# Clean Run°

THE MAGAZINE FOR DOG AGILITY ENTHUSIASTS

SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUE: MOTIVATION, DRIVE, AND SELF-CONTROL



#### First to the Flag

What is motivation and what factors can increase your dog's motivation? What does "drive" really mean and is there an optimum level? Get the answers to these questions and many more. By Pamela Reid, Ph.D



## Learning to Fail: Conditioning Your Dog to Happily Work Through "Mistakes"

Repeated bonus training teaches your soft or stressed dog a desire for repetition and to deal with so-called mistakes. By Leslie Renaud



# **Motivation Dos and Don'ts**

By recognizing training habits that de-motivate your dog, you can substitute alternate habits that will leave your dog more excited at the end of a training session than he was at the beginning. By Rachel Sanders

# Cover

6 Creating a Balance Between Motivation and Control

Where does your dog's temperament fall in the spectrum of drive to do agility? Does he have a need for speed or is he crying for control? Our goal is the perfect balance of motivation and control.

By Deborah Jones, Ph.D.

41 Dog Play 101

Play can help enhance your dog's learning ability. The first step in teaching your dog to play is to get him to play with just you—no food, no toys!

By Wendy Pape

# **Features**

# 5 Editorializing: Motivation Is Not a Four-letter Word

Genetics, structure, and temperament aside, the reality is that no dog comes out of the womb motivated to do agility. By Elise Paffrath

# 19 Starting Out Right: Building on a Puppy's Natural Drive and Instinct

Start building on your pup's natural drive from day one—every interaction with a puppy will influence his future attitude toward training and competition. By Kathryn Lofthouse

# 23 Don't Fix It: Keep Going!

Don't stop to fix mistakes; bolster your dog's confidence and motivation level by training yourself to continue on. By Lo Baker

# 26 Practice Makes Perfect

The right quality and quantity of agility training can keep your team fresh and eager. By Robin Whitsell

# 36 Teaching Your Dog to Choose Self-control

Self-control, though challenging for many dogs, is important in agility as well as life. Your dog can learn to choose the correct behavior even in stimulating situations. By Tracy Sklenar

### 59 Start Lines for Maximum Speed and Focus

Whether you run with your dog from the start line or have your dog stay while you lead out, you can improve speed and focus off the line. By Sherry Kluever

# 62 Let the Games Begin

Training games allow you and your dog to build a solid reinforcement history for important skills like attention, motivation, and self-control. By Angelica Steinker

# 66 Where Does Speed Come From? Training!

Ground speed is a skill that can be taught like any other skill. By Ann Braue

# 70 Maintaining Criteria in Training and at Trials

Once your obstacle performance criteria are well-defined and agility behaviors fully trained, it's time to take the show on the road.

By Ginsey St. Croix

# 73 Sabre's Story: Gaining Focus and Control without Losing Speed or Drive

There are no quick fixes for a driven dog that races around the course without taking direction; you need a training plan. By Judy Keller

# 78 Sendaways: Driving Your Dog from Behind

Teaching a dog to run confidently ahead of you while you drive from behind can boost any dog's motivation level. By Jo Sermon

### 85 Recognizing and Dealing with Stress

Eliminating sources of stress allows your dog to have more fun doing agility and perform at his optimal level. By Brenna Fender

# 89 Unleashing the Wild Whippet Within

A handler shares her training experiences as she works to instill her love for agility in her canine partner. By Dawn Heffernan

# 92 Evaluating Adult Agility Prospects: Which Traits Lead to Success?

Adult dogs make great agility partners. What traits should you look for when evaluating prospects? By September Morn

# 96 Dear Sallie Sports Vet

If your dog is slowing down, there may be a physical as well as a psychological component. By M. Christine Zink, D.V.M., Ph.D.

# 45 Say Yes to the Learning Curve of Reinforcement: Transferring Value

Dogs that are shut down or unmotivated are not born that way; they are created through ineffective use of reinforcement. Learn how to transfer the value of your dog's favorite reinforcements to his agility performance. By Susan Garrett

#### 54 Motivate Me! Different Strokes for Different Breeds

While all dogs are individuals, a dog's breed may play a part in what he finds motivating. By Brenna Fender

# **Cover Dog**

Acerridge Flying Kirby RN, AX, MXJ, CGC, a.k.a. Kirby, a Rhodesian Ridgeback owned by Pamela and Geoffrey Shattuck (handled by Pamela) of Massachusetts. Photo by Matt Allison, www.mattallisonphotography.com

3

Special Issue | Clean Run