

# Palmer

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to acquire a certain number of points. After receiving first place at the U.S. Open for puppy pointer in Hayward last April, “we qualified for the worlds,” Palmer said.

At the tournaments, the hunters and their dogs each compete individually. “You have to sit somewhere you can’t watch the field,” Palmer explains. “So, that you don’t know where the birds are.”

There are three birds set in a field, and when it’s your turn, you bring the dog to the starting gate. Palmer advises not dressing too warmly since once you “get going, you have to keep up with the dogs.”

Trigger finds the bird, holds point until Palmer can flush it out and shoot it. Palmer was shooting clays before he got Trigger, so he already knew how to handle a gun. Palmer and Trigger are timed on how fast they can point, flush, and shoot the three birds which are usually a com-



photos by Rachel Johnson

## **Palmer and Trigger have developed a great bond in the field.**

ination of pheasants and chukars.

“It’s real fun to see him out there on point,” Palmer said. “It’s just awesome.”

Palmer and his family all enjoy the tournaments, often traveling to them as a family. Younger sister Jenna helps with the scorekeeping.

Trigger stays in great condition running on the Palmer’s three-plus acres, chasing birds to his heart’s content.

Palmer likes everything about the sport, “you get to hunt birds, you get to work behind the dog,” he said. “I just really like being with the dog.”