



# **Welcome Packet**

## Welcome

Thank you for choosing Brookside Gun Dogs, LLC for your training needs. At Brookside Gun Dogs, we love training and working with dogs. We are a family owned business located in De Beque, Colorado. We have been raising, training, and hunting with gun dogs for 30 years and are licensed through the state of Colorado. We not only train high quality gun dogs, we also offer obedience training and boarding. Our goal is to provide quality dog training and care in a safe, friendly, spacious environment.

Our training grounds include diverse water and land locations. They are completely suited to provide not only quality experiences for beginners, but also to provide challenges for the most experienced gun dogs. Our state-of-the-art kennel is temperature controlled with 46 individual runs that are cleaned multiple times per day. The kennel facility also includes large outdoor exercise areas that are used by the dogs in our care multiple times per day.

This welcome packet is designed to help our clients understand the training process, as well as our policies and philosophies. We know how difficult it can be to trust someone with the care of your dog, and we are grateful that you have put that trust in us. If you still have any additional questions after reading through this information, please feel free to contact us by phone, email, or text.

We look forward to building a relationship with you and your dog. Welcome to the Brookside Gun Dogs Family!

## Our Programs

### Obedience Program

This six-week program is designed to give your dog a solid obedience foundation that can be utilized in everyday life. During this program we teach the following commands:

**Sit:** This command tells your dog to sit until they are released. “Stay” is implied.

**Heel:** This tells your dog to walk at your side at the same pace as you. Your dog should also sit when you stop walking.

**Come:** When given a “come” command, your dog should come to your side and sit in the heel position.

**Place:** This is used to make your dog go to a specific place that you designate. It can be a dog bed, a certain spot in your house, or a platform while hunting. With this command, stay is also implied, so your dog should stay on the place until released.

**Down:** This is the command that we use for lying down. As with sit and place, stay is implied.

**Off:** We use this command if a dog is jumping up on people or the counter or anywhere else that you would rather they had all four feet on the ground.

All the commands are taught both on and off leash. We also incorporate distractions near the end of the programs. Each dog is worked with by multiple trainers in order to give the dog the understanding that they must listen to whoever is working with them. This helps to make the transition back home go more smoothly.

**Cost: \$800**

## **Obedience with Bird Introduction**

This program is also six weeks long and is an extension of our regular obedience program. Your dog will learn all the commands listed above and will also be introduced to birds and gun fire.

We start with live bird work, teaching the dog what scent they are looking for while they are hunting. We work on building their prey drive and getting them excited about birds.

While they are doing their exciting bird work, we introduce the sound of the shot. We start at a distance with a primer load and work up to being able to shoot a live bird over them.

At the end of this program, your dog should know all the obedience commands, and have a very basic understanding of hunting. This program is ideal for someone who wants their dog introduced to hunting but wants to do the more extensive hunting training themselves.

**Cost: \$800 for training, plus \$75 total for live bird use**

### **Three Month Gun Dog Program**

This is our most popular program and is the one that fits most of our clients needs the best. As with all the programs, it starts with obedience. Your dog will learn all the obedience commands listed above, both on and off lead. They will also be introduced to bird work right away, as well as the sound of the gun. This program also includes the use of whistle commands.

**Retrieving Breeds:** For retrieving breeds, this program generally includes training for both upland and waterfowl work, however, if you only plan to hunt your dog on one or the other, that will be our primary focus. Once obedience, bird work, and gun fire are introduced to your dog, we move into a trained retrieve. This ensures that your dog will retrieve and deliver your birds to hand. Once the trained retrieve is complete, we put everything together in the field. For upland hunting, your dog will learn to quarter while staying in range. Waterfowl work will include steadiness at the bucket, and dogs will be taught to retrieve out of a dog blind. Your dog will learn whistle commands for “sit”, “come”, and “turn” in the field.

**Pointing Breeds:** For pointing dogs, our primary focus is almost always upland work, unless you plan to hunt waterfowl with them. We will teach them the “whoa” command and work on steadying their point. We will teach them to quarter and hunt in range. We can also incorporate a trained retrieve if your dog shows signs of wanting to retrieve. Your dog will learn whistle commands for “come” and “turn” in the field.

\*Please note that three months is the **average** amount of time that it takes a dog to complete this program. Because each dog is different in regard to temperament and ability, an exact pick up date will be determined as we near the end of the program. Some dogs may work more slowly through certain parts of the program, causing it to run longer than three months.

**Cost: \$650 per month, plus \$75 per month for live bird use**

## **Extended Programs**

Our extended programs are tailored to the needs of our clients and their dogs. The length of time required will vary depending on your expectations as well as the temperament of your dog. An extended program will be suitable for clients who want their dog to be trained for any of the following:

- Steady to wing and shot
- Handling/blind retrieves
- Multiple marks
- Hunt test preparation
- Possibly trained retrieve, depending on your dog's ability to go through this part of the three-month program

For any extended programs, we will give you a time estimate at the beginning of the program. We will keep you updated on your dog's progress and let you know if that estimate is still accurate as they progress through their training.

