

Winning Ways: Training Your Pointing Breed Dog for Hunting and Competition

By Jack J. Sharkey

Book Review by Lori Vickerman

I recently had the great pleasure to meet Jack Sharkey at the Vizsla Club of America National Specialty in Omaha Nebraska. He was incredibly friendly and after a chat he wrote a lovely personal message in the front cover of his book for me. I was very excited to meet him and have a signed copy of his book too!

For those of you that don't know who Jack Sharkey is let me tell you he is a legend in the dog world. His first Vizsla NFC DC AFC Hodag's Hunter UDX(2) MH NA NAJ VC ROM HOF got him hooked on the breed and then his female CH FC AFC OTCH MACH Legacy's DeChartay UDX(5) MH HOF (Chartay) became the American Kennel Clubs first Quintuple Champion. A portrait of Chartay hangs in the foyer of the American Kennel Clubs Operation Center. This year she was inducted into the Vizsla Club of America's Hall of Fame. Jack also owns trains and competes with other accomplished Vizslas; DC AFC Huntley MH; and Lady Brinkley who has won both the VCA 2006 National Puppy and National Derby stakes. Jack is a long time field trial and hunting test judge, conformation handler, and instructor in agility and obedience, who better to write such a book!



Jack is a natural when it comes to training dogs and this book is a wonderful collection of chapters addressing training, handling and competing with pointing breeds in the field. I especially enjoyed his personal experiences that he includes in each chapter that are both interesting in their own right, and worth learning from as well. This book starts off with how to choose a puppy and covers the important first 6 months of training, then serious training and performance polishing methods. Then it moves on to give the reader good coverage on the basics of field trialing and hunt tests, and also detailed explanations of training equipment and techniques. As a Vizsla trainer Jack's techniques are very positive and aimed towards our sensitive, highly trainable breed. I also love that Jack has included a chapter on obedience, conformation, agility and tracking. This is truly a book geared towards the unique versatility of our breed. I

highly recommend this book for any Vizsla enthusiast! I highly recommend *Winning Ways: Training Your Pointing Breed Dog for Hunting and Competition* for any Vizsla enthusiast! For lots more interesting training articles visit Jack's website at www.rapidanvizslas.com

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Chartay's Photo - Courtesy Christina W. Freitag