

# VGP Training Schedule

- Phase 1     You must be able to stop your dog (Halt, Whoa, Etc)  
Your dog must be force broke including the fox  
Healing on & off lead
- Phase 2     Winter months / obedience & searches / review phase 1
- Phase 3     Spring months / blood tracking / review phase 1 & 2
- Phase 4     Spring & early summer / water work, drags, review phase 1, 2, & 3
- Phase 5     Summer / start cross training / review phases 1-4  
Blood tracking 1 per week / age the track  
Be done training 2 -3 weeks prior to the test / avoid burn out

## Phase 1

### Halt

- 1) The dog needs to lay down & stay upon command
- 2) Overlay your down command with the whistle
- 3) Overlay the whistle with pinch collar for a quicker drop
- 4) Once you get a quick drop with the whistle go to the e-collar  
Blow the whistle and reinforce with the e-collar
- 5) While out exercising or different searches when the dog is within 10 feet of you blow him down and use the collar
- 6) Lengthen the distance but always use the collar to reinforce
- 7) Make the dog stay for at least 30 seconds, vary times  
do not let him get into a routine, walk over & around the dog  
shoot around him a lot while in the down position
- 8) Every time he sits up or leaves his spot = whistle & e-collar

## Phase 2

### Obedience

- 1) Your dog will heal every time you set him up for these drills
- 2) Down stay, drive hunt, steady to shot, steady to wing & fur
- 3) The dog will encounter a tremendous amount of shooting, people, game, and commotion, in other words stay put no matter what or (HALT)
- 4) The key is if you have drilled Halt into the dog you have an effective way to control the dog

### Searches

- 1) Independent forest search is nothing other than a BTR, use the same commands and cues for the Independent water as you use here
- 2) Diamond set up with bumpers, fox trainer, and game fox, rabbit, pheasant, and duck
- 3) Dense cover search, come up with a softly spoken command that you can control your dog with and keep him within gun range

## Phase 3

### Blood Tracking

- 1) This time of year is great for this, cool weather, leaves & brush are not in full bloom, you are rejuvenated because winter is finally over, and you are ready to move onto something else because you sick & tired of obedience training!!
- 2) Run 2 to 3 tracks per week until the dog consistently working them. Do them in different areas, fields, woods, combination, Tracking is Tracking regardless of where you do them.
- 3) Always successful with a big reward at the end.
- 4) Age the tracks for more difficulty and increases concentration.

## Phase 4

### Water Work

- 1) This the same as the HZP with the addition of a search without a duck
- 2) Train the independent search the same way you trained the BTR & the independent forest search. Use the same set up and command.

### Drags

- 1) Don't waste much time on these, if your dog struggles with this it is a force fetch issue not a drag issue
- 2) 2 – 3 drags with each species from now until test day should be sufficient
- 3) Have people and other distractions around, just like test day

## Phase 5

### Retrieving

Fox over obstacle  
Fox drag  
Rabbit drag  
Phez drag  
Free search of phez  
Duck

### Obedience

Drive hunt  
Down stay  
Healing on & off  
Steadiness  
Manners  
Pointing

### Searches

Independent forest  
Heavy cover  
Independent water  
Field search

Previous to this you trained 1 thing at a time now it is time to tie them together.

Cross training: Think about this way, it is only 3 categories not 27 individual subjects

This is a way to get your dog accustomed to shifting gears like you will encounter on test day. When training make sure you hit subjects from each category.

### Example of a session

Walk your dog out on heel on lead  
Release him for an independent forest search, have a rabbit out there to find  
Walk off lead with a gun, many shells, and a fox  
Put him in a down stay (draw a circle around him) and do a fox drag  
When at the end fire your gun 2 – 3 times  
Now simulate a drive hunt when walking back LOTS of shooting  
Send the dog out on the fox drag  
When walking back to the field do a Heavy Cover search  
Put him on lead back to the truck

Something like this takes the dog through the highs and low of test day, takes only about 1 hour, and covers almost 1/3 of the required subjects.

Be creative and have fun, this really breaks up the boredom