



Workinggundogs, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Cambridge & Rutland
Professional Gundog Training ~ structured for a balanced dog

Whose advice should I follow when buying a gundog puppy? ~ A question I get asked every week, whilst training gundogs

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This is an important decision especially for all first time puppy buyers and you need to take time to consider it wisely.

Most gundogs live at least 12 years or more and many can still be working until at 10, so you need to make sure you are buying a pup that will be fit for function and meet your aspirations ~ Whatever they may be!

If you are a learner driver, a Ferrari might be desired, but would it be too good for you? Seriously....

Health tested parents, reduce the risks of any problems occurring with joints or eyes.

Unfortunately too many buyers use local classified advertisements with the minimum understanding of the characteristic of the breed that they are buying.

As minimum you should seek a pedigree and health certification for **both** the Sire & Dam!

But the above alone is insufficient for me!

I would encourage you to discuss your requirements with several breeders or better still with professional trainer as they will not have a vested interest in selling you a puppy and want to help you train a good one!

There are numerous gundog clubs and societies, whose members will offer plenty of advice, some of which will be very good, but be aware that many of them have a self interest in membership!

Alarmingly the public have become even more suspicious of the UK Kennel Club over recent times, for not doing enough to protect the health & welfare of various breeds.

It is often said that a top field trailing gundog will produce the best progeny?

This is not always the case, but unfortunately this is one of the main decision making tools in the process of buying a puppy.

I always suggest that any potential buyer should spend more time with the Dam, rather than looking at a basket of pups, studying the mother preferable without the owner present, will tell you more about the potential of the pups. It not always possible, but I would also visit the Sire for the same purpose!

You will save yourself considerable time travelling if you obtain the copies of the pedigree and health certification in advance, I would also suggest that Labrador buyers request Elbow scores and Optigen testing.

As a professional trainer, I have seen several gundogs over the last year with poor elbows! I do not get to see blind dogs for obvious reasons! And I rarely see a gundog with bad hips, may be this has something to do with the popularity of hip scoring these days!

By taking advice from top gundog trainers you should be able to locate the type of pup that will suit your capabilities - one that will be a gundog to shoot one day a week and not be a gundog that needs four day's picking-up every week in the season just to keep it and you sane!

Far too much emphasis in my opinion is placed on the stud dog, I suggest you look on the bottom line of any of today's pedigrees and look for red ink; you will be a long time finding a pedigree with more red ink on the bottom line than on the top!

The Dam of the pups is just as important as the sire of the litter, and while the sire may be a field trial champion that doesn't necessarily mean that he can make up for all the shortcomings of the bitch.

Do not discount looking at pups from well-bred local working dogs that may not have achieved titles from trials

For assistance in training in Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire & Cambridge

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