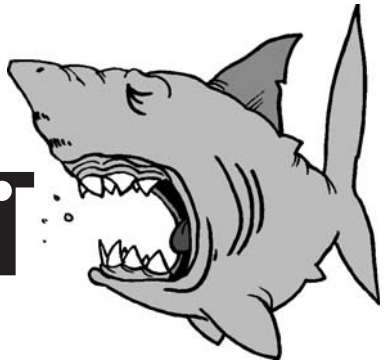
SHARK BAIT



By Monica Percival

The idea and name for these exercises is based on an exercise designed by Bud Houston in 1995. I have modified the obstacles used as well as the setup. Although you can do the drills with 12 poles, I recommend using 6 poles when you are working on weave pole drills in order to lessen the stress on the dog's body.

The main goal of the exercise is to test weave pole performance. Notice that the end of the weave poles is only 9 feet from either tunnel entrance. Can your dog ignore the allure of the tunnel and complete his job in the poles?

If your dog just can't help himself and cuts out of the poles or actually takes the tunnel, don't get mad. Just bring him back and give it another try. If he's still sucked out of the poles by the tunnel, simplify the challenge so that he's successful. For example, you can put wires on some or all of the poles. You can move the poles farther away from the tunnel to a point where the dog can be successful completing the poles and then gradually decrease the distance between the poles and the tunnel. Alternatively, you can flip over the tunnel openings to the ground so that the dog cannot enter the tunnel. Remember, it's your job not only to teach your dog how to weave, but to teach him that the obstacle isn't finished until he's passed the last pole. Be as patient as necessary!

If your dog is ready for more of a challenge, instead of starting the exercises at the weave poles, you can start at the jump with the black #1 so you have more momentum into the challenge. You can also decrease the distance from the last pole to the tunnel entrances. Can you do it with only 5 or 6 feet between the end of the poles and the tunnel openings?