**Cost: \$650 per month, plus \$75 per month for live bird use**

## **The Electronic Training Collar**

At Brookside, we do utilize the electronic training collar. We use it to give corrections at a distance after dogs have thoroughly learned their commands. We introduce it gradually and use it only on commands that we are certain the dogs know. When used properly, the electronic training collar is a great tool that will help to keep your dog safe and obedient. Our staff use these collars on their own personal dogs, and have the experience and knowledge to use them properly and humanely.

## Checking In

We require that all dogs be fully vaccinated at least two weeks prior to their check in date. This is to ensure that your dog's immune system has had the time to fully process the vaccinations and makes sure that they are well protected. Brookside requires that a copy of all required vaccination records be provided at or before check in. Any dog training or boarding at Brookside is required to be vaccinated against:

- Rabies
- Parvovirus
- Distemper
- Kennel Cough (most commonly bordatella)

For six-week programs, the first half of payment is due at the time of drop off, and the second half is due at pick up. For monthly programs, payment for the first month will be due at the time of drop off. The remaining time will be billed on a monthly basis and will be due upon receipt. These monthly invoices will also include any bird charges, food cost, or veterinary expenses that your dog has incurred while in our care.

Upon check in, all clients will sign a training contract and fill out the contact sheet that is provided to them. We will supply food that is already carried by Brookside for no additional cost. If you choose to provide specialized food for the duration of your dog's stay, you can bring the entire supply when you drop off, or have it shipped to us as needed. We can also obtain it as needed and add the cost to your monthly invoice.

If your dog is taking any monthly medications for heartworm or flea and tick prevention, you can bring these medications when you drop them off. Brookside will administer these, or any other medications that your dog requires as needed.

You will **not** need to provide leashes, food bowls, or water bowls. We ask that your dog be wearing a regular, flat collar when they arrive, but you do not need to provide an electronic training collar.

You are welcome to leave a bed for your dog if you choose, however, please keep in mind that many young dogs will chew on their bed if it is left in their kennel area.

## **Office Hours**

Brookside Gun Dogs, LLC maintains regular office hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. We will schedule drop-offs, pick-ups, and visitations on Saturdays by appointment from 8:00am until 12:00pm if needed, and only if scheduling allows. While your dog will receive regular care and exercise every day, we do not have office hours on Sundays or holidays. Brookside is a small, family owned operation, and this schedule allows our staff to have time for their family/personal needs.

We ask that you schedule all drop-offs, pick-ups, and visitations with us in advance, even during our regular business hours. Our staff trains in several different locations and may not be at the kennel facility to meet with the you if no prior notice is given.

## **Visitations**

You are welcome to visit your dog while it is in the care of Brookside Gun Dogs. We do ask that you limit these visitations to one time per month. This ensures that our staff and trainers have the time they need to train and care for all the dogs at our facility.

Any visitations will need to be scheduled with Brookside staff at least one day in advance. Please keep in mind that our training and client schedule can often be very hectic, and we will not be able to accommodate all visitation requests. If we are unable to meet with you at the original date and time you have requested, we will schedule another time that works for both you and the Brookside staff.



## Training Updates

We know how difficult it can be to leave your dog for an extended period of time, therefore Brookside will provide you with regular updates on your dog's progress. We will send an initial update 24 hours after check-in to let you know how your dog has adjusted to being in our facility.

After that, we typically send progress updates every two weeks. We will give you information about what part of the program your dog is currently in, how they are doing, and what we plan to work on next. These updates will usually be sent via email or text, however, we may also do some updates via phone call.

While we would love to be able to send you daily updates, we have a limited amount of time to bond with and train your dog, and we want to use that time to the best of our ability. We also have a limited number of trainers on site, which makes it difficult to take training pictures on a regular basis, however, we will try to send one or two pictures during your dogs stay.

The dogs that train at our facility enjoy their time here and adjust to their new routine very quickly. No matter which program you choose, your dog will not forget you and will be overjoyed to see you when you arrive for pick-up.

These updates may be delayed during holiday weeks. If you do not receive your regular update during a holiday week, you will receive one the following week.

We will always notify you right away if your dog is ill or injured.

## **A Typical Training Day**

Our regular training days are Monday through Friday. On those days, the kennel is sanitized in the morning, at which point your dog will spend time in one of our exercise areas. If you agree to it, your dog can spend their exercise time with one or two playmates. If you would rather your dog spent their exercise time alone, they can do that as well. When the kennel is sanitized and dogs have had their time outside, they come back inside and eat their morning meal. The cleaning of the kennel facility, is typically completed by 7:30am.

