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PAINT RIVER LLEWELLIN SETTERS

THE WAY WE RAISE OUR PUPS INTO DOGS

This is an outline to aid in the raising of your Paint River Llewelin Setter puppy. Puppyhood is filled with both joys and challenges. Many of you are experienced dog owners, and even Llewelin Setter owners, so to you I say— continue to do what has worked for you and use this material to better your own practices. We will cover the genetic disposition of the breed and what you can expect from your little Llew pup from Day One through its development. There will be a lot of hunting material intertwined throughout this article given many go to hunting homes and it is a part of who they are.

Character:

As the breeder of my first Llewelin once told me—These are not dogs. They are *bird dogs!*

I always prefer to highlight the classic things people complain about first, because ultimately these are the things that you convinced yourself were not a big deal and then...

Llewellins *love* to **dig, chew and bark**. They are amazing escape artists! And can pretty much jump above your head when they are really happy (which is 99% of the time). The thing about this breed is that they were

designed to be loved for exactly who they are. I do not mean that you need to embrace all of their usually bad behaviors, but you do need to understand that these things will happen, and when it's appropriate they will either need attention or be managed in a way that works well for your lifestyle.

I often say that dogs force people to be very good housekeepers—this breed is no exception to that statement. You wanted a dog that is very intelligent, with loads of mental energy— you got one! You have to hold your ground, set boundaries and breathe until maturity kicks in.

Llewellins love love, they love to hunt and they love to express themselves. This family of Llewelin Setters has been very consistent with having loads of birdiness, intelligence, stamina, a great nose, and a phenomenal family companion.

Llewellins do best with clear, consistent handling coming from a confident handler with a strong presence BUT that has a soft touch. These are not GSPs or Brittanys! Not that any dog or breed should have excessive e-collar and/or heavy-handed training techniques but this breed will typically be ruined under those conditions more quickly than some of our other breed stereotypes. They'll do better with an easy-going trainer/hunter than a triple type-A control freak. These dogs are naturals plain and simple: they'll get better and better as they mature and exposed to more situations. No dogs are designed to be robots and hunt mechanically. If a dog naturally quarters on the hunt—ok— cool—

I guess... but I could care less about its pattern because depending upon the terrain, the most efficient hunting doesn't really have anything to do with patterns. It has to do with a good nose, problem-solving ability, bird sense and the dog's knowing where they have hunted and cleared territory and where they have not. Make sure fundamental obedience commands are in place but beyond that allow your dog to teach you to bird hunt. As long as it's a team player you'll learn more from the dog than it will from you!

Medical care:

Your pup has received zero or two combination vaccines by PRL for distemper/parvo/+ (listed on their history sheet provided to you to give to your vet) and will need a total of three puppy boosters with at a minimum of the first vaccine often given by PRL at six to eight weeks of age. I recommend the first two vaccines be given two weeks apart then the third and final booster four weeks after that then one more a year later. Going forward I get a titer on the dog at five years old.

I like to start the **Lyme** vaccine between ten to twelve weeks of age and give at least one additional booster two to four weeks after the first vaccine. This is a yearly vaccine. It is very safe and effective in the prevention of Lyme disease. (I pull thousands of ticks off my dogs every year and they never have had Lyme Disease. Anaplasmosis yes but never Lyme.)

A puppy **Rabies** vaccine, which I would suggest around sometime between four and six months of age. Rabies vaccine must be done every three years by law. I prefer to give this vaccine last because this is the vaccine that dogs seem to have reactions to more than others so given Lyme is a big concern in many areas I like to have the dogs protected to that first prior to giving the Rabies vaccine. If the dog were to have a reaction to the Rabies vaccine you certainly would not be vaccinating it anytime soon and that would make it vulnerable to Lyme disease if not already vaccinated.

I always space out all vaccines two weeks apart during the puppy vaccination series. There's a lot of vaccines and you want your pup to maximally bounce back from it and also know if sensitive to a vaccine you'll know which one. So no matter what the vaccine schedule make sure it has always been two weeks since the last vaccine administered.

If you plan to neuter your male this should *not* be done before 18 months old. Females should *not* be spayed prior to having had at least two heat cycles and wait another *three months* afterward the second heat cycle, as her body has fully concluded that cycle. All mammals' physical, mental, emotional, and physiological development is largely based on hormones (testosterone {boys}, estrogen {girls}). Removing these body parts responsible for producing these hormones before they have been fully active and mature can be very harmful to the dog's health.

