



Photo by Molly Schlachter

ASK THE PRO

swim-by drill

By Wayne Curtis

THE FOLLOWING is a version of a swim-by drill that we feel is as bulletproof as it can get with regards to training. The 11 days it takes from start to finish will give you four important tools that will help with transitioning to fieldwork.

Before we start this drill, dogs have completed the “T” drill or the double “T” drill which ever has been your pleasure. They also have had a week or two weeks of walk out blinds and pattern blinds. We delay the swim-by long enough in order to get that many more whistle stops in the dog so that there is not any questioning on what, how to respond when they hear the blast of the whistle. Here are some small aspects to point out.

1. An earnest to “get in” the water
2. A whistle stop that is truly a stop
3. No hesitancy on returning into the water
4. A cast that shows the importance of being in water

1. We start every session with a mark that we throw just far enough into the water that the dog can nearly jump on it . We also end the session with the same mark.

2. From the 1st time we blow the stop whistle, each time we blow a stop whistle we hesitate a moment longer than the previous time before we cast. It is important to delay the cast a moment longer each time. By doing so you will end up with a very good water tread.
3. We maintain correct turning on a back cast through out this drill.

SWIM-BY

Start and end swim-by with a fun dummy in the water that the dog can jump on.

Day 1

- a. Identify pile three times
- b. Send on back twice
- c. Identify pile one time

Day 2

- a. Identify pile two times
- b. Send on back four times

Day 3

- a. Identify pile one time
- b. Send on back two times
- c. Send on back and force into water
- d. Send on back one time "free"
- e. Send on back, force into water and again across water
- f. Send on back one time "free"

Day 4

- a. Send on back one time
- b. Send on back and force into water
- c. Send on back two times "free"
- d. Send on back and force across water
- e. Send on back "free"

Day 5

- a. Put out three dummies and send on back all three times "free"

Day 6

- a. Send on back "free"
- b. Send on back "free"
- c. Send on back, whistle stop, back
- d. Send on back "free"
- e. Send on back, whistle stop, back
- f. Send on back "free"

Day 7

- a. Send on back "free"
- b. Send on back, whistle stop, back
- c. Send on back "free"
- d. Send on back, whistle stop, nick, back
- e. Send on back, whistle stop, back
- f. Send on back "free"

Day 8

- a. Send on back "free"
- b. Send on back, whistle stop, nick, back
- c. Send on back "free"
- d. Send on back, whistle stop, over, run around and receive at end of pond; (Throw out dummy for over before whistle stop)
- e. Send on back "free"
- f. Send on back, whistle stop, over, run around and receive at end of pond

Day 9

- a. Send on back "free"
- b. Send on back, whistle stop, over, run around and receive at end of pond
- c. Send on back "free"
- d. Send on back, whistle stop, over, run around and nick for "here"
- e. Send on back "free"
- f. Send on back, whistle stop, over, run around and receive at end of pond

Day 10

- a. Send on back "free"
- b. Send on back, whistle stop, over, run around and receive at end of pond
- c. Send on back "free"
- d. Send on back, whistle stop, over – swim-by.

D

X X

- (Follow dog from end of pond down to the other end of pond while giving over – constant eye contact with dog)
- e. Send on back "free"
 - f. Send on back, whistle stop, over – swim-by.

D

X X

- g. Send on back "free"
- h. Send on back, whistle stop, over – swim-by.

D

X X

Day 11

- a. Send on back "free"
- b. Send on back, whistle stop, over – swim-by. (Don't move)
- c. Send on back "free"
- d. Send on back, whistle stop, over – swim-by opposite direction
- e. Send on back "free"
- f. Send on back, whistle stop, over – swim-by opposite direction ■

Fox Hollow Retrievers Wayne Curtis

Fox Hollow Retrievers, owned and operated by Wayne & Terri Curtis, with Glen Curtis assistant. Wayne has been training retrievers for 37 years and has produced National Champions and National Amateur Champions and many Field Champions. Our Wisconsin property was host of the 2013 National Amateur Retriever Competition, and we winter in Americus, GA.
www.foxhollowretrievers.com

"Ask the Pro"

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