



# Versatile Hunting Dog Federation

[www.vhdf.org](http://www.vhdf.org)

Aptitude + Temperament + Conformation + Health = Total Performance

One of the greatest pleasures in life is to enjoy the incredible bond that develops between a person and a well-bred and well-trained hunting dog. Imagine a dog capable of working almost all game before and after the shot, on land and in water. A dog that can sit in a duck blind in subzero temperatures capable of retrieving not only shot ducks, but of searching out and recovering cripples that no person could find on their own. Imagine that the same person and the same dog on that very same day set out to enjoy an afternoon of upland gunning, be it the wide open prairies of the West, the thick CRP ground of the Midwest, or the hardwood forests of the Northeast. Imagine a dog that will range far and wide in open country and the same dog that will work by sound and scent with their master in heavy cover. The same dog can locate and pin the wildest of covey birds, and yet that dog can also track and retrieve the wing shot rooster that sneaks off ¼ mile to hide in the creek bottom.

The amount of satisfaction one enjoys by owning such a partner is unparalleled by most things in life. Dogs such as this don't just happen by luck, they must be created by dedicated men and women who choose to utilize a long term system of aptitude and performance testing to ensure they are breeding the best possible prospects. Once a prospect is found it must be developed and trained. That is where VHDF comes in.



*VHDF Advanced Water Work Helps Develop Young Prospects Into Outstanding Working Dogs*

**PURPOSE** The purpose of VHDF is to promote ethical hunting practices and conservation of game animals by enhancing the quality and ability of versatile hunting dogs through breeder and handler education, performance-based testing, and by facilitating continuing education and information exchange regarding health and genetics. The primary way in which VHDF achieves its purpose is by conducting a series of field tests designed to evaluate versatile hunting qualities of different breeds and by fostering information exchange regarding the development and training of individual dogs. [www.vhdf.org](http://www.vhdf.org)

**EVALUATIONS** The VHDF offers three types of tests. The first two are aptitude tests, designed to identify individuals with above average hunting aptitudes, while the third test is a performance level test that seeks to evaluate the quality of a dog and its training as a fully finished versatile gun dog. These tests are not only useful for breeders, but they help individual owners evaluate the strengths and weakness of their dogs and their own training program as it relates to hunting



### **Hunting Aptitude Evaluation**

This is a test for the young dog that has been exposed to game but not seriously trained and thus still exhibits semi-natural aptitude. The test is done in a hunting setting and evaluates nose, search, pointing, tracking, water, desire, and cooperation.

*All test scores are entered into a database for our members to use for breeding decisions as well as litter selection.*

### **Advanced Hunting Aptitude Evaluation**

This is a test for the dog that has had the majority of its training, but has not been polished, and may lack the experience and confidence to handle difficult situations. This evaluation is often used by hunters and breeders to evaluate both natural ability and trainability. The test is done in a hunting setting and evaluates all the abilities that are evaluated in the HAE, plus the trained subjects of steadiness and manners, retrieving on land and in water, blind water retrieving, and searching.



**Performance Evaluation** This is a test for the fully finished versatile dog with a good amount of experience on land and water before and after the shot. This test is also useful for evaluating mental stability and trainability in dogs, as the training for such and evaluation is mentally and physically taxing. The test is done in a hunting setting and evaluates all the ability and trained subjects that are evaluated in AHAE, plus backing, higher levels of steadiness, higher levels of blind water work, as well as blood tracking which is optional.

*VHDF is not a registry. We are an independent testing organization. VHDF tests are open to all dogs. [www.vhdf.org](http://www.vhdf.org)*