Europe is much more progressive and educated on the detriments of neutering dogs, to the point, where they typically only do it in medical necessity situations. There are consistent results showing that there is no evidence in neutering dogs positively affects their behaviors for being a family dog. I agree with these independent third party studies based on my over twenty years of training and breeding family-working dogs. Interestingly, in Norway, unless it's medically required it is actually illegal to neuter dogs. Chew on that! Our country means well but we live in a shelter dog culture where dog owners are perpetually irresponsible and we have unplanned breeding of dogs constantly. Your vet will likely send you spay/neuter reminders starting when your dog is four to six months old. You would never do it to your human children for obvious reasons unless medically necessary so stop and pause on that for a moment.

Paint River Llewelin Setters come with a three- year health guarantee on any congenital defects that visibly affect the health of the dog, which is waived completely if they are neutered/spayed prior to the suggested timetables mentioned aboved. Your PRL pup must be fed a high quality grain-free kibble diet with a protein not exceeding 33%, fat not less than 15% OR on a raw diet. Vaccination schedule must follow PRL recommendations. Any deviations will result in a complete loss in guarantee. In the event there are any congenital defects in the first three years that ends the dog's life or disables it from hunting, you will receive a free puppy if desired,

providing you will care for your first dog as a loving family member. You will be responsible for any shipping costs.

Housebreaking & Diet:

The number one factor for success in controlling elimination with the average pup is due to handler anticipation. Let's start out with an eight-week old pup. Key times to anticipate elimination are after the pup wakes up, even if it has only been asleep for five minutes, after eating or drinking; within fifteen to twenty minutes, max, anytime the pup gets very stimulated mostly during and after play, and anytime the pup disappears from the main room in which it is being stimulated, go find that pup quickly! Taking all of these times into consideration, keep in mind that the average eight week old pup will eliminate possibly fifteen to twenty times per day, including three to six bowel moments — that's completely normal.

Please make sure that the pup is receiving the proper amount of food. Food does not take long to get from one end to the other! When a person feeds more than the necessary quantity that will add to the problem and often cause loose stool. You cannot take the pup outside too much, the more the pup goes potty outside the more it will want to go potty outside. If you are home take that pup outside 20-30 times in a single day. Dogs want to eliminate outdoors— it's natural, so facilitate this desired behavior. All our pups are feed twice a day starting at three weeks old. Both A.M. and P.M. meals should be rationed evenly. Do NOT only feed your dog once daily, this is not best for their digestion.

Working dogs during the season can be fed a small amount of food in the A.M. I prefer to give a ¼ cup of kibble or a raw meat golf ball size meatball (only meatball if part of usual diet) three hours prior to workout. That's means that I will feed at 5am and no later if hunting at 8am. I will often give the dog half a cup of food one hour post hunt after their respiration has returned to normal. It's better and more safe for them to work without a gut full of food. I will then make up for any lack of food in the evening meal. When not in the hunt season or conditioning season I will feed twice a day even rations 10-12 hours apart. Once a day feeding in the evening has proven to be healthy as well for working dogs but metabolically they digest their food in 4-11 hours depending upon food type, so I've always preferred twice a day.

There are many great foods out there today: *Acana Meadowlands* is what my own dogs and your puppies eat. There are many terrific grain-free foods these days unless supplementing with raw try to avoid foods with more than 33% protein. Sometimes these grain-free foods are a little too high in protein and in the event the puppies can develop panosteitis (pano), more commonly called "Growing pains," it is recommended to give a lower protein food (20% or lower for a couple months) and often that helps. I do not deviate from this diet unless pano actually occurs, usually seen in young dogs under 14 months of age, exhibited by lameness most often in a front leg. A completely raw diet is ten years to my working dogs, there has been no time in their lives they have looked better. That being said, plenty of dogs live 15 years eating junk in a bag but it doesn't mean that it's good for them or that it's not

negatively affecting them. Interestingly, I have never seen a dog have panto on a raw diet as there is no protein percentage great than 20% protein in raw foods. Keep in mind dog food is measured in percentage (volume) and human food is measured in weight (mass).

When the pup goes out to go potty, give praise and say “potty” every time he or she *is in the act of going*. If you do this your pup consistently, will go potty on command in the future. That’s very helpful down the road. A handler certainly has enough times to practice this command. Just from saying “potty” each time your pup eliminates you will have practiced this two hundred to three hundred times in the first month. Please understand that it is normal for it to take one to four months to housebreak a puppy so do your best and be patient.

