

# Land Use in Field Training

## Making the Most of a Piece of Land and How to Keep the Land You've Got

by Anne Everett

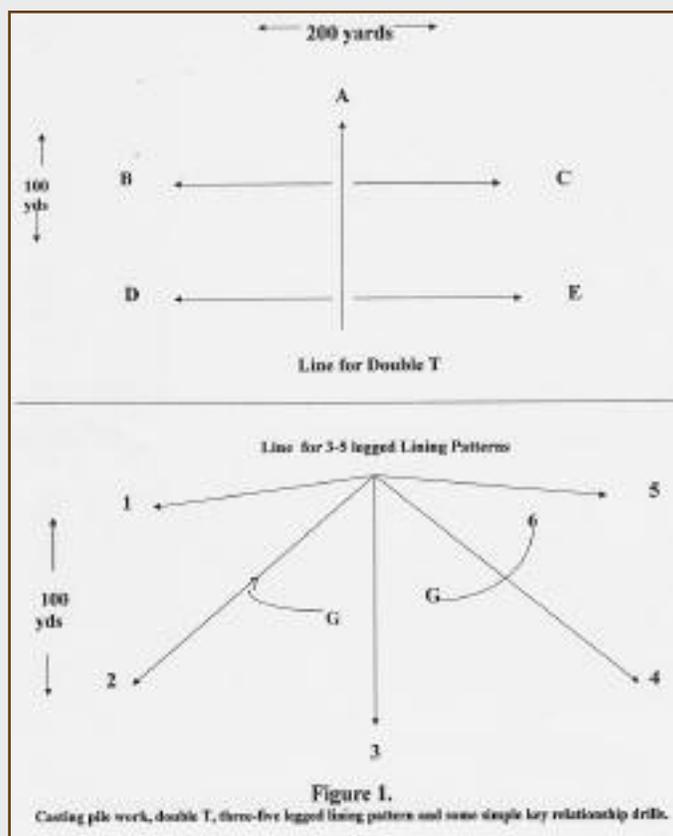
### Making the Most of a Piece of Land

As the amount of land available for field training continues to decrease, field trainers have to become more creative with how they use the land to which they still have access. Many of us don't have the luxury of being able to go to a different piece of ground each time we train. However, with a little creativity and thinking outside the box, it is amazing what you can accomplish in just one field.

For the purposes of this discussion, assume you have access to a field 200 yards long by 200 yards wide as shown in *Figure 1*. It's relatively flat and ideal for drills. On this one field you can start by lining to a back pile and teaching your force to pile (A). Once that is complete, add a three-way casting drill (B, C and A). Your back cast is to the back pile you have forced to previously. You can then run your mini-casting drill using the three identified piles (A, B and C). The whistle sit can be taught in your backyard and the whole thing can be put together in the field. If all goes well, you now have your dog stopping, casting and running through to a back pile. To build the double T, you simply back up until you have the dog running 80-100 yds to the back pile. Then add your two additional over piles about 20 yards from the line (D and E). The wagon wheel lining drill can also be done on the same piece of ground by incorporating the double T as shown by the dotted lines in *Figure 2*.

Once the double T and wagon wheel drills are complete, you can run your 3-5 legged pattern on the same ground. Just turn around and utilize the second half of the field (piles are identified as 1-5). Once your dog is smoothly running the 3-5 legged patterns, you can start to increase the distance of your casts on the 3-5 legged patterns. In addition you can introduce diversion marks with blinds and key relationship drills. i.e. a blind run under the arc of a throw, a blind run over an old fall etc. (6, 7).

All of this takes you through a great deal of early transition work on land and it is all done in one small field!



### Where to Find Land

It doesn't take huge amounts of land to train marking concepts. Any small bit will do. Public parks that allow dogs off leash are good places. Try to schedule your visits during non-peak use times to minimize interference from other dogs.

