



or Chesapeake.”

But special consideration must be given to the DL’s distinct prey drive. Their desire to pursue extends beyond gamebirds to wild animals like

raccoons, skunks and porcupines. Consequently, the DL owner needs to be on guard for close encounters. Even cats on the loose can be considered a target species.

“Gertie, our four-year-old German longhair, was raised in our home with two house cats that co-exist comfortably with the dog. On cold nights, all three of them will sleep piled together in front of the fireplace,” said Ed Eggers of Fargo, N.D.

“But any stray cat that crosses our fenced-in back yard is in trouble if Gertie sees it. A fast cat that knows it should run when Gertie comes after it will be OK. But any old tomcat that stops, raises its back and wants to fight will lose the battle.”

To keep DLs on the task of hunting a specific target, focus on gamebirds as the main purpose of most of your hunts, Eggers said.

TRAINING TIPS Though most DLs respond well to conventional hands-on training techniques, many professionals recommend using an e-collar for advanced training objectives. Jim Keller, a full-time trainer of versatile gun dogs at Keller’s Kennel near Lincoln, Neb., said electronic collars are a good idea even for an experienced DL: “For those who hunt upland gamebirds and shoot waterfowl in really wild places, I also recommend a combination e-collar with stimulation and beeper-locator for even the best trained longhair,” he said.

Schaefer concurs. “I would recommend using an e-collar when training and hunting most any DL, or any other high-powered versatile hunting dog for that matter,” she said. “But only if the e-collar operator is fully competent in the use of the device. I have found a combination collar with both stimulation and a beeper-locator to be a good way to enforce lessons in basic obedience and to find a dog when out-of-sight in heavy cover.”

For the willing trainer and hunter, finding a DL breeder isn’t too challenging in spite of the breed’s obscurity.

“Most all reputable German long-haired pointer breeders will try hard to place their pups with buyers who are hunters,” said Monica Jacob of Rochester, Mich. “Anyone calling a breeder should expect to be quizzed about their general knowledge of gun

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