At that point, we usually do our obedience sessions. During this time, your dog will spend one-on-one time with one of our trainers, going through all the obedience commands. The length of this session will vary based on how far along your dog is in the program, as well as how well they know each command. These sessions typically last between 20 and 45 minutes.

Once obedience sessions are complete, we do our field sessions in the afternoon. We travel to our different fields and ponds using a truck and dog trailer. Your dog will ride out to the field in his own kennel in the trailer. We will spend 30 to 45 minutes with each dog who is taken out to the field. Your dog will be worked by one trainer, and our other trainers will be there to assist with bird work, shooting, bird launchers, and any other work that may require more than one person. Depending on the weather, we may alternate this routine and do field sessions in the morning and obedience in the afternoon.

Once the afternoon sessions are complete, the dogs return to the kennel facility for the evening. They will again spend time in our exercise areas while the kennel facility is cleaned. After cleaning, dogs will eat their evening meal. Our trainers live on site and do a kennel check in the evenings as well.

## **A Typical Saturday**

On Saturdays, the kennel facility is sanitized in the morning, again allowing the dogs time in the exercise areas, with or without a playmate. They are then fed their morning meal. We do short, morning only sessions on Saturdays. Anything that we feel could use a little extra attention is addressed in these sessions. At that point, your dog has been working hard all week and could use a well-deserved break. We clean the kennel again in the evening, giving dogs a second exercise time, and then they eat their evening meal.

## **A Typical Sunday**

Sundays are non-training days at Brookside. The kennel building is still sanitized in the morning and cleaned in the evening. Your dog will have the same feeding schedule on Sunday as well. This is a day that we let the dogs rest and get ready to take on their next week of training.

## **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

The Brookside kennel facility is sanitized each morning with Wysiwash Sanitizer. This is a dog friendly sanitizing solution that is designed to help eliminate bacteria and viruses in a kennel environment. Our food bowls are cleaned and sanitized after every feeding. Our kennel is cleaned with water every afternoon. Your dog will have his own water bucket through the duration of his program. These water buckets are cleaned and sanitized multiple times per week.

## **Illness**

At Brookside, we take pride in our cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Even taking all these measures, however, cannot prevent 100% of illness. There is still a chance that your dog could contract an illness while in our care. In the event that your dog does become ill, we will make an attempt to contact you right away. If we cannot reach you and feel that your dog needs veterinary care, we will contact our veterinarian and have your dog evaluated.

## **Vaccinations**

Brookside requires that all dogs training or boarding at our facility be fully vaccinated against rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and kennel cough. We do this in order to keep the dogs in our care as healthy as possible. Unfortunately, just like the human flu vaccination, the vaccinations dogs receive are not 100% effective at preventing these illnesses. If we suspect your dog of any serious illness, we will contact you immediately. We will also contact our veterinarian and have your dog evaluated.

## **Injury**

While it is very rare, there is a chance that your dog can sustain an injury while training. Our staff inspects the dogs for injury after returning from the field and can treat any superficial wounds. We will take immediate action to have your dog treated for any serious injuries.

## **Veterinary Visits**

In the event that your dog requires veterinary care, we will make an attempt to contact you immediately. If we are unable to get in touch with you or feel that your dog needs to be evaluated by a veterinarian immediately, we will make a decision based on the best interest of the dog. Please note that clients are responsible for the veterinary costs of their dogs while in our care.

Brookside Gun Dogs regular veterinarian is Dr. Lee Smith, of Parachute Veterinary Clinic in Parachute, CO.

## **Taking Your Dog Home**

At the end of your dog's program, we will schedule a session for you to meet with our trainer and go over the training that your dog has received. After your dog has had the chance to greet you, we will show you their obedience commands outside of our kennel facility. Our trainer will explain how to implement these commands at home, and you will be able to ask any questions that you might have.

For dogs who have gone through hunting training, we will then take you out to one of our training fields. For upland work, we will set out one or two birds, and walk the field with your dog. You are welcome to walk with the trainers so that you can see your dog in action. We will go over the voice and whistle commands that we use in the field and you will see how your dog finds and either points or flushes his birds. If the trained retrieve was part of your dog's program, your dog will deliver any shot birds to hand.

For the waterfowl portion of training, we will go to one of our training ponds. We will show you the training that has gone into your dog's water retrieve. We can also show you if your dog has been trained to retrieve out of a blind. We will again go over the voice and whistle commands that your dog knows.

You are welcome to ask any questions that you have during this private session. We also encourage you to keep in contact with us after you have had the chance to work with your dog at home. We are always happy to answer any questions that may come up after the training program is completed. Our main goal is to establish a solid training foundation that benefits you and your dog for a lifetime.

Thank you for taking the time to go through our welcome packet. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Brookside staff.

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