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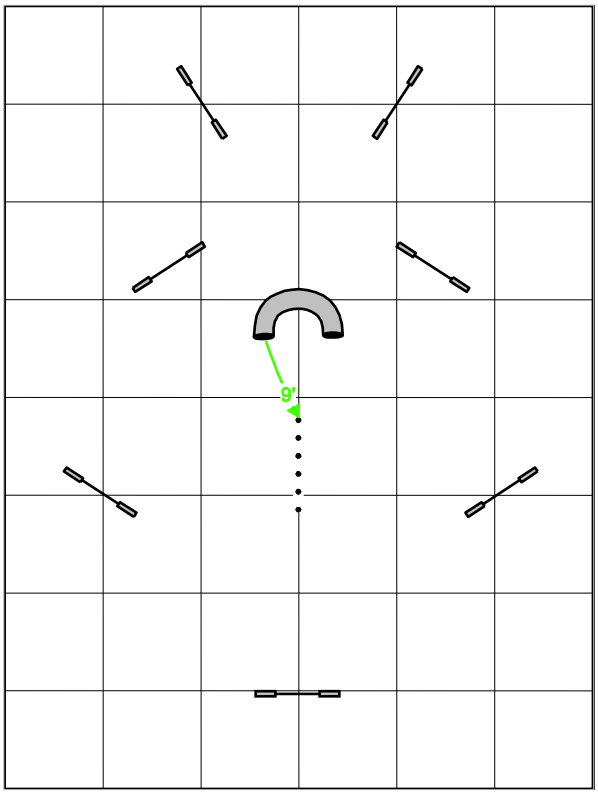
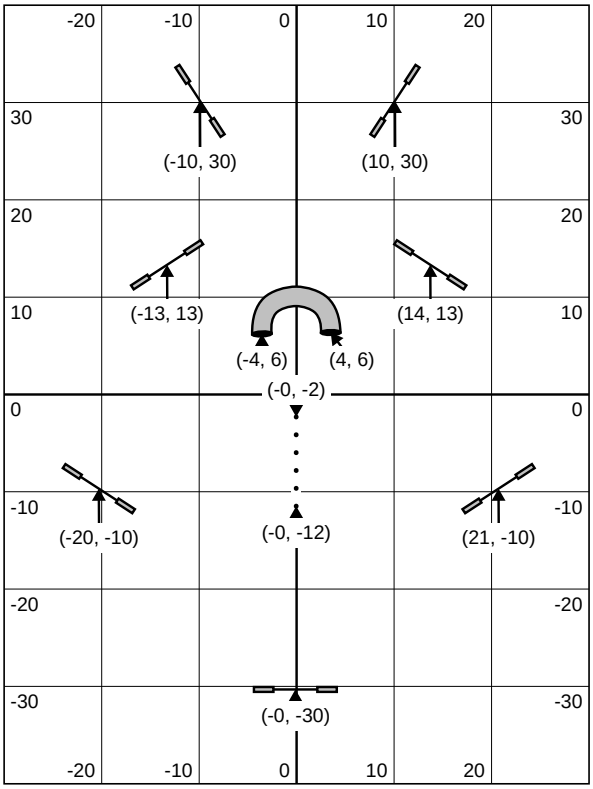
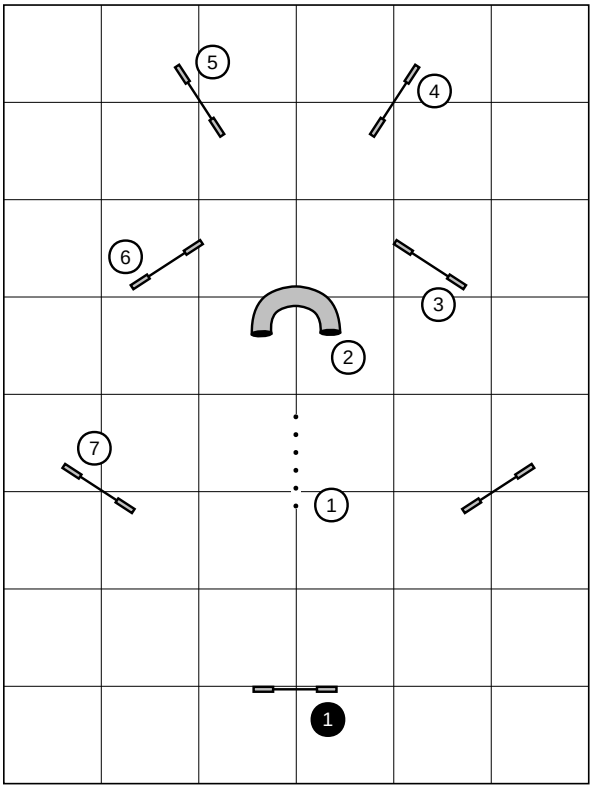
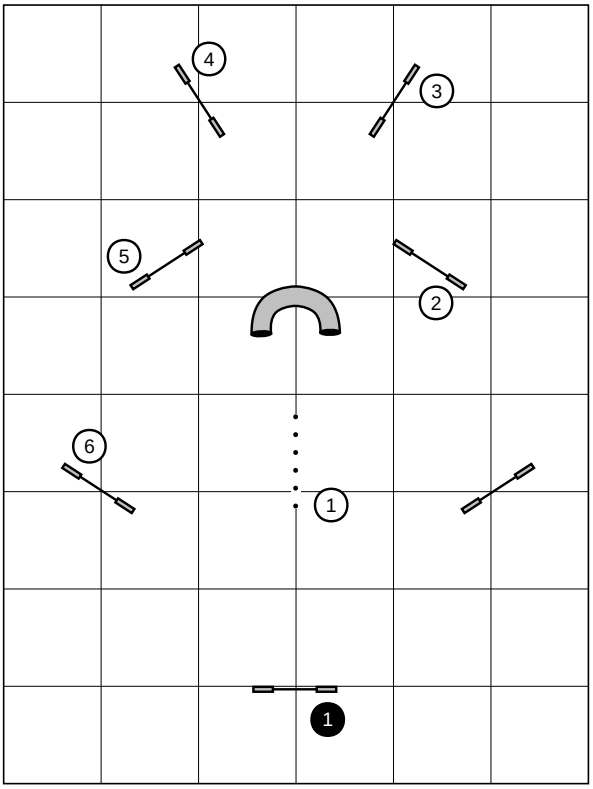
Setup



