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TRICKS ANY DOG CAN LEARN

With Patience and Few Simple Rules Dullest "Can be Taught"

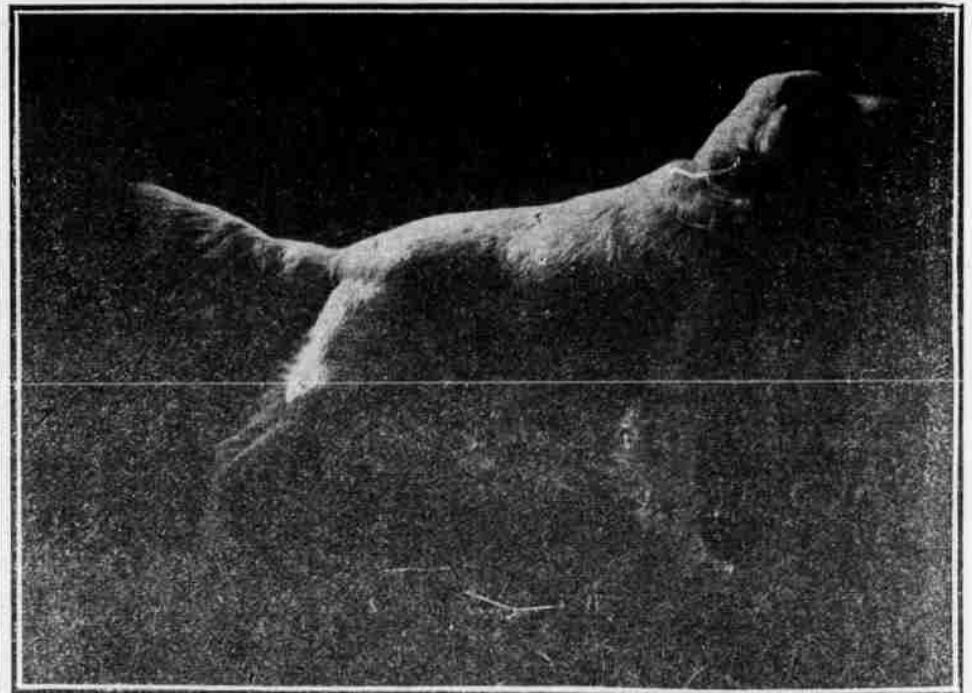


WHY devote all our time to training hunting dogs?" queried a sportsman, who is also a fancier, at The Carolina the other evening, "for, as a matter of fact, it is a comparatively simple matter to teach any dog a surprising number of tricks. By following a few simple rules anyone can train a dog, for instance, to bring one's slippers or hide a handkerchief, to sit up or lie down at the word of command. The training of a regular trick dog for the theatre or public exhibitions is of course a far more difficult task. An education of this kind makes a dog far more interesting and valuable. Incidentally a few minutes devoted to the exercise daily will be enough to teach any ordinary dog several new tricks in the course of one month and very likely in much less time.

found practically impossible to make any headway if the dog's mind is shifted from one thought to another.

The dog again should be in a normal condition. If it be excited or excessively sensitive it will be found much better to forego the lesson for the day. As a general rule it is better to give the lesson just before a meal. The food may then be given as a reward. After a meal the dog is likely to be heavy and sleepy and will require too much urging. It is obviously important that one dog should be trained at a time, for the presence of another dog will naturally distract attention.

Begin with the simplest tricks. A regular trainer of animals in commencing with a new dog usually starts with the sitting-up exercise. The word of command to be used with the trick, as with all others, must be decided upon at the first, and never varied. Another important point is to use the same inflection in giving the command. A dog may associate entirely different mean-



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The key to success in all animal training is patience. Dogs are very quick to learn, and as a rule they are more than willing to be taught. In most cases the training of a dog merely consists in conveying to him the meaning of your words. Successful training is a matter of coaxing and persuasion rather than of driving. The great mistake the amateur trainer makes is to imagine that a dog can be punished into obeying; a kind word or a caress will be found far more effective than a whip.

It is, of course, proverbial that one cannot teach an old dog new tricks. It is much better to begin with a young dog but not a puppy. One of the most important rules to remember is that you must always have the dog's complete attention. It is best to work with a dog in a room closed to all intrusion, or in some quiet, secluded place. Any interruption which distracts the dog's attention, however slight, is to be avoided. It will be

ings with different inflections in pronouncing the same word. One may use a sentence for the command, if desired, but in this case the actual word of command must come at the end and be spoken with special emphasis.

To teach the sitting-up trick take firm hold of the front paws and raise the dog to the desired sitting position. At the same time repeat the word of command over and over again. After a few moments in this position let the dog fall into its normal position and then after a slight rest repeat the operation and the command. Never attempt but one trick at a time. Excellent results are obtained by giving the dog an object lesson whenever possible. In this case take position before the dog similar to the one you are teaching him to assume. By constant repetition the dog learns to associate the word of command with this position and soon learns to take it without being raised.

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