Crate Training & Toys:

I do use a crate to aid in housebreaking and house manners. I recommend purchasing a crate that the pup will fit into when fully grown. We only want enough room in the crate for the pup to stand up and lie down to go to sleep. If your pup is eliminating in the crate and can get away from the mess, then try blocking off any extra area with a solid object until the pup grows big enough to need that additional space.

Purchase an enclosed kennel, like the *vari-kennel*. Enclosed crates are recommended over the complete wire crates. We want the crate to be a place of security. The wire crates leave the pup exposed and feeling

vulnerable, not to mention that they are difficult to clean in the event of an accident. The wire crate poses a greater chance of injury to the pup if the puppy is having a hard time adjusting and trying to get out.

Place the crate in the room where the dog will be permanently sleeping. Placing the pup in the crate when nobody will be home is standard practice. *The crate is only used in a positive sense, never as a form of punishment* (Simply—none of that “bad dog go to your room” stuff). The crate is used to teach the pup to sleep while the family is away. It is also used to teach the pup to control elimination, and to teach the pup not be destructive. I usually start to trust the pup in small doses outside of the crate at six to eight months of age, or until the pup has rectified all of its problems that I relate to crate training. Yes, there are some dogs that can never be trusted, but most can be trusted in time. Many Llewelin Setters may have to be one year old before giving the freedom and not being destructive. When you do start the freedom do so in the following intervals for assessment— 30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours, 4 hours, do not exceed 8 hours. I like to see three to five consecutive successes at each time interval before I move on to the next one. Keep in mind that some dogs are much more trustworthy than others but this is a very systematic approach to the worst-case scenario and trying to prevent it. Sometimes having a radio or television on a low volume or a fan on helps to relax the pup and muffle any noises he or she might hear, which would upset the confined pup. If the pup regresses due to certain undesired behaviors, then place the pup back in the crate while you are

away from the house for a week or more before attempting to trust the pup again to see if we can have a healthy reset of behavioral patterns.

During the time that someone is home, the crate door should be left open so that the dog can go in and out as it pleases. Often the dog views the crate as a den. The crate should be available to the dog throughout its entire life.

Food should never be in the crate at anytime, only during specified meal times. This encourages elimination and a real big mess! Other than a piece of kibble or two to encourage the pup to go in positively.

Toys and a sturdy, safe, absorbent bedding should be in the crate at all times and yes, some dogs are too destructive to have bedding in their crate. Toys I recommend putting in the crate are: any Kong or Kong-like toys and real bones. The bones should be thick ones that commonly do not splinter, generally speaking I always tell my clients to get bones that clearly are too big for the dog. That's usually a way to always be safe. For bedding I often use mid-grade towels folded over once or twice.

Socialization:

Socialization is always commonly talked about topic. We could write many books on it. I would sum up socialization as doing everything we can to insure that our pup has a positive experience with all it in encounters to the best of our abilities for the first year of its life. So before you go and do

anything with your pup try to have the foresight as to what may be the worst case scenario and make your decisions accordingly.

Besides dogs that the pup lives with I really prefer the pup to only meet dogs totally friendly in nature, during their development. This helps promote as much confidence in the pup as can be encouraged naturally. Typically this allows the pup to be able to absorb bad experiences more appropriately without any long-term harm due to the pup historically having positive experiences.

Llewelin Setters are typically soft-natured dogs (with lots of drive when in any outdoor pursuits). If not socialized well, soft dogs tend to become very timid and fearful with things and individuals they are unfamiliar with. For this reason, I feel it's important to have a lot of quality exposure for your puppy as it goes through its development.

Long-terms routines & obedience training:

When you bring your pup home it is very important to get settled into a routine that you can follow on a daily basis. We want the feeding, walking, crate time; play time, etc to be as consistent as possible so the pup can positively anticipate the routine of the day. Getting your puppy in the groove is so important. I also like to get them off the leash outside in a safe environment as much as possible so they can hike around a bit with me and just get use to being with me on a hike. Obviously just around the yard is a hike to them when they are so small. When they are outside at this young age be active out there with them so while they are exploring and doing their

thing they feel that you are a part of it all not just someone that opens up the door and watches from the window.... You have plenty of time to do that when they are older.

