

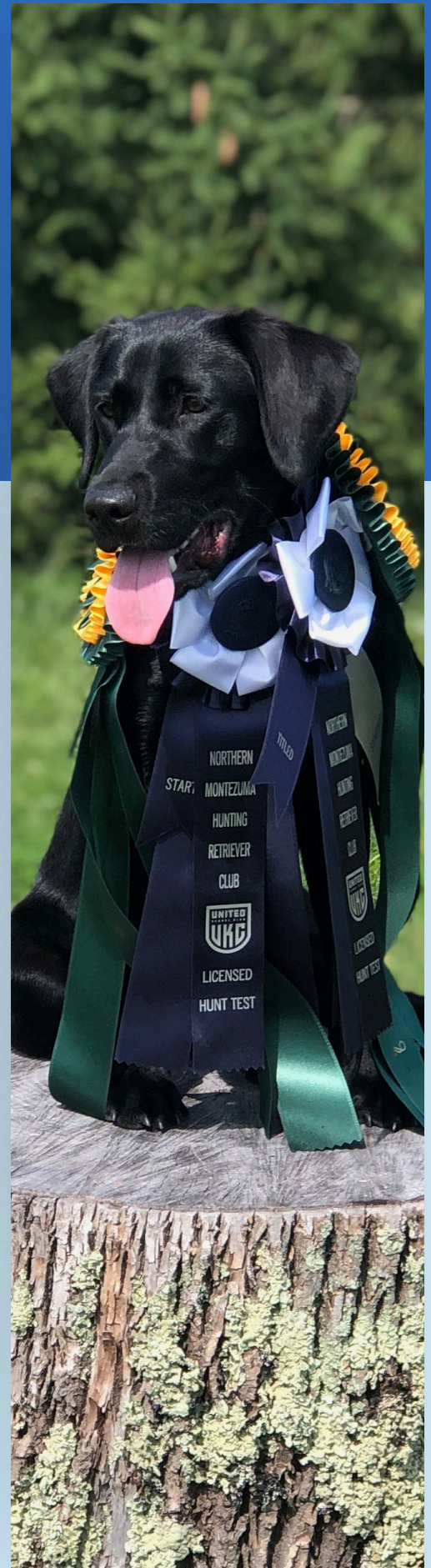


NEW RECIPIENT WELCOME PACKET



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY	3
WHAT WE'RE ABOUT	4
MEET THE TEAM	5
EXPECTATIONS	6
NEW PUPPY TIPS	7
NEW PUP SHOPPING LIST	8
REGISTRATION	9
CLUBS & SPORTS	10
TRAINING RESOURCES	11
HTTL SPOTLIGHT: FREDDY KING	12
RESOURCES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS	13
YOUR HTTL COMMUNITY	14



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



Congratulations, and welcome to the Hero To The Line (HTTL) family! We are thrilled to have you here and to celebrate the beginning of your journey with your new pup. This is the start of something truly special—a partnership built on trust, growth, and camaraderie.

This welcome packet is designed to be your guide as you step into the program. Inside, you'll find an overview of our organization, expectations, helpful tips on caring for your pup, and resources to support you and your pup along the way.

Our hope is that this packet makes you feel supported, informed, and excited for what lies ahead. Keep it close—you'll return to it often as you and your pup learn, grow, and thrive together.

We are honored to walk alongside you in this journey. Welcome to HTTL—we're so glad you're here.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

OUR VISION

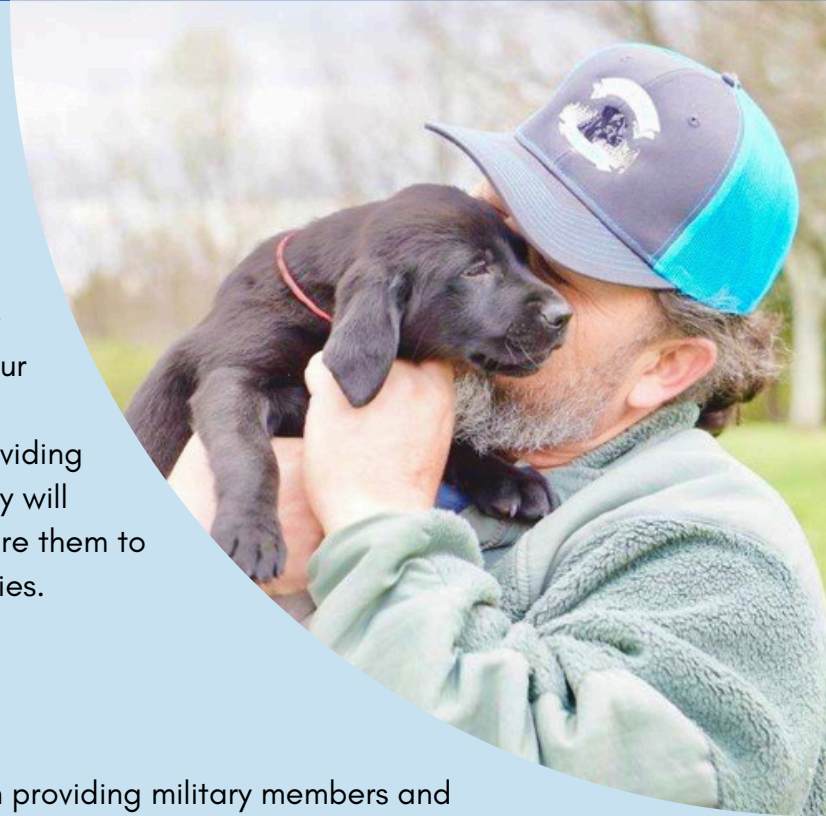
To be a leading non profit organization that people around the nation can rely on for access to the highest quality pup no matter where they are and establish the standard for the quality of training expected worldwide. Our organization will touch the life of military members and their families nationwide by providing them with access to a high-quality pup so they will have the skills and knowledge needed to inspire them to be change-makers within their own communities.

