

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY WEIMARANER?

The Weimaraner is an intelligent breed of dog capable of doing many things. His versatility makes him a unique companion. The more interaction you have with your dog, the more he will respond and the more you will enjoy him forming a special relationship.

What can you do with a Weimaraner? You must do something! A bored dog is a dog that will get into mischief. To leave your dog alone and unattended day after day is asking for trouble. His keen mind will think up mischief to get into in order to get your attention. You are also missing opportunities to enjoy a unique animal who wants to be your best friend and to create many great memories. Here are some suggestions for activities:

COMPANIONSHIP: Take your dog for a walk every day. It is good for both of you. Take him jogging, hiking, in the car when running errands. Play fetch in the yard, teach him how to play Hide and Seek, teach him tricks, let him play with the kids. Take time from your busy schedule to relax with him and scratch his ears. Carry on a conversation with him. Weimaraners are sensitive and will share your moods. Your dog loves you and wants to be with you.



OBEDIENCE: It is wise to take your Weimaraner to basic obedience classes starting with puppy classes if they are available in your area. Weimaraners are strong willed and you need to get an early start in training them. Obedience classes and training will establish a bond between you and your dog. Your dog will learn to heel at your side, sit, stay, stand, lie down and come. Obedience classes also provide a means of socialization for your dog with other dogs and people.

Once you have completed an obedience class, you may obtain a title of CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC). This is awarded by AKC after the dog passes a series of simple obedience tests and demonstrates canine manners as learned in obedience class. These tests are usually put on by local obedience or breed clubs.

For those of you who enjoy the challenge of obedience training, you may want to go a step further. AKC offers obedience titles of COMPANION DOG (CD), COMPANION DOG EXCELLENT (CDX), UTILITY DOG (UD) and UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT (UDX), and, if you really persevere, OBEDIENCE TRAINING CHAMPION (OTCH). It is exciting to see a well trained dog perform not only in basic obedience, but also to hand signals, scenting and jumping hurdles while working as a team with his trainer. RALLY obedience competition is another fun activity.



AGILITY: This sport has become very popular with owners of active dogs. An agility course consists of a number of obstacles, jumps and tunnels which the dog must complete in a set time. Weimaraners are a “natural” at agility and love it. AKC offers a number of titles including NOVICE AGILITY (NA), OPEN AGILITY (OA), AGILITY EXCELLENT (AX) and MASTER AGILITY EXCELLENT (MX) along with jumping titles. The handler of the dog gets plenty of exercise also. This is really an exciting sport.



SHOW: Not all dogs are show dogs and not all owners are interested in showing. If your dog has good conformation, attitude and movement, you may want to try for the AKC title of CHAMPION (CH). At a dog show, a judge interprets the Weimaraner breed standard and picks the dog he feels most closely meets this standard. If that new pup grows up to be beautiful, he deserves that championship! Your breeder will be glad to help you with showing your dog.

AKC offers Junior Showmanship classes to young dog handlers from age 10 to 14 (Junior Classes) and age 14 to 18 (Senior Classes). Juniors are judges on their ability to present their dog, not on the quality of the dog. This is a great learning experience for a youngster.



HUNTING: With a little bit of training, your dog can give you many hours of pleasure hunting those elusive birds. Weimaraners can scent, point and retrieve. They will find those downed birds that can easily be missed without a dog. They will retrieve from water, but since they have a short coat, cold weather duck hunting is not recommended. Some Weimaraners are still used on big game in the more rugged parts of the country.

If you want to compete with your dog under hunting conditions, there are many activities you may want to consider. Competition requires more extensive training and handling which may be done by the owner or by a professional bird dog trainer. It is a great way to enjoy the outdoors with dogs and horses. There are a number of local dog clubs who put on field trials and hunt tests. At a field trial, the dogs may be run on foot or on horseback. They compete for points toward an AKC FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP (FCH) or AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP (AFC). In hunt test competition, AKC awards titles of JUNIOR HUNTER (JH), SENIOR HUNTER (SH) and MASTER HUNTER (MH).

The Weimaraner Club of America offers hunting ratings to members and their dogs. These ratings are NOVICE SHOOTING DOG (NSD), SHOOTING DOG (SD) and SHOOTING DOG EXCELLENT (SDX). Retrieving ratings are NOVICE RETRIEVING DOG (NRD), RETRIEVING DOG (RD), and RETRIEVING DOG EXCELLENT (RDX). They also award VERSATILE (V) And VERSATILE EXCELLENT (VX) titles to dogs who excel in several categories of competition.. Various Weimaraner Clubs throughout the country hold rating tests during the year.

TRACKING: Weimaraners have excellent noses and are super tracking dogs. Tracking is training the dog to accept a specific scent, then track that scent to an article left at the end of the track. There are several tracking clubs and classes in the area which can show you how tracking is done. Your dog can obtain the title of TRACKING DOG (TD) and TRACKING DOG EXCELLENT (TDX). If you wish to pursue nosework further, Weimaraners have been used to sniff for explosives, drugs, for Search and Rescue and other activities.

PET THERAPY: You may be interested in using your dog for Pet Therapy visiting hospitals and nursing homes. They give pleasure to the elderly, ill and lonely folks. The dog will need to pass some basic training tests conducted by Therapy Dogs Inc. and is awarded the title of THERAPY DOG. Your dog can bring smiles to the faces of folks who are shut-ins.

WEIMARANER CLUBS: There are two Weimaraner clubs in our area; SAN FRANCISCO BAY WEIMARANER CLUB and SACRAMENTO VALLEY WEIMARANER CLUB. Both of these clubs are quite active and provide dog walks, seminars in tracking and agility, Specialty Shows and Agility Trials, Field Trials, WCA rating tests, picnics with dog games and events. We urge you to join a local club and participate in events with your dog.

If your Weimaraner does not have AKC registration, you may apply for an ILP (Indefinite Listing Privilege) number from AKC. Go to their website at www.akc.com or e-mail AKC directly at ILP@akc.com for information on how to register your Weimaraner

Your Weimaraner can open up new fields of interest and can provide a means of making new friends and doing new things.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY WEIMARANER CLUB

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