

Some good friends of mine lost their GSP in an unfortunate accident, and had found Ed and Shining Star GSP online in hopes to replace their lost family member with one from Ed's Kennel. Throughout the process, they were going to pick out their new family member and asked if I would come along. It was a bit of an articulated plan on their part. I had watched their past pup grow up, and knew him very well, so they really wanted a set of eyes and a voice of reason for picking out the right pup for them. The other side of that plan which I was unaware of, was to infect me with puppy fever as I had shown interest in finding myself a hunting buddy sometime in the past. That is when Ed and Emily stepped in. I discussed the next litter of Binks and Nikkie with Ed. After seeing his boys in action, and thinking it over, I decided to take the next step and become a dog owner again. I had several dogs throughout my life, but I'm not sure any of them were able to get me ready for what was ahead of me. Finally the day came when I was able to pick out my own new addition to my family, and eventually take Oberon home with me. Now going back to the fact that bringing home a young puppy was not my first rodeo, HOWEVER, I do not know how Ed and Emily are able to breed such intelligent dogs! I will admit, a very intelligent puppy is extremely fun, and a pleasure to train. Overall puppy training was a breeze with him as he picked everything up so well. Now, the flip side of a coin, you expect a sock to wind up missing, or a piddle on the floor every so often, but when you intentionally remove something from his grasp and place it in a "safe" location, you do not expect a 10 week old puppy to figure out how to get back that very tasty shoe he had. I realized real quick, he had the ability even then to want something so bad, that he'd find any way to get it.

Several months went on, and I thought I had a really good puppy on my hands. And I did. But I could tell, that brain is going to get both of us in trouble one of these days. So tapping back into Ed, I decided to take Obie back to puppy boot camp. BEST DECISION I have made for both him and me. I left a good puppy, and picked up a great puppy. I realized fast that I have the pup I desired. A few more months went on, and I was pleasantly surprised by his new found obedience and skills, as was everybody else. The only question that still rang in my head was, what am I going to do about fully teaching him how to hunt birds with me. Ed unleashed a wild beast during puppy school. NOT IN A BAD WAY...Obie is a very sweet dog, but if there is a bird in the vicinity...you will know of its presence very quickly. So I worked with my friends and their own Shining star Verlander to start to tap into Obie's trainability and see what we could do to get him ready for the fall hunting season. There was one major issue, WORK. I was seeing good things with Obie, but I didn't quite know how to tap into the true hunter he could be with the time and knowledge I had to offer. I decided at that point, I owe it to Obie to seek appropriate and consistent training that I couldn't deliver. Once again I turned to Ed and discussed adult dog hunt training. Not long before he was set to go back to see Ed again, we were out shooting some clays as the pups were out playing near the house. I had noticed that Obie wasn't quite a fan of what was going on. He was introduced to guns, but something bugged him about what we were doing. When I dropped him off for adult dog training I discussed this with Ed, and a week later it was determined that my Obie was in fact a bit gun shy. Ed and I discussed it, and he said there is a chance to cure him of this. He told me he has tried 3 times and been successful twice of breaking a dog of gun shyness. I gave him the go ahead to make Obie his 4th attempt. I knew it was a VERY hard task, but wanted to try as his other abilities were so strong. I had not heard any news from Ed since that phone call breaking the bad news. Until my phone rang one day a few weeks later, and he had told me that things are looking really positive and the 4th attempt is turning out successful. Obie has such an amazing prey drive, that the gun is a means to the birds and Ed was able to put the two together for him. After so much progress, I received a phone call at

the end of his training that I in fact have a hunting machine and we setup a date for me to come and take Obie home.

The day I picked him up we met in the field so I could learn myself how he was trained and how to handle him appropriately. We had a great discussion as we planted birds so I could see how he had progressed once we released him. Obie hopped out of the truck, and was instantly excited to go find birds. He was flawless, so flawless to the fact that we had to call him off a bird he was on the scent of that was about 200 yards away from where we were. He was willing to oblige. Three chukars planted, and three chukars to the hand after they were pointed out, shot, and dropped. I was extremely impressed. Not a single hint of gun shyness, and a flawless execution. Ed had not over promised on the term hunting machine.

Now, we fast forward to bird season. Ed had warned me that if you miss a bird, he has trained Obie to be embarrassed for me and to be very upset. As great as Obie is, the hunter must be of good aim...I learned that Ed was not kidding. I had taken Obie and a friend of mine out on opening pheasant day. He pointed out 3 birds, I missed one that flew at me, no shot on one that flew at my truck, and my friend missed one. All three times I could tell that if Obie could talk, the entire ride home would have been riddled with harassment. He never gets deterred. Every day is a new day, and every time the orange hat and gun case come out of the closet, he is in the truck before I can open the doors.

I could not ask for a better companion or hunting buddy. He is my first GSP, and likely not my last. Obie has impressed me every step of the way, and I'm very happy I made the decision to make him part of my family. The entire process of picking Obie out to where he is today, Ed has been there through all of it, at times just a phone call to get advice or to see how Obie is doing. His passion for not only his dogs, but for all of the dogs that spawn from the Shining star kennels is unmatched. A lot of people would have given up on Obie at the first hint of gun shyness. Ed poured a lot of time and personal attention to ensure Obie would reach his potential in the field. For that I thank him, and has resulted in the best fall I have had in years, if not ever.

Thank you Ed for an amazing addition to my family,

Tyler Ramseyer
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