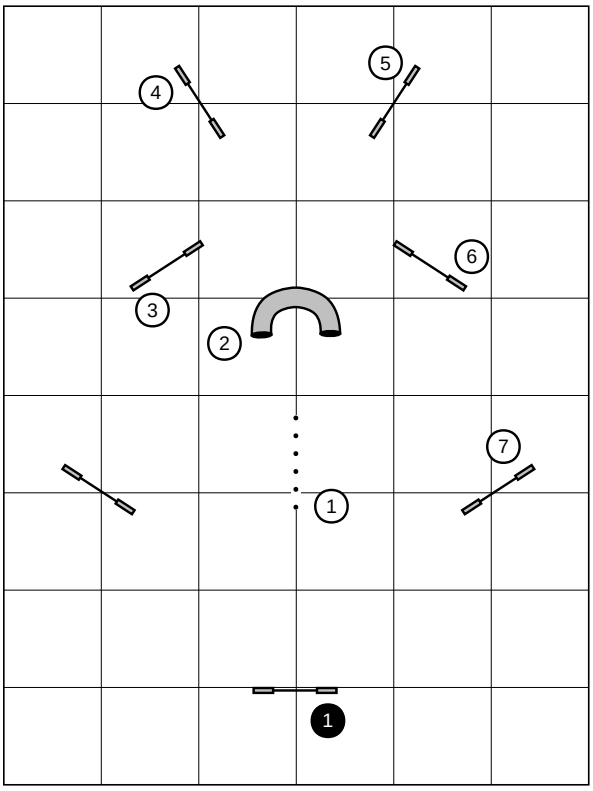


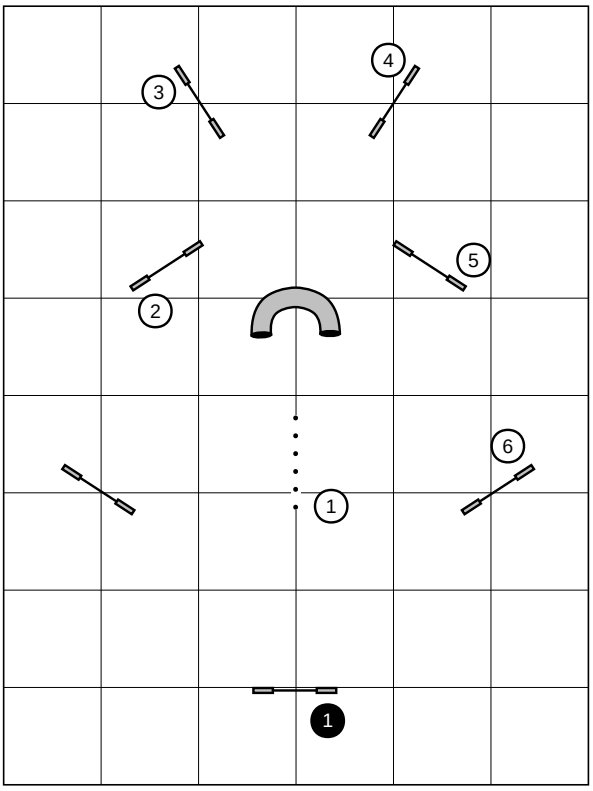
Exercises 1 & 2



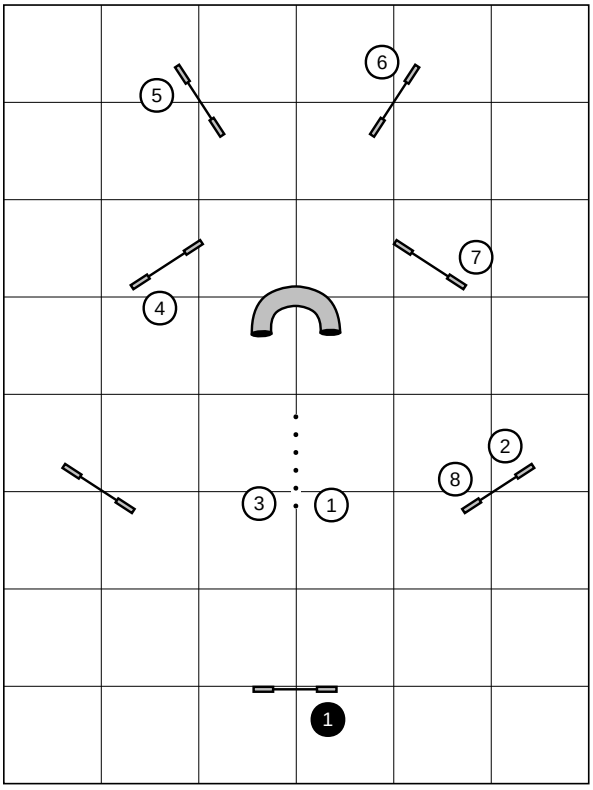


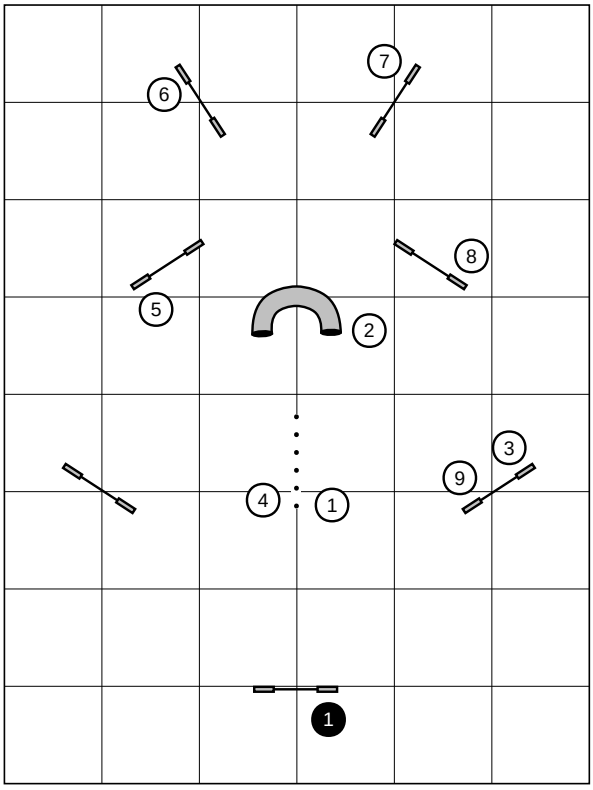
