

**Duluth Retriever Club**  
**Grounds and Facilities: Policies, Rules, and Guidelines**

- **DRC Membership** is required to be on any property owned or leased by the DRC.
- **Guests** are allowed one time use when accompanied by a member in good standing.
- **Keep Gates to DRC Properties Locked.** Lock the gate when you depart the property, even if you intend to come back after a while. The gates should be kept open when training, which signals to others that training is in progress and to proceed slowly and with caution.
- **Stay on established roads.** During the spring or following a hard rain, the grounds can become very soft, Do not drive off established roadways since this will damage fields. When you park, stay as close to a roadway as possible and avoid wet areas. If you leave any ruts, it is **your responsibility** to repair them. Ruts can become a problem for the equipment used to mow the properties, not to mention dangerous for running dogs.
- **Pick up after yourself.** This includes all trash, food, and empty shotgun shells. If you use surveyor's tape to mark blinds and/or marks, pick it up when you are done training. Don't leave tape tied to bushes or overhanging branches even if you intend to come back the next day. If you see tape left by someone else, put it in your pocket. NEVER LEAVE DEAD BIRDS / BUMPERS IN THE FIELD. Pay careful attention to the number of birds / bumpers that you take into the field and be sure that you take the same number out.
- **Have respect for other trainers and their dogs.** If you arrive at a particular training site and see that it is occupied, you have three options: 1) ask if it would be alright to join the group or if you would be interfering with them if you worked on another part of the field, 2) wait for them to finish, 3) find another place to train. Option 1 may or may not make sense, depending on who the people are and what they are doing. You may find, however, that they are doing something that interests you. In this case, you should feel free to walk up and to talk to them, as long as you don't interfere with the working dog. If you're not interested in what they are doing, you can ask how long they think that they will be training.

Often fifteen minutes of patience will get you access to the site you want.

**Communication** is key!

- **Training with live birds requires special consideration.** Gun safety is of paramount importance. In addition, it is important to consider where the shotgun shell pellets may land. Flyers should never be flighted in the direction of any nearby paved roads or dwellings. Planted birds (for flushing or pointing dogs) should be located well away from roadways, both for gun safety as well as the safety of the dogs. The use of live birds also requires consideration of the animals. Treat training birds with respect. Dispatch any cripples as soon as possible by humane methods. The DRC prohibits, on its grounds, shooting of firearms by anyone under the influence of alcohol. Anyone working at a field trial or hunting test is prohibited from using alcohol until the last dog has run.
- **All training must cease 24 hours prior to any field trial or hunting test.** This applies to all club members even if they have no connection to the event (as a worker, participants, etc.) There are at least three reasons for this. First, this is required by the AKC rules and procedures. Whenever we host one of these events, we act as an extension of the AKC and must abide by their rules. Second, judges generally spend the day before each trial or test touring the grounds and setting up tests. They need to be able to do this free of distractions. Third, training the day before the test may leave scented areas that will confuse the dogs running the event.
- **Preserve and protect Club Property.** People who are not club members do not belong on club property. Report all questionable activities to the Board of Directors or a club officer. Provide descriptions (license plates, type of ATV or dog, etc.) if you can. Confrontations are not encouraged. If appropriate, however, you may suggest that trespassers join the club if they want to continue to use the property (provided that it is a condoned use).
- **Camping.** The DRC can provide limited electrical access for campers. Judges working a DRC event, who wish to camp, will have their sites reserved. Those entered in a DRC event may use the remaining sites during that event on a first come first serve basis. Camping at any time not related to a DRC event is not allowed unless it has been preapproved by the DRC Board of Directors. A donation of \$20 per night to cover DRC expenses is suggested.