

## SPORTING GROUP

several “handler’s choice” options. The Novice level includes tricks such as fetch it, hold it, get it, and find it—custom-made for retrievers. If you do agility, the balance beam, jump, tunnel, and “get on” tricks are easy. Obedience dogs will do well with push-ups and hand signals. Fun tricks like kiss, high five, shake hands, spin in circle, and touch it are fun and easy to teach. In fact, all the tricks are easy to teach and will bring a smile to both handler and dog.

The Intermediate level includes more complicated tricks. Fetch it at 20 feet, catch I, hand signals (three in a row), and carry (a basket) are fun for the field dogs. Wobble board, weave poles, and leg weaves are great agility tricks. Chessies will love to wave goodbye, pull a toy, or go find a hiding handler. Any dog can play the shell game, finding a treat under one of three cups, and then there are go to your place (to a bed mat or crate) from 10 feet, and crawl for five feet. Teaching an interactive canine game to get a treat and push a button on a sound toy is simple. Can your dog jump through your arms in a circle, or paws up on your arm? Check out the list for more entertainment.

Advanced Tricks get trickier but are not more of a challenge. Roll over, play dead, and bow—any smart Chessie can learn these tricks quickly. It might be harder for the handler

when a Chessie jumps into his arms or jumps over his back. The agility dogs can weave six poles without a lure. Obedience dogs can find a scent article from five articles. So it is simple to find five tricks through the list.

To be a Trick Dog Performer you must use 10 tricks from any list, including two Intermediate tricks and two Advanced tricks, and the dog must have all three titles on record. Your routine may have a story. If you have a story, you should tell the basic idea yourself, or have a narrator read it and give you cues. No food lures are permitted, but treats may be used as reinforcers. Trick Dog Performers requires you to provide a video for the AKC to view via submission to YouTube, Facebook, or another service.

What are you waiting for? Get out there and enjoy your dog. He will love you for it.

—Audrey Austin,  
[audreyaustin@cox.net](mailto:audreyaustin@cox.net)

American Chesapeake Club

## Curly-Coated Retrievers

### THE UPLAND GAME PART ONE

Over the years, owners of Curly-Coated Retrievers have praised the breed’s ability to perform well in upland hunting. The dictionary describes upland hunting as “an American term for a form of hunting in which

the hunter pursues upland birds.” These birds include quail, pheasant, grouse, woodcock, and others. Upland birds tend to be found on the ground in heavy cover, so hunters tend to use gundogs to locate and retrieve game.

Our Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America is fortunate to have an Upland Working Certificate (UWC) now offered. The Field Committee of our club is now considering two more advanced levels of upland tests for our Curlies.

Quite a few years ago there was an interesting discussion regarding the ability of Curlies to perform well in upland work. The consensus of opinion was the innate ability of Curlies to do this well. The discussion was among some members of our club as to just which activities should be canceled if there was a lack of time to include all the different events that we now may include in our once a year national specialty.

Kathy Phillips, a longtime owner of Curly-Coated Retrievers who have performed well in upland work, will now share with us some very worthwhile information about this activity. In that discussion those many years ago, she said that hunt tests are about control, during which almost every move that the dog makes is directed by the handler. Upland work, however, is all about the dog’s innate ability, which requires specific attributes in temperament.

She went on to say that you trust your dog’s natural quartering style to find birds and his drive and desire to flush, mark, and retrieve them with as little interference as possible and, with a good dog, that does not equate to chaos. He trusts *you* to drive the truck to a feathery field, to remember to bring the shotgun shells, and to use them well (or bring along someone who can) to knock down the birds for him. And *you* (eventually) learn to trust his instincts over your assumptions, because he is much better equipped to find birds than you are.

Thank you, Kathy, for sharing your knowledge of upland work with us. Part two will continue with more from Kathy in which she discusses training for upland fieldwork.

—Ann Shinkle,

[annshinkle@aol.com](mailto:annshinkle@aol.com)

Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

## Golden Retrievers

### A HEALTHIER GOLDEN FUTURE

On September 30, 75 Golden Retrievers will be on display in the annual Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Parade of Heroes, held during the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) national specialty in Salisbury, Maryland.

The 75 parade honorees are among the