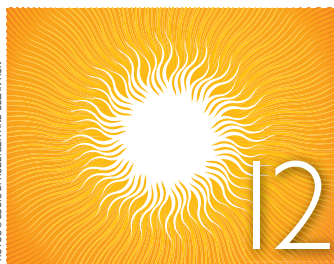


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Here Comes the Sun:

Sun Protection & Safety Tips

Being prepared for sun exposure at a trial is as crucial as packing your water, loading up on treats, and making sure you have your height cards. What can you do to save your skin from the sun? Here are some suggestions from a dermatologist. By Sally Silverman



When Pigs Fly:

The Start Line Is the First Obstacle

If you have to struggle with your dog at the start line and manipulate his body, you need some start-line work. Training your dog to come into the ring, approach the first obstacle with you, and set up properly is a wonderful way to start a run. By Jane Killion



Let's Play! A Fail-safe Plan to Teach Your Dog to Love Toys, Part 3

There's a lot to be gained by using toys in agility. Playing a rousing game of tug, then sending your dog over a jump, and rewarding with more tug builds a sense of agility as a fun game. Here's the third and final part of a plan to teach your dog to love toys. By Helix Fairweather

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5 Editorializing: I Want It Now!

As a society, we've grown used to getting anything we want almost instantaneously. Is that attitude starting to carry over into agility? Are we so impatient about getting into the ring with new dogs that we rush their training and fail to enjoy the journey? By Nancy Walker

42 Building Your Plan: Developing Performance Goals, Part 2

Once you have evaluated your current agility performance, it's time to build on this information and develop a plan for improvement that includes short-term and long-term goals. Here you'll see the development of a plan for the competition season. By Steve Croxford

62 Can You Handle It?

Test your skills on a sequence from the Large Dog Individual Agility course at the FCI World Championships held in Dornbirn, Austria, September 2009. By Ann Croft

66 It's Your Turn! Cue #3: The Front Cross, Part 2

Having a dog with well-trained turn cues can make your life easier and is also much easier on your dog's body and brain. In this series, you'll learn how to teach your dog the seven turn cues. Here are more drills for the third cue, the front cross. By Sandy Rogers

72 FullHouse Strategy: Pick a Card, Any Card

With some preparation and some thinking on the fly, you can be prepared to accumulate a house full of points and a qualifying score. The planning and thinking required for success in FullHouse is also applicable to other agility games. By Jeff Boyer

77 Shelter Champs: Tess

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 Tess, a Springer Spaniel. By Lisa Barrett

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7 Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Agility... By Brenna Fender

8 Backyard Dogs By Sharon Freilich

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16 Train to Maintain: Dogwalk

Need some training ideas for maintaining your dog's agility skills? This series presents a maintenance program that's easy to implement and accomplishes a great deal in short sessions. This month focuses on the dogwalk. By Mary Ellen Barry

25 What You Need to Know about Kennel Cough

Many myths and controversies surround canine infectious tracheobronchitis or kennel cough. It is the most common upper respiratory disease encountered by dog owners, but what is it exactly and what does an agility handler need to know? By Julie A. Roos, DVM



35 Using Real Estate Wisely

Using real estate, the physical space that you have to work in on course, wisely allows you to develop an effective handling strategy and make wise choices about where to take shortcuts on course and where not to. By Andrea Dexter

54 What Is Early Takeoff Syndrome?

Early takeoff syndrome (ETS) is a term used to describe a jumping problem seen in some performance dogs where they take off too early for jumps. The syndrome ranges from a subtle hitch on the dog's final stride to severe stuttering before a jump. The dog most often inappropriately shortens his last stride before takeoff, but some dogs simply leave out the last stride. By Linda Mecklenburg

Cover Dog

MACH2, ADCH Misty's Chase SAM, SCH-Bronze, a.k.a. Misty, a 7-year-old English Setter owned by Jill Boback of Michigan. Photo by Cathi Winkles Photography, www.cwinkles.com.

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