

Clean Run®

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Trainer's Forum

Removing a dog from the agility ring because he blows his contacts is certainly an option, but is it the right thing to do for *your* dog? And if you determine it is the right thing, what should you know before you try this technique? By Brenna Fender



TAG, Don't Nag Your Students!

TAGteaching is to humans what clicker training is to dogs. When instructors use the TAG (Teaching with Acoustical Guidance) method during classes it quickly helps handlers improve both their handling and dog training skills. By Helix Fairweather



Cutting the Cord: Teaching Your Dog to Work Away, Part 2

Handling at a distance means your dog must be able to perform each obstacle correctly and independently of you. This month's article discusses ways to begin distance training on obstacles. By Susan Perry

Features

5 Editorializing: The Science of Performance

Through diligence we can be better at anything we put our minds to—parenting, writing, surgery, even dog agility. By Amy Hanridge

12 Handling Your Dog in Awesome Style, Part 5: Advanced Recalls and Sends

This month we learn about advanced recall skills over obstacles as well as forward and lateral sends. By Linda Mecklenburg

17 Cece's Gym Exercise of the Month: Aquatic Therapy

Most dogs benefit from aquatic activities because when you move in water, its natural resistance helps increase muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility. Research has indicated that activities performed in the water are two to five times as strenuous as similar land activities. By Debbie Gross Saunders, MSPT, OCS, CCRP

41 Spy Kids: Trial Time

At 19 months, Sweep gets to test his skills in the competition ring for the first time. It's time to find out where he is in his training and where the holes are. By Nancy Gyes

48 Conquering Ring Nerves: Feeling Exposed and Vulnerable?

Do you feel like you're on stage when you go into the ring and everyone is watching you and your dog and judging you? This is performance anxiety. Learn how to use visual imagery so that you can feel safe and secure during a run and focus on the course and your dog. By Diane Peters Mayer

57 When Pigs Fly: You Can't Q if You Can't Do the Poles, Part 2

Last month you learned how to teach entries. Now that you have perfected that part of your weave pole training, it's time to teach your Pigs Fly dog how to weave 12 poles using the "macaroni" method. By Jane Killion

72 Shelter Champs: Winston

While many competitors dream of earning titles, animal shelters continue to house dogs that were relinquished because they are too energetic, too smart, or too busy for most pet homes. Many of these dogs are great agility prospects. This month, meet Winston. By Lisa Barrett

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22 Lead-out Options for S-shaped Opening Sequences

Variations on the S-shaped pattern are common opening sequences on courses. Learn how to identify the pattern and compare options for handling it. By Ann C. Croft

31 A Team of Two: Give Your Dog a Job

If you have to babysit your dog around a course, he doesn't understand that his job is to take the obstacles. Teach your dog to work independently from you so that you can focus on handling. By Kathy Keats

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45 Starting as a Team, Part 4

A dog that is over the top of the arousal curve when he enters the ring can't focus on his job and may obliterate the course. Here are some ways to lower his arousal level so that he can perform more thoughtfully. By Susan Garrett

51 Foundation Fundamentals: Play without Toys

Toys are fun and a great way to play with your dog, but sometimes they aren't readily available or they are simply not allowed. Here are five ways you can get your dog animated *without* toys. By Mary Ellen Barry

Cover Dog

MACH2, NATCH3 Breezeway's Western Warrior OF, OAP, AJP, OFF, APD, AGD Bronze, ASD Bronze, ATD, O-TG-E, S-TN-E, O-WV-E, a.k.a. Cole, an eight-year-old Shetland Sheepdog owned by Peter and Nancy Vollmer of California. Photo by Tien Tran

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