OUR MISSION

Our exceptional organization raises the bar in providing military members and families by introducing them into the active performance animal community, which provides endless opportunities to build a unique bond with your new pup. We compassionately provide the education and resources needed to live a fulfilling life. Our program offers training and hunting opportunities which help build and create lifelong friendships and provides them access to a high-quality competition within their communities. This program also helps re-establish the purpose, direction, motivation and camaraderie that so many veterans say they miss after they leave the service.

OUR VALUES

We honor the matter of carrying out, acting, and living the values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity and personal courage in everything we do. Our organization utilizes respect as the foundation of honor and the basis of integrity. A hallmark of our community is respect.



MEET THE TEAM

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE ON THIS JOURNEY.

Have questions? Need guidance? Looking for encouragement?

Our team is always here for you. Each of us is committed to walking alongside you and your pup – just reach out, we'd love to hear from you.



Craig Zimmer

PRESIDENT

cazimmer1@gmail.com



Brian Rollinson

VICE PRESIDENT

b.k.rollison@gmail.com



Tyler Stankye

OPERATIONS MANAGER

paugassett553@gmail.com



Guy Anderson

RECIPIENT MENTOR

guy@andersonkennels.com



Amy Smith

**BREEDER COORDINATOR,
PUPPY MENTOR**

amyjsmith1230@gmail.com



Reid Parrish

SPONSOR COORDINATOR

mitchparrish357@gmail.com

EXPECTATIONS

EXPECTATIONS FOR HERO TO THE LINE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As a valued member of the Hero to the Line community, we ask you to actively engage in the following ways to support our mission, connect with others, and ensure your pup's well-being.

▶ Engage in the Community Group and Share Updates

Actively participate in the Hero to the Line group chat by sharing your experiences, photos, and updates about your pup's progress and adventures. Regular engagement and posts strengthen our community and keep everyone inspired and connected.

▶ Join a Training Group for Your Pup's Sport or Task

Get involved in a training group for the sport or task you've chosen for your pup, such as agility or obedience. These groups offer support, structure, and a chance to bond with others who share your passion.

▶ Submit Yearly Vet Records

Send annual veterinary records to the Hero to the Line Operations Manager to ensure your pup's health and readiness for activities.

▶ Report Address Changes Within 30 Days

If you move, notify the Operations Manager of your new address within 30 days to keep our records accurate.

▶ Participate in Events and Promote Our Mission

Join Hero to the Line events like fundraisers or workshops and help spread our mission of empowering through canine companionship by sharing our story with others.

Your commitment helps our community thrive. Thank you for being part of Hero to the Line!



NEW PUPPY TIPS

GUIDANCE FROM AMY, SOUTHERN DREAM RETRIEVERS

Hero To The Line is proud to partner with Amy Smith, owner of Southern Dream Retrievers (SDR). With years of experience breeding, raising, and training Labradors, Amy knows what it takes to set a new pup up for success. Here are her New Puppy Tips to help guide you in training, bonding, and caring for your puppy during these important first weeks.

- ▶▶ It's never too early to start training your puppy. Keep the sessions short, and do several a day. Short sessions of perfection are way more important than long sessions of mediocrity.
- ▶▶ The most important command your puppy will ever have is SIT. It is not necessary to teach STAY. Sit means sit until another command is given. Use treats to reinforce desired behavior.
- ▶▶ If you need help with leash work, reach out and I can send you some videos of what that looks like for young pups.
- ▶▶ Do obedience and retrieving in separate sessions. You may want to use a long check cord to keep your puppy coming back to you instead of taking the bumper and running away with it. We don't want to start or reinforce bad habits.
- ▶▶ Work with your puppy on crate training. It is our recommendation that you continue that process indefinitely. That will be the puppy's safe space when left alone or overnight, and it helps with potty training, as well.
- ▶▶ Condition your puppy to a here whistle (3 tweets). This will be important later in training, so keep it up.
- ▶▶ Please don't ever hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns....that's what we're here for!



