

Innovative training solutions

TESTED BY
REBECCA GREEN

Lez Graham, author of *The Pet Gundog* series, has teamed up with Gencon to produce a range of innovative training solutions. Lez is known for championing reward-based gundog training coupled with a common-sense approach and these new products reflect and encompass all that Lez believes in.

The Slip & Clip lead is two metres long with a clip at one end, making it ideal for puppy training. It is long enough to start recall and stay training without the need for a long line. Then, once your puppy is walking nicely, it's incredibly easy to convert to a fixable slip lead, with a double stop to prevent the slip over-tightening.

Sporting Shooter vet Vicky Payne bought one and says: "I was looking for a new clip-on lead for my puppy when I came across something better...the Slip & Clip lead. Used one way the lead is a clip-on lead suitable for puppy classes, and used the other way it is a slip lead for when you progress to gundog work. The material is lightweight and, being flat, the slip lead runs easily (unlike some rope slip leads). The slip lead also features an extra stopper to prevent choking if the puppy lunges suddenly. The two-metre length is ideal for early recall and stay work, but the lead coils nicely into the hand

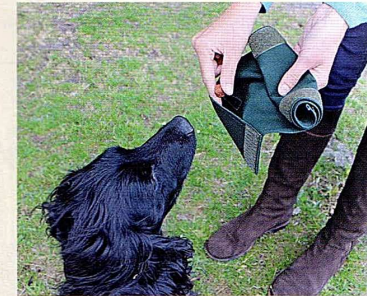
when the puppy is walking closer. My only slight concern is how durable the plastic stoppers will be... but only time will tell. This is definitely a lead to consider for trainee gundogs."

For those with more than one dog, the Lez Graham range includes the lightweight Brace Lead which, with its clever design, allows dogs to be walked on either side, as well as side-by-side.

The *pièce de résistance* however, has got to be the Retrieving Roll. A wonderful way to introduce a dog to canvas, regardless of their age, this little training aid can assist with transitional training and should be a part of every gundog trainer's kit. It's a great way to introduce canvas to young dogs, and as a remedial aid, reluctant retrievers soon learn the only way to get the treat from the little pouch is to return it to you. "Having tried the Roll out on my own dogs," writes Rebecca, "I am really impressed. It's such a clever idea, especially as it can later be used around a conventional dummy. This is definitely staying in my training bag."

RRPs: Slip & Clip Lead – £9.95, Brace Lead – £15.95, Retrieving Roll – £12.50

www.trainedforlife.co.uk
www.gencon-allin1.co.uk



H-DuO drinks bottle

TESTED BY
RYAN KAY

To keep my dog in top form whilst out shooting or at a trial, I usually carry a couple of water bottles, some food, and a soft fabric drinking bowl in my game bag. The whole kit and caboodle gets thrown in and jumbled about, the canvas-style drinking bowl making sure everything gets damp too! However, this bottle and collapsible bowl combo from Dexas makes the job a bit easier and less cluttered. The bottle is split into two compartments, accommodating either a separate drink for you and Fido, or what I prefer to do is, fill one half with water and the other with some of his dried food, or Scooby snacks. The clip-on, collapsible bowl pops up in a second and, once

used, a couple of taps and it's practically dry again, ready to shove back in your bag. Admittedly, it doesn't look particularly subtle in a shooting environment, but it does the job well.

There is just one obvious little accident waiting to happen with this nifty bottle: if one side has water for the dog and the other holds your vodka and tonic... make sure you don't get them mixed up!

The Dexas Popware H-DuO drinking bottle with collapsible travel cup is available at www.xtradog.com. Not the cheapest product at £19.95 but you should pick one up for around £15 if you shop around online or at one of the game fairs.



Ready for launch

If you're looking for a dummy launcher to complete your kit, this one from RRT is extremely versatile and can be added to over time, making it a more affordable option.

The system consists of a base unit which can hold up to eight firing tubes, each of which accommodates an RRT hand-held dummy launcher.

You can start with the basic system – base, one firing tube and one hand launcher (which lots of people already have so this is offered as an optional extra) and a release system, then add on additional firing tubes and RRT launchers as and when you like.

The launcher tubes are individually adjustable vertically and they can rotate 360 degrees. Another base can be attached which would double the amount of launchers to 16. An optional wheel kit and handle could then attach to the base for easy transport. The launcher tube accepts any RRT hand-held launcher made in the last 20 years. Simply slide in your launcher with no modifications needed. The launcher comes complete with a transmitter and receiver, but is compatible with any manufactured release set-up.

RRP: £371.45 www.gundoggear.co.uk

