

Hi Rick thought I'd give you an update/story on your pup! He's no pup anymore! Ripley spent quite a bit of time with Joe Dahl before his first season and did quite well in training, no fear of guns and pointed his birds beautifully, but! When I went to the field in early hunting season all he wanted to do was play, he'd run right past birds and just mess around. Now I'm aware my expectations for this pup may have been too high initially but based on what Joe had told me I thought "Yes! I've got a great performer on my hands" and so it went outing after outing and frustrated call after frustrated call to Joe after each session worrying that indeed I was gonna be screwed because this pup just wants to play! Joe kept saying "stay in the cover don't give up!"

When I was almost completely worn out and deflated and depressed about the situation about mid season, after beating the cover with this goofball pup...BANG!!! Something went off in him!!! And boy did it!! All the sudden while tramping and pushing through some thick alders Ripley was just out ahead of me and my brother and he just suddenly slammed into this gorgeous statue point, because my mind was so shot at the time I thought "just more screwing around" as I started to catch up to him, he still held?? I got up beside him, nothing happened, he held, I tapped him on the head, nothing, he just held that position, I took one step forward and a grouse burst off the ground not ten feet in front of us!!! Well! the heck with trying to shoot!! I was so overjoyed all I could do was praise the dog, who by the way held at the flush! I couldn't have given him more love at that moment! And Rick, that was it!!! That pup pointed and held dozens and dozens of grouse the rest of the season!! I WAS FLOORED!! He ended up hunting like a dog four times his age, keeping excellent range, he took my commands to go this way or that he started tearing up the cover like crazy!! No mess too thick to get at one of those feathered things! I can honestly say I will never forget this fall and I have NEVER seen such a performance by such a young dog, he is obsessed with grouse! After a point, if a grouse breaks out of a tree he'll run in after the flush and stand on his hind legs for incredible amounts of time with his nose stuck in the air as high as it will go to see if there's any more still in the tree!! It's a riot!! So long story short, I am thrilled with him! and I look forward to many many more wonderful seasons with him. He'll go back to Joe in the spring for some more conditioning and finishing as he gets older.

Bottom line I got a killer grouse dog on my hands and couldn't be happier!! After a tough start he came through in grand fashion!! He's just great and we love him pieces!!

Hope all is well, and best wishes to you and your family this holiday season!

Your Friend,

Daniel Porter