From two to four months of age, my primary focus is on house-breaking, crate training, on and off leash routines in and around property and socialization with my friends, family and *maybe other dogs of the same age and health*. The pups are simply too young to demand anything that is actually usable in the real world at such a young age, when referring to structured obedience with higher demands. They are too young to handle any problem solving stress of the real world. No two month old puppy is going to do heeling, sit-stays and comes to a reliable degree based on their mental development level. So save your time for teachings that will result in very productive training come three to four months of age. You literally will be able to have the pup doing more on the first day of training at four months old than the puppy you have been working with carefully with from two to four months of age.

Once they are four months old I start teaching them the **Whoa** command (a standing stay which us bird dog people like to have up our sleeve if needed and appropriate to employ in the field while working a dog in a hunt or training. I do not use the word **Stay** in this context— I use **Stay** with a **Sit** command so always a **Sit-Stay**. I do not use tables to teach **Whoa**. There is nothing wrong with tables at all. My preferred method is to teach the heel command and when I stop I say, **Whoa**, and **Heel** when I want to resume walking.

I personally do not use the words **Come** or **Heel**. I use a combination command I refer to as **Base**. This means go to my left side whether I am standing still or moving therefore it can be used for both the purposes of traditional heeling and come command practices. **Come** and **Heel** are fine if that is what you prefer— it is simply a personal preference of mine due to having my Llewellins with me while I'm working with clients' dogs and using the traditional commands. This just saves me any communication confusion between my dogs and my clients' dogs.

In total most of my Llewelin Setters are only taught the commands **Whoa**, **This Way**, **Base**, **Sit**, and **Stay**. In addition, they learn that four or more blasts on the whistle means **Base**, as does a beeping tone on any training collar system. Two blasts on the whistle means change their general direction from the way they are currently going to the direction I am generally walking. I say **This Way** I will teach them the understanding of this by simply taking a few steps in the desired direction in conjunction with an arm wave to signal to the dog we are heading **This Way**. I teach four toots on the whistle means to **Base** by having the dog on a **Sit-Stay** or **Whoa** command from at least ten feet away or greater distance and immediately after calling the dog with the **Base** command I will blow at least four toots on the whistle. Once that is done for several lessons in high repetition then will attempt to do the whistle first then say **Base** if needed. Repeat that structure frequently. Make sure to give your dog loads of earned praise.

Setters respond very well to strong praise as they generally have a very active pleasing gene. This is really all you need to teach your Llewelin Setter as far as hunting-family dog command structures.

Kissing Sounds:

I teach all of these commands this way. I do, however, also rely mostly on kissing sounds I make. From the time the puppy comes home I say, **Base**, with kissing sounds. This enables me to be quiet when hunting and just make kissing sounds to have my dog cast back in my direction.

The kissing sounds become a universal language for me and my dogs. When I want them to come to me. When I ask them if the point they are on ahead, do they really have that bird and I need to come up there? ...a dog that is confident and has the bird will not break the point. When I've searched for the bird and come up empty after a while and want to send them ahead to hunt. These are all times I use the kissing sounds and the dogs quickly learn the context to all the situations. The key idea is connectivity.

The No Command:

Always and only used for eliminating indoors, destruction, excessive barking, aggression... you get the idea.

Hunting, training & bird work:

Now to the fun stuff!! You need a several things to make a great bird dog in the coming year—

1. Great genetics
2. Bird exposure
3. Conditioning
4. Commands —whoa, this way & base (come and heel)
5. Garmin Alpha (not absolutely necessary but what a terrific tool!)
6. Lots of patience!

Instead of a book or long list of things to do with your dog. Lets just talk about the things you should NOT do with your Llewelin Setter. These dogs are naturals. They are meant to hunt with you as a team, as a copilot, not you as an insanely dominant leader directing them constantly. Don't worry about quartering. Hunting is about instinct, the dog's ability to develop problem-solving abilities and learn how to hunt efficiently, that's survival. This family of dogs' reputation for intelligence is phenomenal. The idea that we can tell the dog how to hunt better is actually kind of silly don't you think?

Genetics:

I work with dogs of all kinds for all reasons for my livelihood.

Something my friends hear me say all the time is that I do not want to be remembered for being a great trainer. I want to be remembered for having great dogs. Of course, there is good training and there is bad training but the better your genetic base is for what you are looking for within a dog, the less work it is for the handler/hunter. A great bird dog is always born not made in

training. Training can help your great dog reach it's maximum potential but the genetics have to be there too! Do not let anyone tell you any different.

