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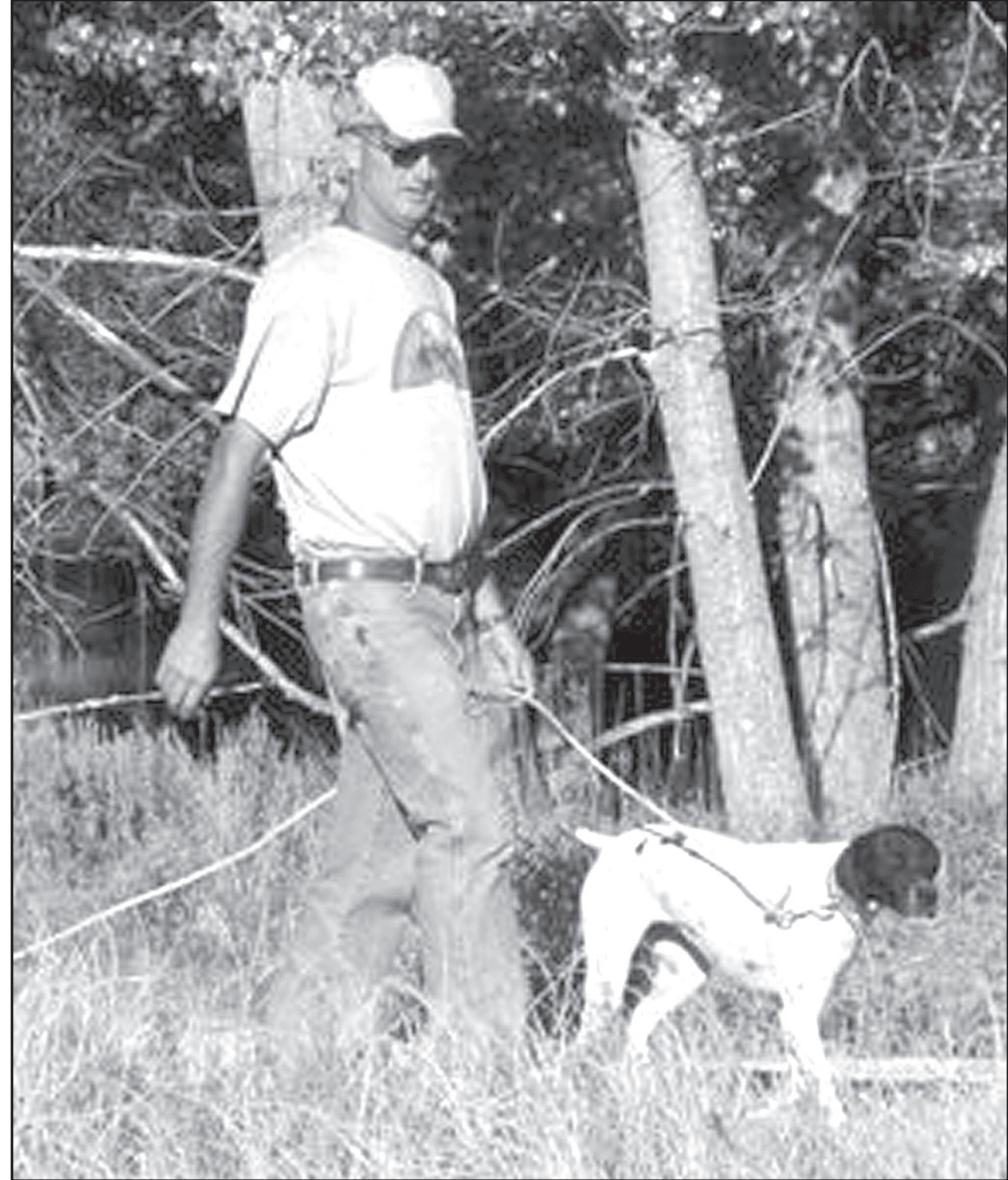


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Paul Grammon walked with his dog, Scout, a female German short hair, during a training exercise. The rope attached to Scout's collar helps keep Mr. Grammon in control while training.

— Courtesy photo

# Teaching dogs takes time, skill

By Brandy Leroux

*The Norton Telegram  
bleroux@nwkansas.com*

Paul Grammon of Logan has been training hunting dogs for 30 years.

The first, he recalled, was a brittany spaniel in 1976.

"Bandit was my first dog, and he was an excellent pointer and retriever," Grammon said. "He taught me that hunting with a dog was so much more enjoyable than hunting without one."

He gave me the incentive to learn more about hunting with a dog, and at that time Jim Holloway took me under his wing to teach me many things about dog training.

The two biggest things Holloway taught him, he said, were to be consistent and never to give a command you won't make the dog obey.

Grammon said he starts with puppies about seven weeks old. He uses a check cord — a 25 foot piece of rope clipped to the dog's collar — to help him keep control of the dog during

exercises.

It can take anywhere from nine months to a year and a half of work, he said, before he considers a dog "trained."

"I wouldn't hunt without a dog," said Grammon. "The dog is what makes the experience. It's fascinating."

"Come," "whoa," "heel," "sit," "stay" and "all right" are the commands he teaches dogs. "All right" is the release command, either to go out and find the birds or to release the dog from the last command.

One of the things that makes training bird dogs easy, he said, is being a commercial dog trainer and having a recall pen for quail.

The recall pen holds about 30 banded quail Grammon buys to help train the dogs.

Before training the dogs, the quail have to be trained to return to the recall pen at dusk.

To train a dog, he said, he takes a couple of quail and shakes them a little to make them dizzy

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