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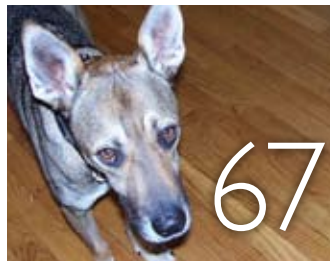
Trainer's Forum

What can you do about dogs in a class that seem to dislike agility? Is it simply a training or motivation problem? Or are there some dogs that really would prefer not to do agility? This month's group of trainers comments. By Brenna Fender



Foundation Fundamentals: Step Up to Success

Teaching body awareness is key to having an athletic partner that can deliver the performance you want. It's easy to do using shaping and an inexpensive and portable step stool. By Moe Strenfel



Changing Consequences: From Caution to Trust

No training program begins with a perfectly clean slate. We must observe existing behaviors so we understand how we are influencing our dogs' perceptions of the consequences of their behaviors. By Jenny Ruth Yasi

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5 Editorializing: Observations, Anecdotes, Opinions and a Silly Little Thing Called Bias

Everyone knows that the tire is dangerous and that the two-on/two-off position is the most reliable way to go. Or is it? Should we reconsider our long-held assumptions and opinions to look at the sport objectively? By I. Martin Levy, MD

15 Being an Agility Instructor: It's Not Just About Dog Training

How do you go from training and competing with your own dogs to being a competent, supportive agility instructor for your students, both canine and human alike? The skills that enable us to be successful trainers and competitors are not the all-inclusive skills that we need to be successful agility educators. By Debbie Harrison

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"Playing" a musical instrument is a great way to work on front-leg stretches and the begging position allows you to work on balance, stability, and back muscles. By Sassie Joiris

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This month's drills are designed to help with training your dog's A-frame and with working on send-outs to tunnels and chutes around and under the A-frame. By Nancy Gyes

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The exclamation "Agility people are the best!" is often heard in praise of the dedication and compassion of people drawn together by common threads. This month, we've profiled some groups that help specific dogs in need of immediate medical care and others that raise funds for research in canine health. By Martha Faulk

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Being ready to start a long and successful agility career takes more than obstacle competence. How will you fare in evaluating your team's basic skill readiness? By Debbie Sacerich

Cover Dog

MACH Sunfire My Little Hotshot, JH, WC, ADHF, a.k.a. Shotsie, a Golden Retriever owned by Lynn Dowall of Massachusetts. Photo by Lesley Mattuchio.