Bird Exposure:

You need bird exposure to make a great bird dog. These dogs will hunt all day long without finding any birds but if you want them to learn their prey, stay sharp, committed to birds-only (and not rodents and deer) then you need your dog on birds. I always start my pups with manual foot traps with pigeons between two to four months of age. Once the pup is pointing from five to ten feet or greater distance from the bird more consistently I will then transition to remote controlled launchers. Based on more confident solid points I feel comfortable that the pup will not get smacked in the face by an opening launcher or spooked from the spring of it. Since I do not have great wild bird habitat directly out my back door pigeons have been my lifeline dating back to my early childhood. Many of you will be hunting pheasants a lot— if possible, try to start your setter on almost any other upland bird for a while prior to going pheasants. The dogs learn how to hunt each species of birds proficiently. Pheasants just make me nervous on novice dogs starting out. I like pigeons best, then chukar and quail for planted birds. From there we transition to our wild birds as we enter into the hunting season.

Conditioning:

You could have the best dog in the world but if it is totally out of shape its performance will not be what it could. Nothing gets a dog or human for that matter, in shape like the task they are trying to get in shape for.

Commands:

All your whoa and base (heel/come) work should be done outside of a hunting context at least until the dog has satisfactory level response because command response will only decrease with the excitement of hunt. If introduced properly everything should be relatively easy to incorporate into bird work by the time you get there.

Garmin Alpha 100 TT15:

The Garmin Alpha should be the next big investment following the purchase of the pup!!! I have been using the Garmin collars on my setters since 2008. This device has changed the world of upland bird hunting for the better. For The beauty of the Garmin Alpha is that it allows you to allow your dog to hunt! How often do we have a slight panic attack as soon as our dog is out of sight? — All the time... we cannot hear the bell, we cannot see the dog, we do not know where they are or what they are doing. So we call them back, whistle them, buzz them on a vibration/beeper/e-collar. The problem with this is that the dog is often within acceptable range and working, perhaps even on a bird. Meanwhile, the crazy handler is freaking out and interrupting the dog's work, even calling them off a bird. So what is that teaching your dog? ... Not good bird hunting. The Alpha removes all anxiety a hunter may have with their dog in these situations. The Garmin Alpha has three training buttons across the top of the face of the handheld. The handler can set it up to designate a button each for audible, vibration and electric stimulation. I have 100% confidence that you will love this device and besides a great dog your greatest investment in this fantastic sport. All PRL breeding dogs are

bell range dogs and can hunt without an electronic device but hunting in wolf country we enjoy hunting only with our Garmins as it's lovely to hear all that happens in the woods in silence.

The Gun:

Do not worry about getting the dog use to the gun. Every Llewelin I have ever raised has never heard a gun shot at all until they had their first bird shot over them with my 20 gauge during their first hunting season. If you have been working the dog on birds for several months and the dog knows and loves its job passionately then the sound of a shotgun will be no big deal and soon be a major positive draw of attention. I feel people go out of their way to create a problem instead of making their bird dog a bird dog first and a gun dog second. It will all work out just focus on birds.

Home environment:

These dogs have a tremendous amount of mental energy with intense bird hunting instincts. They are not runaway dog but if left unsupervised in an open area they are completely capable of touring the neighborhood or countryside in search of birds. You must have your Llewelin Setter safely secure in a fenced in yard or be supervising them while free to roam. Please be responsible. The last thing I want is to get the phone call that one of my pups was hit by a car. There is simply no excuse for that.

Conclusion:

I hope that some of this material was insightful and will be put to use. I am happy to answer any questions regarding your pup and its care. You can rely

on my experience as a life-long dog owner caring for his own 30+ personal dogs, family owned pet food/supply store for 20 years, vet tech for 3 years in both private and emergency practice and 20 years of professional dog training services for more than 4,400 dogs and 3,200 people. Please ask any questions large or small and I will do my best or tell you where to go. My dogs and pups I raise are my family and now owning a Paint River pup makes you a part of that bigger dog family of ours too! So welcome to the family!!

There are training materials available for purchase on my website.

www.kylewarrendogs.com Visit our store for more information!

Best of luck,

Kyle Warren
Owner/Trainer/Breeder
Paint River Llewelin Setters
Kyle Warren Dogs