

Clean Run®

THE MAGAZINE FOR DOG AGILITY ENTHUSIASTS

JANUARY 07 VOLUME 13 NUMBER 1



PHOTOS © CLEAN RUN COURSE MAP © GUY BLANCHE

Beyond the Backyard

This month's exercises are designed to help teach you how to analyze sequences and determine the ideal placement for front crosses.

By Mary Ellen Barry



Agility Course Design: Changes through the Years

Experts weigh in on what has changed in course design through the years and how you should adapt your handling to meet the challenges. By Robin Whitsell



Reflections of a Novice, Year One

What did you learn your first year as a novice agility competitor? A competitor embarking on year two of his agility career shares what he learned during his first year as a novice. By Jim Keim

Features

5 Editorializing: Our Sport, Our Selves

What draws each of us to the sport of dog agility, and why do we stay in the sport?

By Elise Paffrath

12 On Course with Robin Kletke

Learn Robin Kletke's formula for successful repeated runs with many breeds, including Afghans, Paps, and BCs. By Brenna Fender

26 It's Not Easy Being Green

How does a green handler with a green dog take on the challenges of training for agility and learn to follow her own instincts about what's best for her dog? By Dawn Prentiss

50 Alphabet Drills

For the first time ever, weave poles in an alphabet drill! Enjoy working the letter "W" with challenging entries and exits to the weaves. By Nancy Gyes

59 Taming the Teeter

A method for training teeter skills based on how dogs perceive the obstacle through their sense of hearing, vision, and body awareness and balance. By Mandy Book and Cheryl Smith

65 Shoulder Conditions in Agility Dogs

With the coordinated action of over 25 muscles required for shoulder motion, the potential for muscle injuries causing performance issues and lameness in our Agility Dogs is significant. By Sherman O. Canapp, Jr., D.V.M., M.S., CCRT, Diplomate ACVS

73 The Audition

A humorous look at one handler's experience with agility "tryouts" as she and her dog audition for a working spot in an agility training class. By Elizabeth M. Jarrell

80 The Construction Zone

Plans for a lightweight PVC practice jump that is simple and inexpensive to construct, and that separates into four pieces for easy transport. By Diane Goodspeed

Columns

8 Tip of the Month By Lisa Flowers

9 Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Agility...

10 Backyard Dogs By Karen Holik

54 Distance Challenge By Jane Simmons-Moake

62 The Judge's Debriefing By Bonnie McDonald

71 Review By Martha Faulk

76 Nested Courses for a Busy World By Judy Zelenewych

82 Letter to the Editor

82 Course Diagram Keys

Cover

22 Training Bend Work: Help Your Dog Negotiate a Tight Line While Jumping

Negotiating an agility course requires your dog to make many turns. Teaching bend work as part of your jumping program will allow your dog to learn how to comfortably and fluently make tight turns. By Susan Salo

30 Trainer's Forum

Trainers share ideas for helping the dog that can weave like a champ in practice but acts like he's never seen the weave poles in trials. By Brenna Fender

42 Spy Kids: The Blank Slate

A new puppy! Could anything be better? Come along on the adventure as Nancy Gyes documents the process of selecting and training a new agility puppy for her husband Jim Basic. By Nancy Gyes



44 Clicking for Turns, Part 1

What is a tight turn and how can you use your clicker to help your dog achieve it? By Jo Sermon

Cover Dog

Dot's Sweet 'Lil Dustin NA, NAJ, OA, CGC, Certified Therapy Dog, a.k.a. Dustin, a Lhasa Apso owned by Megan MacGregor of Florida. Photo by Lesley Mattuchio, www.lesleymattuchio.com