Amy Smith
SOUTHERN DREAM RETRIEVERS
HUNTSVILLE, TX

amyjsmith1230@gmail.com

<https://southerndreamretrievers.com/>



NEW PUP SHOPPING LIST

MORE GUIDANCE FROM AMY

Amy Smith of Southern Dream Retrievers has also shared her New Pup Shopping List to help you feel prepared and confident as you welcome your puppy home.

- **Food.** The food you feed your dog matters because it provides the essential nutrients they need for growth, energy, overall health, and a strong immune system. We feed our pups Inukshuk Marine 16. Inukshuk's website has a [map of resellers](#), and it is also available on [Chewy.com](#). Another food I recommend is the 4Health Puppy Lamb and Rice that can be purchased from [Tractor Supply](#).
- **Wire crate.** Crate training is essential because it provides your puppy with a safe, secure space, helps with housebreaking, and teaches them boundaries and structure. The one I use most is [found here - on Amazon](#). Medium is a good size to start with.
- **Antlers or sheds.** These are great for puppies to chew on. They do not splinter, are great for their teeth and last a long time. Just make sure to file the tines flat. If you do not have access to any, [here is a company on Etsy](#) that has really good ones. I get a pound of the medium antlers for puppies and young dogs. Rawhide is NEVER recommended because it can splinter, pose a choking hazard, and cause digestive blockages in puppies and dogs.
- **Flat buckle collar and lead.** You may not want to spend much on one until your puppy gets older. Biothane is always my go to because it is easy to keep clean and adjust. I love the ones from [Gun Dog Supply](#) because they come with custom id plates; however, it is not recommended that you ever put the dog's name on them. We don't want a stranger to know the dog's name.
- **Dog bed.** Kuranda makes the best on the market. These are the ones we use in the house and in the kennels. They are chew proof, orthopedic and easy to clean. You can [shop Kuranda Dog Beds here](#).



REGISTRATION



REGISTERING YOUR PUP

Registering with the United Kennel Club or American Kennel Club helps verify your dog's pedigree and breed authenticity, which matters for competitive events. It also grants access to their sanctioned shows, trials, and titles, boosting your dog's recognition and value in the dog world.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB (AKC) REGISTRATION

<https://www.akc.org/register/>



UNITED KENNEL CLUB (UKC) REGISTRATION

[https://www.ukcdogs.com/
registration](https://www.ukcdogs.com/registration)

CLUBS & SPORTS

MORE THAN TRAINING—BUILDING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

Getting involved in clubs, sports, and events isn't just about working with your pup – it's about staying active, meeting people who share your interests, and building a community around a common passion. These opportunities give you and your pup new challenges, lasting friendships, and the chance to grow together in a supportive environment. By participating, you'll discover purpose, joy, and camaraderie that extend far beyond the field.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB - CLUB SEARCH

<https://www.apps.akc.org/club-search/#/>

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB - SPORTS & EVENTS

<https://www.apps.akc.org/club-search/#/>



HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB - CLUB SEARCH

<https://www.hrc.dog/people/members.php>

HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB - EVENTS

<https://www.hrc.dog/events/>



NORTH AMERICAN HUNTING RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION - CLUB SEARCH

<https://nahra.org/Find-a-Club>



NORTH AMERICAN DIVING DOG

<https://northamericadivingdogs.com/>



NORTH AMERICAN SHED HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION

<https://sheddogtrainer.com/>



MORE DOGS MUSHROOM HUNTING

<https://moreldogs.com/>

TRAINING RESOURCES

RESOURCES TO BUILD SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

Getting started with your new pup is exciting, and the right resources make all the difference. Below are trusted websites, training programs, and books to help you build skills, strengthen your bond, and guide your pup from basic obedience to advanced retriever training.

