

FPGSPCA Sportsmanship Guidelines
Approved September 1, 2007

The Florida Panhandle German Shorthaired Pointer Club exists to foster, promote, and improve the hunting dog breeds; to conserve game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs before and after the shot; and to aid in the prevention of cruelty to animals by discouraging nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs. We require sportsmanship when training for and competing at dog shows, field trials, obedience trials, tracking tests, hunting tests and all other A.K.C. approved activities.

To that end, the FPGSPC ascribes to the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America's Guidelines for Responsible Breeders.

In addition, as members of the FPGSPC we agree to the following Sportsmanship Guidelines and to ensure that our guests also agree to the Sportsmanship Guidelines when participating in club events.

SPORTSMANSHIP IN THE FIELD

1. When training your dog by itself, some uncontrollable events may happen to challenge your training expectations. When training with a bracemate, or running with a bracemate in a test or trial, the probability of uncontrolled events increases. Remember, we all have the same training goal: to achieve a situation for our dog and its bracemate that will further their performance. It is up to each handler to fully communicate his expectations from the event, what he wants for/from his dog and what he expects from his bracemate's handler and dog. Should there be any question about the compatibility of the brace, a new bracemate should be found or the dog should be run as a single. If during the running of the brace you believe that continuing would be detrimental to the training of your dog, it is appropriate to remove your dog from the field and ask to be re-assigned. However, we encourage all members share their expertise with less experienced members.
2. If during the running of a training or testing brace, your dog has met your requirements or those of the test, good sportsmanship suggests you think about your bracemate and following braces and not "wipe out" the field. Obviously this does not hold true in competitive field trial events.
3. Seek out others for help and to help. Mentors will be more than glad to show you how to plant birds, hold a line, clean a bird, steward the start, chuck a duck, drag a dummy, load a launcher or bang a bumper. Almost all training requires a minimum of two people. Take advantage of the entire day by getting involved; you'll learn from others' mistakes and

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successes and learn how to read situations. This will be very helpful in your future as a handler.

USE OF LIVE BIRDS

The training and testing of hunting dogs requires the use of game birds such as quail, pheasant and ducks, and the use of non-game birds such as pigeons. Members of the FPGSPC are held to the highest level in the ethical treatment and care of all birds. Proper care should be used at all times to ensure they are fresh and healthy. When returning from the field, gunners and handlers are expected to see that retrieved birds are properly cared for. Typically this would involve placing game birds in a cooler and non-game birds in a bag. Remember, in most states wanton waste of game animals is severely punished. Volunteers should be available to take and clean your birds for a small price.

DISCIPLINING OF DOGS

1. Harsh correction of a dog should be reserved for the most egregious behavior, including but not necessarily limited to showing aggression toward another dog or a person. Physically injuring, kicking or abusing a dog, including abusing a dog with the use of choke chains, spike collars, pinch collars, electronic collars or other training devices will not be tolerated.
2. Training and testing events should be enjoyable to all involved. Ungentlemanly (unladylike) behavior in correcting your dog distracts others in training situations and reflects poorly on our club in the public eye.

GUN SAFETY

1. The first consideration of shooting is gun safety. When live ammunition is to be used, everyone present in the training fields shall wear an outer garment (minimum of a vest or jacket) that is blaze orange.
2. Gunners, handlers and gallery must refrain from the consumption of anything that would impair their function or judgment during the entire training or competition event.
3. Gunners must have viewed the AKC Gun Safety video within 12 months prior to the date of the training session. It is preferred that gunners attend a club sponsored gunner's clinic within the previous 12 months.

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4. Only break open shotguns are permitted at any FPGSPC training session or event. The action must remain open and unloaded until called forward by the handler and must be re-opened as soon as possible after the flush.
5. Gunners work for the handler and should not create undue hardship on the handler/dog team by taking a bird too close, too far, beyond barriers or by taking multiple birds. Handlers will position the gunners and review the direction in which they are to fire. Positioning requires careful consideration when birds are to be flushed and shot. Handlers and gunners must respect the directions of the landowners as to safe shooting areas.

GRIEVANCES

1. Courtesy and good manners are the rule when addressing handlers, gunners, gallery and judges. Training and performance events should be an enjoyable experience for everyone, but most especially, for the dogs.
2. If anyone feels that another member or guest is violating the principals of sportsmanship (not limited to the above discussion), he should first approach that individual. It will do no harm to assume that the offending individual doesn't realize how badly their actions look or are, or how they may be affecting your ability to achieve training goals with your dog.
3. If one does not feel comfortable confronting another or the conflict cannot be resolved at the individual level, then he should report the violation to a member of the Board of Directors. As of September 2007, the members of the Board of Directors are Rick Koenig, Marisa Bryant, Jim Eustace, Gail Larson, Bud Leonard, Todd Knouff and Mike Carmody.
4. It will be the responsibility of those members of the Board of Directors present, to promptly meet and resolve the issue before the involved members have left the grounds.
5. Should the actions of the Board of Directors that are present not satisfy all affected parties, misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club will be handled according to Article VI of the Bylaws which requires a written statement of alleged misconduct be filed with the Secretary of the club together with a deposit of \$100.

AKC Code of Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include

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principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

NRA's code of conduct

I will consider myself an invited guest of the landowner, seeking his permission, and so conducting myself that I may be welcome in the future.

I will obey the rules of safe gun handling and will courteously but firmly insist that others who hunt with me do the same.

I will obey all game laws and regulations, and will insist that my companions do likewise.

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I will do my best to acquire those marksmanship and hunting skills, which insure clean, sportsmanlike kills.

I will support conservation efforts, which can assure good hunting for the future generations of Americans.

I will pass along to younger hunters the attitudes and skills essential to a true outdoor sportsman.