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| Upland Nation logo*Helping you think like a dog ...**and better enjoy your hunting as a result. The official newsletter of ...**WUSA 2010 cropped* |

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| Why he does what he does ... |

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| I was lucky to learn about a piece of high desert that was just transferred into public hands, so couldn't wait to see what the hunting was like. That trip will be detailed in another email, but while I was there, I was struck by how hard Buddy and Manny worked. Willow thickets, lava fields, raging river ... they covered it with what to me looked like a smile.

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| *Why would he work so hard?* |

Is it instinct or do we have some influence on our dogs' performance? We've seen our partners apply reason, employ logic, solve complex problems and learn a bit of "language." Sure, they think differently from us. But they think. And the sooner we figure out what they're thinking about - and why - the better our hunting team becomes.***Why he'll work for you***Have you ever had a lousy boss? You know the type: harsh voice constantly berating you, cutting you down, badgering, yelling, and criticizing ... never offering praise or encouragement.Some of us have been lucky enough to have a good boss, or even been one. To others, it might have been a coach, teacher, Scoutmaster, neighbor. You remember them for their soothing demeanor, supportive attitude, mutual respect, positive reinforcement. Heck, even their critiques were constructive, almost pleasurable. Of the two, who would you rather work for? For which would you gladly stay late to help with a rush order, or go the extra mile? The same holds true for your dog.I'm not saying you should curry favor, suck up or kowtow to your pup. In the pack, your dog functions best when he knows his boundaries and who's in charge. In your house, yard and field that's always you. Establishing those boundaries and setting up your chain of command can be done in a number of ways, some better than others. One version engenders respect and cooperation, other versions foster fear or aggression.When discipline is applied appropriately, instruction is melded with encouragement, or correction is done with restraint and sensitivity, I think your dog acquires a sense of "fairness." I doubt that dogs truly comprehend that term, but they are certainly aware of the opposite.Doesn't it just make sense to create a relationship based on mutual trust, respect, and reward for a job well done? Remember back to when it worked for you; I bet it'll work for him.See you in the field, ***Scott*** Scott Linden, creator Buddy and Manny, co-creatorsWingshooting USAPS: We need a few hundred votes to hit the 30,000 mark in our [TruckVault Cares](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001ZTGvEqOmcADwTLI9aETgEhDx6FqAZwBlQmlvOtb1L42POPJxcxAyWJV0MaBg3oeVASYXtp2JK9VQm_PhOUfRyGVYcqo4eS_MrYkEe6Kt9-80MBNr_hkn-ODDJ2gIbIOgJAlhI2wQpEp7bhnoJVAtLuq_eFfwvSAAZ8Fb80xQm4yCR0J29pCD9VEdYFS0kNy9dJPUMM6EN611miYNHsF2Eg4pXh-0nv9G-bbDyxcRVvPX23RtJo7fjP8yVLRqIZy4DK5b-iprth0=) initiative before the end of the year. It costs you nothing, but puts dollars into the treasury of groups that support youth hunting and shooting, rescued gun dogs, and conservation groups. Please help with your vote, and forward this to your friends! |

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