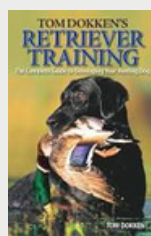
ONLINE TRAINING RESOURCES

- [North American Outdoorsman](#) Article, *Hunting Dog Training 101: A Guide for Training the Perfect Hunting Dog*
- [Cornerstone Gundog Academy](#) - Online videos to help you train your retriever.
- [The Retriever Trainer](#) - Created by Freddy King (*more from Freddy to follow*)
- [Bill Hillmann](#) - Offers a comprehensive, real-time training course that guides owners through the early stages of retriever development.
- [American Kennel Club](#) Article, *Diving Dogs 101: How to Compete in Dock Diving*

BOOKS TO BOOST YOUR TRAINING



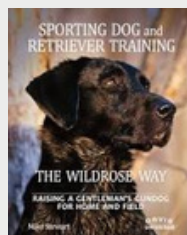
Truffle Dog: The Ultimate Guide to Finding a Fungi Fortune
Elizabeth Kalik
[Amazon](#)



Tom Dokken's Retriever Training: The Complete Guide to Developing Your Hunting Dog
Tom Dokken
[Amazon](#)



Training Your Dog to Hunt for Shed Deer Antlers
Jerry Thoms
[Walmart](#)



Sporting Dog and Retriever Training: The Wildrose Way: Raising a Gentleman's Gundog for Home and Field
Mike Stewart
[Amazon](#)

HTTL SPOTLIGHT: FREDDY KING



MEET FREDDY KING – TRAINER, MENTOR, AND FRIEND OF HTTL

Hero To The Line is proud to have Freddy King, creator of The Retriever Trainer (TRT), as a sponsor and supporter of our mission. Freddy has dedicated his career to helping handlers at every level—whether you’re raising a solid hunting partner, a competition-ready retriever, or simply a well-mannered pup you can enjoy at home.

Through his online program, The Retriever Trainer, Freddy offers step-by-step instruction that follows dogs from the very beginning stages all the way to Finished/Master level training. What makes his program unique is the transparency: Freddy shows the real process—the good, the bad, and the “whole lotta ugly”—so you can see how to work through challenges as they actually happen.

As Freddy often says, “You’re gonna get the good, the bad, and a whole lotta ugly.” That honesty is what makes his teaching so effective and relatable.

WHY FREDDY IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR YOU

- ▶▶ **Practical guidance:** From crate training to advanced handling drills, you’ll find tools you can use right away with your pup.
- ▶▶ **Accessible learning:** His program is only \$60/year—less than \$5 a month for a full library of training videos.
- ▶▶ **Direct support:** Members of the TRT program can even reach out to Freddy via Facebook Messenger with training questions.
- ▶▶ **Proven success:** His videos have guided countless handlers nationwide and are an invaluable tool for HTTL recipients.

EXPLORE MORE AND JOIN THE RETRIEVER TRAINER PROGRAM:

www.theretrievertrainer.com

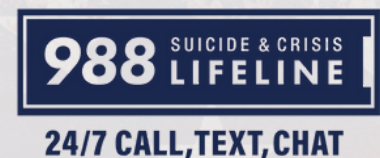
RESOURCES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Whether you're currently serving or have transitioned into civilian life, challenges can feel heavy at times. At HTTL, we want you to know that support is always within reach—for you, your family, and your pup.

IMMEDIATE HELP

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988 (or [chat](#)) anytime, day or night, to be connected with someone who can help right away.



MILITARY & VETERAN SUPPORT

- ▶ **Veterans & Military Crisis Line:** Call 988, then press 1, or text 838255 to connect with trained responders who understand military life.
- ▶ **VA Mental Health Services:** www.mentalhealth.va.gov - Resources for PTSD, depression, and access to care.
- ▶ **Military OneSource:** www.militaryonesource.mil - Free, confidential help for active-duty, Guard, Reserve, and their families.
- ▶ **Wounded Warrior Project:** www.woundedwarriorproject.org - Peer support, mental health programs, and community events.
- ▶ **Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB):** www.teamrwb.org - Building community through fitness, outdoor activities, and connection.

Reaching out is a sign of courage, not weakness. Lean on your pup, your teammates, and your community—you never have to walk this road alone.

YOUR HTTL COMMUNITY

STAY CONNECTED, STAY STRONG

Your journey with your new pup is just beginning, and you don't have to do it alone. We encourage you to connect with our community, introduce yourself, and start building relationships with others who share your passion for dogs and service. Be sure to follow us on our social media platforms to stay updated, share your experiences, and find encouragement along the way. Together, we're stronger.



[@Hero To TheLine](#)



[@hero2theline](#)



[@herototheline](#)



[@hero2theline](#)



[@hero2theline20](#)

SHARE THE MISSION

If you or someone you know would like to support HTTL, donations help us provide pups, training, and resources to service members, veterans, and their families. We use Zeffy, a 100% free fundraising platform, so every dollar goes directly to our mission.

💡 When donating, you may see an optional prompt to support Zeffy. This is not required – your generosity to HTTL is what makes the difference.

➡ [Donate on Zeffy](#)

WEAR THE CAUSE

Show your support and help spread the word with HTTL merchandise. Every purchase makes a difference and keeps our mission visible in the community.

➡ [Shop HTTL on Printify](#)