Exercises 3 & 4



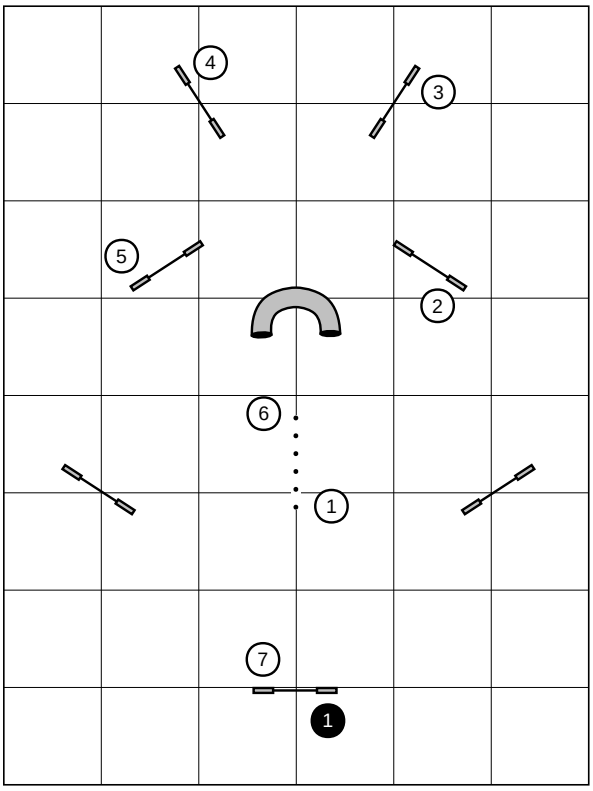


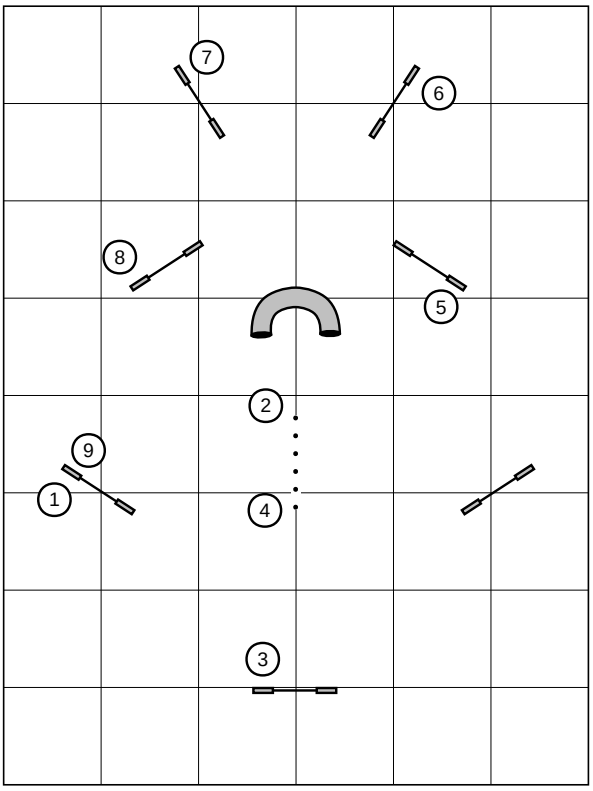
Exercises 5 & 6

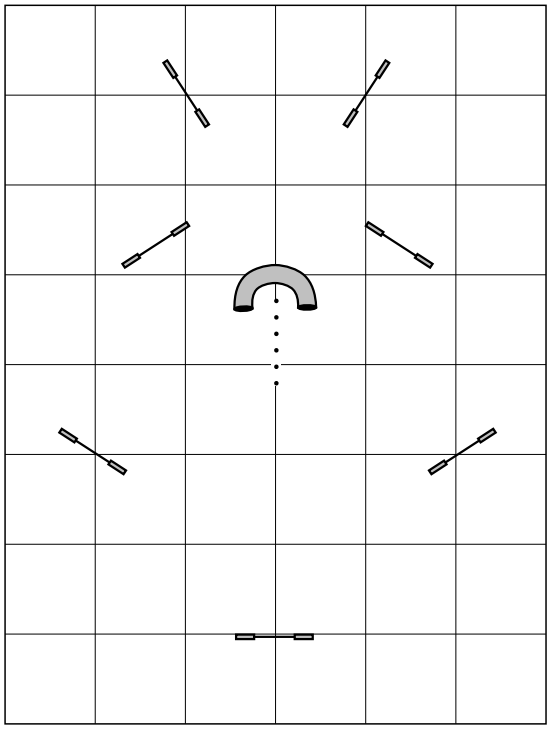




Exercises 7 & 8





Exercise 9

If you're ready for more dangerous waters, try moving the end of the poles so that it's actually between the two tunnel openings. Does your dog still do his job?