

Red Cedar Retrievers: Obedience Program Overview

Our training programs are structured in a way that works with the canine learning process. We work very hard to constantly read a dog's mental state throughout the training program by watching his or her body language to determine how they are responding to their environment and to our training. We believe a dog is like a book, all you have to do is read it to get your instructions.

Obedience Training:

Our Obedience training course is 6-10 weeks long depending on the dog. This is the fastest we feel dogs can successfully learn the basic commands on and off-leash while staying under control at all times. Our program can be prorated if interested in only the on or off-leash portion of the program. We will accept dogs starting at 4 months of age and up.

- **Basic Commands On-Leash:** This portion will go over the basic commands: "Here!", "Heel", "Sit", "Down", "Place", "Kennel" and "OK". The goal of this course is to get complete control of your pup while on leash. What you will also get upon completion is a dog that knows how to be under control. All of these commands will have the command "Keep" implied. The command "OK" is the release from any of the other commands.
- **Collar Conditioning:** We will introduce the e-collar to the dog in a way that instills the positive aspects of the device. This aspect will teach the dog how to learn. They will learn how to turn pressure off by doing what is asked of them. The dog will have an opportunity to associate the collar with positive physical activity and not solely as a correction device. When introduced correctly the dog should welcome the collar because they should associate it with physical activity doing tasks that the dog was bred to do. The dog should look to the collar to give direction in the form of e-commands and not solely as a device used to correct acknowledged disobedience.
- **Commands Off-Leash:** Once on leash has been mastered we will take it to the next level. Our goal at the advanced stage is to achieve the same level of control in off-leash situations as obtained for on-leash. Again, we'll focus on the basic commands with each of these commands having the command "Keep" implied.

Owner Involvement:

We invite owners to join us once a month for a training session. This will not only give you an update on how your dog is doing with our program but also give you a sense of familiarity with the training process along with the knowledge of how to properly handle your dog. This will help with the transition of the dog back to you, the owner. You are welcome to join more often than once a month if there are no scheduling conflicts. However, if you can not join us once a month we do require you to attend 2 sessions during the last week of the program.

Our training will give the dog and the owner the tools to be a successful team in the field, however, in order for the dog to become the best that he or she can become it is up to the owner to maintain a level of performance at home and during the actual hunts. The first season in a hunting dog's career is crucial in developing manners and setting behaviors. The set of tools we will develop will give you the ability to handle your dog so that he/she is a mannerly dog that is a pleasure to be with in the field and at home.