# Clean Run<sup>®</sup>

THE MAGAZINE FOR DOG AGILITY ENTHUSIASTS



### Formulating a Strategy for Gamblers or Jackpot

USDAA Gamblers and CPE Jackpot are strategic games that test a team's distance skills and the handler's ability to plan and execute a course strategy. Here's help for formulating a successful strategy. By Ann Croft



# When Pigs Fly: The Start Line Is the First Obstacle, Part 2

Last month, we discussed getting to the start line and the importance of the dog's offering a relaxed, happy setup automatically. Now let's examine six other important elements to a functional start line. By Jane Killion



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### Power Paws Drills: Threadle the Needle

Reverse flow pivot, threadle handling, and false turn are interchangeable terms, and you will do lots of them as you work through these drills. You'll also learn proper footwork so that you can be comfortable with your technique. By Nancy Gyes

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### 12 Evaluating a Dog's Structure for Agility

There are very few perfect dogs. Understanding your dog's structure and knowing his structural strengths as well as his potential weaknesses is the first step to a longer and happier career for you both. You can set reasonable training goals and work on increasing the dog's strength and flexibility where necessary.

By Dr. Debbie Gross Saunders

#### 23 Train to Maintain: Weave Exits

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

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Some people assume that if your dog isn't fast and driven you can't possibly be having fun doing agility. They're wrong. By Kristine Gunter

### 28 It's Your Turn! Cue #4: The Rear 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 we continue our discussion of the fourth cue, the rear cross. By Sandy Rogers

### 32 Competition Preparation: It's All in the Mind, Part 1

The transition from training to competition is one of the most important challenges for any agility team. We get nervous, anxious, and think about all sorts of things that aren't present when we are training. By Steve Croxford

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Shaping a behavior takes observational skills and mechanical skills. If this seems overwhelming, you are not alone. Here are suggestions for shaping effectively. By Moe Strenfel

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This month's sequence is taken from the Large Dog Individual Jumping course at the 2009 FCI Agility World Championship. By Ann Croft

### 60 Shelter Champs: Led Zeppelin

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 Zeppie, a mixed breed. By Lisa Barrett

### 63 The First Time

Do you remember your first agility trial? Here is one handler's experience at her first NADAC trial. By Dana McNeely

### 75 The Other End of the Teeter: A Journey to Success

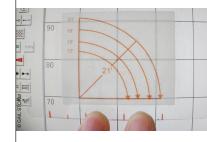
Humbling, exhilarating, and empowering all at the same time, this is one handler's tale of agility training and the journey to the other end of the teeter. By Kathy Matejka

### 78 Managing Gastrointestinal Upset in your Canine Athlete

Your dog has diarrhea and you are away from home. What to do? Try to find an emergency clinic? Manage the situation yourself? How do you know what is a critical emergency and what is merely a nuisance? By Julie A. Roos DVM

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Course design is a mix of art, knowledge, and architectural skill. It is part regulations, part guidelines, and part experience. To maintain consistency in course challenges across the U.S., the AKC has developed a tool to help judges determine which obstacles are considered an option and which are not. By Gail Storm

### 66 Training Solutions for Weave Pole Problems

Weaving problems are as varied as the types of weave poles our dogs see. Whether your dog's problem is entries, skipping poles, exiting early, or his footwork, here are some training solutions. By Rachel Sanders

### Cover Dog

UACH Luke NAC, NJC, TN-N, TG-N, HP-N, CL2, a Labradoodle owned by Carol Greer of Illinois. Photo by Alissa Behn, www.pet-personalities.com.

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