

Versatility_and_Sharpness_on_Fur.txt

A versatile hunting dog is, "a pointing dog who hunts both furred and feathered game on land or in the water." They are not only able to swim and retrieve from water, but track the scent trail left on top of the water by swimming game.

As far as terrain goes, Munsters will hunt anything anywhere. They particularly like the woods and taking your young puppy to the woods often for off-lead runs is the fastest, easiest way for him to become a great hunter. There is a lot to hunt, stalk and track in the woods and always a lot of scent, some of which is old and some new. He will learn to differentiate between old and new scent, which will keep him from false pointing in the field when you get him on birds. He'll learn how to determine what direction and animal went, so he won't track backwards.

In Germany the deer are quite small, so a versatile dog will not only track the blood trail of a wounded deer, but will overcome and dispatch it. With rabbits and squirrels they will find, bark, chase, dispatch, and then retrieve the dead animal to you. With upland birds, they search, locate and point the bird, then you flush and shoot it, after which they retrieve it to you. If you only wound a running bird, like a chukar or pheasant, they will track it down and then retrieve it to you. Most Munsters will not dispatch feathered game, only furred game, so you get back a lot of living birds which you must then dispatch.

The dispatching of furred game by the dog is called being "sharp on fur." Some versatile breeds are much sharper on fur than others. Those that have been bred and hunted in the USA only on upland game and waterfowl for decades are usually less sharp than those coming recently from Europe. Many European countries, like Germany, have very few wild game birds left, so they tend to do a lot of hunting of furred game. The Munster is **very** sharp on fur.