

# Clean Run®

THE MAGAZINE FOR DOG AGILITY ENTHUSIASTS

OCTOBER 09 VOLUME 15 NUMBER 10

PHOTO © TITL ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY, METTIE BJORNE  
CLEAN RUN LEANNE MCANAMEE



## Comparing the Derrett and Mecklenburg Handling Systems, Part 8: The Opposite Arm

This month we'll compare the use of the opposite arm in both handling systems. The use of arms seems to create the most confusion between the two systems so here we'll discuss using arms with regard to particular maneuvers. By the *Clean Run* Staff



## When the Magic is Missing: Teaching Gifted and Challenged Students in the Same Class

Classes that have some students with the gift of natural talent for agility and some students with challenges that make learning agility more difficult need a teacher who can create an environment where everyone can excel. By Sandy Rogers



## Jumping Exercises for Straight-Shouldered Dogs

Some dogs with straight shoulders struggle to come off the ground quickly. They have difficulty finding a good takeoff spot or they fling themselves at a jump once handler movement is involved. Susan discusses the problem and offers exercises for schooling these dogs. By Susan Salo

## Features

### 5 Editorializing: The Joy of Training

Training is the most important part of preparing for agility competition. Training is "alone time" with your dog, a time to sharpen old skills and develop new ones, a time when past trial runs are relived, both great successes and failures. And it's a time to play. By Rick Parry

### 27 K9 Kudos: Fun with Fundraising

We often say that having fun with our dogs is the reason for participating in agility. For many organizations and individuals in the agility community, having fun is also a good excuse for raising money for worthy causes. By Martha Faulk

### 33 Trainer's Forum

This month's trainers describe choices for teaching the seesaw and how to improve your dog's performance if retraining. By Brenna Fender

### 38 Agility Leagues 101

An agility league is like a bowling league, except with dogs and without bowling shirts. Handlers and dogs meet to run courses, hone their skills, meet new challenges, and keep their competitive edge during the off-season. By Jeffrey R. Boyer

### 48 Tricks: Backing Up

Backing up can increase rear-end awareness, coordination, and core muscle strength—all of which are critical in agility. By Sassie Joiris

### 51 Jenny's Guide to Successful Teamwork: Front and Blind Crosses, Part 2

This month Jenny gives further examples of how she uses front and blind crosses in her handling system. By Jenny Damm

### 56 Can You Handle It?

Let's explore the challenges faced by competitors at the 2009 AKC/USA World Team Tryouts in the Small/Medium International Jumpers class designed by Kurt Matushek. By Marquand Cheek

### 73 Canine Elbow Dysplasia

Elbow dysplasia is the leading cause of forelimb lameness in dogs. The onset of elbow dysplasia can be insidious because lameness may be noted with no radiographic evidence of any disease process. Conversely, degeneration of the joint can be well established before lameness is apparent. By Sherman O. Canapp Jr., DVM, MS, CCRT, Diplomate ACVS

## Columns

6 **Tip of the Month** By Jo Sermon

7 **Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Agility...** By Brenna Fender

10 **Backyard Dogs** By Stuart Mah

19 **My Favorite Course** By Trisha Stall

45 **Skill of the Month** By Karen Holik

## Cover

### 12 Terrific Teeters, Part 1

Dogs approach the teeter differently. Some aren't comfortable with the motion; for some it's the height, and for others it's the noise. Regardless, by teaching your dog that he's in full control of the board, you can have a terrific teeter performance. By Jen Pinder



### 29 Improving Your Warm-up Routine

Great performances in the ring evolve from having a warm-up routine that is a perfect fit for you, your dog, and the course challenges of the day. Learn how to craft a routine that's perfect for your team. By Nancy Gyes

### 60 Training Directional Cues, Part 1

By training your dog to run at distance with strict directional cues, you can free the dog to run the course while you walk, trot, or even ride in a wheelchair. By Kristin Kaldahl

### 66 Training a Two-on/Two-off Contact, Part 1

In this three-part series, the author explains how to train a two-on/two-off contact performance, both with and without a nose touch. This month's article covers how to teach a nose touch and basic two-on/two-off work on a travel board. By Rachel Sanders

## Cover Dog

MACH, ARCHX Daulokke's Une Valliant Grosse CD, RAE, NF, CD-H, UCD, UAGII, C-BAA, C-BSA, C-BTA, C-BGA, C-BSLA, C-BJA, C-ISA, C-ISLA, a.k.a. Soren, a 4-year-old French Bulldog from New Jersey owned by Deb Stevenson, Ron Readmond, and Suzanne Orban-Stagle. Photo by M. Nicole Fischer Photography.

Clean Run (ISSN 1089-8506) is published monthly by Clean Run Productions, LLC. Principal office: 17 Industrial Dr., South Hadley, MA 01075. Periodicals postage paid at South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-9902 and additional offices. © Copyright 1995-2009 Bud Houston and Clean Run Productions, LLC. All world rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Clean Run, 17 Industrial Dr., South Hadley, MA 01075.**