.
- While driving on the Ranch, keep your speed at or below 15 mph.

### Directions to training grounds:

Our training grounds are located on the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch, 775 Highway 304, Veguita, NM.

Take I-25 South to the Bernardo exit. Go East on US 60 approximately 5 miles to NM 304. Go North on NM 304 approximately 1 mile. The entrance to the Ranch is on the left.

# TESTING OVERVIEW

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In 1969, NAVHDA established a system of comprehensive tests that truly measure all aspects of work for the versatile hunting dog breeds. The trialing systems in use in North America before this time were established for specialists. The NAVHDA system provides for testing at various stages of maturity. Performance records are kept and made available on this website since they provide invaluable information for both breeder and buyer alike.

NAVHDA chapters sponsor four kinds of tests:

The Natural Ability Test is designed to evaluate the inherent natural abilities of young dogs and gain insight into their possible usefulness as versatile gun dogs. It rates seven important inherited abilities: nose, search, tracking, pointing, water, desire and cooperation. Dogs are eligible for a Natural Ability Test up until, and including, the day they reach 16 months of age. Dogs over 16 months may be run for evaluation only. Dogs over 16 months may only be run if space is available. No prize classification can be awarded the dog run for evaluation.

The Utility Preparatory Test measures the dogs' development midway through their training toward the Utility Test. No previous testing required.

The Utility Test evaluates trained dogs in water and field, before and after the shot, as finished versatile hunting companions as well as many other specific tasks. No previous testing required.

The Invitational Test is our highest level of testing. Only those dogs that have achieved a Prize I in Utility are eligible. This limits the entry to exceptional animals who have demonstrated a high level of training and tests their skills in the advanced work.

We provide accurate, complete performance evaluation on each dog tested.

To be truly meaningful, tests for versatile hunting dogs must meet certain criteria. They must be conducted in an environment that reflects actual hunting conditions and situations. They must test the important qualities of a good versatile dog. Judges must be knowledgeable, consistent and objective. All testing and evaluation is to be within the context of judging dogs as useful, productive hunting companions. NAVHDA tests have been designed with these requirements in mind. In addition, our record keeping provides an accurate, complete performance evaluation on each dog tested.

In order to eliminate direct competition between dogs, entrants in a NAVHDA test are judged one at a time, by three judges, with their performance scored against a standard. The only exception to this is the Invitational Test, in which dogs are braced in the field so each dog can demonstrate his willingness to back and work effectively with another dog. Prizes are awarded on the basis of numerical scores achieved in the test. Each dog that meets or exceeds minimum standards in all areas of work is placed in one of three categories: Prize I, II or III. Prize I being the highest classification. If all dogs entered in a NAVHDA test perform well, all can receive a prize.

# THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST



The Natural Ability Test is organized into four main segments, or phases, as follows:

1. Field Phase - The dog is hunted in cover where the presence of game has been assured by releasing of game birds. Each dog is hunted for a minimum of 20 minutes and is evaluated on: Use of Nose, Search, Pointing, Desire, Cooperation, Gun Shyness.
2. Tracking Phase - The dog is given an opportunity to track a flightless running pheasant or chukar. Each dog is judged on the following items: Use of Nose, Tracking, Desire to Work, Cooperation.
3. Water Phase - The dog is tested for its willingness to swim. The following items are judged during the water test: Water Entry, Desire to Work, Cooperation.
4. Judgment of Physical Characteristics

No game is shot, and no retrieves are required during the Natural Ability Test. There is no set sequence for conducting the four general phases. It is desirable, though not necessary, to test the young dog in tracking after it completes the field test because usually by then the dog has settled down and is better able to concentrate. Also, it is desirable to evaluate the coat immediately after the dog completes the water test.

# THE UTILITY PREPARATORY TEST

The Utility Preparatory Test is divided into three main segments:

1. Field Group - Each dog is hunted for a minimum of 25 minutes and is evaluated on: Search, Pointing, Steadiness on Game, Retrieve of Shot Bird, Retrieve of Dragged Game.
2. Water Group - Each dog is evaluated on: Water Search, Walking at Heel, Steadiness by Blind, Retrieve of a Duck.
3. Judgment of Physical Characteristics  
The following are judged throughout the Utility Preparatory Test: Use of Nose, Desire to Work, Cooperation, Obedience.



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# THE UTILITY TEST

The Utility Test is divided into three main segments:

1. Field Group - Each dog is hunted for a minimum of 30 minutes and is evaluated on: Search, Pointing, Steadiness on Game, Retrieve of Shot Bird, Retrieve of Dragged Game.
  2. Water Group - Each dog is evaluated on: Search for a Duck, Walking at Heel, Remaining by Blind, Steadiness by Blind, Retrieve of a Duck.
  3. Judgment of Physical Characteristics  
The following are judged throughout the Utility Test: Use of Nose, Desire to Work, Cooperation, Stamina, Obedience, Physical Attributes.
- The Utility Test is divided into three main segments:

# THE NAVHDA INVITATIONAL

The NAVHDA Invitational is “by invitation only,” held annually in various locations throughout the central United States. The invited dogs have all performed at the highest level of competence in the NAVHDA Utility Test, demonstrating the full range of a true versatile hunting dog.

Many of the versatile breeds participate in this event and all dogs are judged according to the standards developed by NAVHDA over the past 40+ years.

The test is divided into two groups: Field and Water. Field work consists of a search, pointing, steadiness, backing and retrieving with the dogs being run in braces. Water work consists of a blind retrieve, double-marked retrieve and honoring a retrieve. Cooperation, obedience, desire and nose are judged throughout the entire test.

The Invitational Test is not necessarily the same at each venue or each year because tests can be, and are, modified to accommodate the available terrain and weather conditions. Please note that any modifications are done to achieve the best evaluation of your hunting dog in a hunting scenario that is as true to life as possible.

Dogs successfully completing the Invitational Test with a passing score will receive the title of “Versatile Champion,” further recognized by placing VC before their names.



# CALENDAR

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February 7, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

March 7, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

April 4, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

April 7, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

April 28, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

May 2, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

May 4-5, 2019, Tom Swayze Training Clinic

May 18-19, 2019, NAVHDA Spring Test

June 2, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

June 6, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

June 23, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

July 4, 2019, 5:30 pm Monthly Meeting

July 14, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

July 28, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

August 1, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

August 11, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

August 25, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

September 5, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

September 8, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

September 22, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

October 3, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

October 6, 2019, 8:00 am: Club Training

October 12-13, 2019, NAVHDA Fall Test

November 7, 2019, 5:30 pm: Monthly Meeting

Snake Aversion Training "TBD"



## CLUB CONTACTS

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