

Clean Run®

THE MAGAZINE FOR DOG AGILITY ENTHUSIASTS

AUGUST 10 VOLUME 16 NUMBER 8



Tips for NADAC Weavers and Weave Pole Training

Weavers courses can present interesting puzzles. But besides looking at strategies for Weavers here, we'll discuss tips for handling tunnels and poles on any course, as well as weave pole training ideas. By Andrea Dexter



Pup Psych 101: Reinforcement Revisited

Both consistent and variable reinforcement have an important place in agility training. To improve training and your performances, it is important to know which type of reinforcement to use in a given situation. By Dara Tarolli



A Practical Guide to Getting on the Ball

Core strengthening should be a component of every performance dog's training program. Ball work can be used for core strengthening, conditioning, injury-specific conditions, weight loss, balance training, and flexibility. By Dr. Debbie Gross Saunders

Cover

19 Train to Maintain: The Table

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 table behaviors.

By Mary Ellen Barry

24 Work That Line! Basic Training for Distance Classes

What do Gamblers, Chances, Jackpot, and FAST classes all have in common? It's a long stretch of caution tape that's strung out on the ground with a few golf tees. In this series, we'll discuss key concepts for successful gamble handling. This month we look at the use of pressure. By Kristy Netzer

Features

5 Editorializing: For the Love of My Dog

When we start in the sport, we strive to emulate the graceful, rhythmic dance of fluid motion and coordination that we see between more experienced handlers and dogs. But there is no "magic pill" to make this synergy happen, it's a road paved with lessons in humility. By Reggie Snell

10 What's My Plan?

Three handlers with different styles of handling analyze the same course and share their handling strategies. This month they look at a USDAA Masters/PIII course by judge Carol Smorch. By Greg Derrett, Rachel Sanders, and Jane Simmons-Moake

30 Competition Preparation: It's All in the Mind, Part 2

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. This month we continue looking at case studies that show how various mind-training techniques can be used in agility. By Steve Croxford

34 Challenges at CR Central

This month Annie mixes up a strong agility cocktail consisting of 270s, threadles, and other masters-level and international handling challenges. You'll also get some practice with the chute, broad jump, and table. By Annie Pyle

44 Can You Handle It?

This month we'll look at the Challengers Round from the 2010 AKC National Agility Championship. By Marquand Cheek

47 The Surrogate Agility Dog

At some point in their careers, many agility addicts find themselves without a "working" agility dog in the house. While some can keep adding new pack members, other people face space and life limitations. So just what is an agility junkie without an agility dog supposed to do? Enter the surrogate. By Deanna Adams

76 Tricks for Agility: Figure Eight and Weaving Through Legs

Besides working on suppleness and flexibility, teaching a figure eight and weaving through your legs can also be used to start teaching directional cues or to keep your dog's focus at trials while waiting at the line. By Sassie Joiris

Columns

6 Tip of the Month By John Yarsa

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

8 Backyard Dogs By Stuart Mah

67 Skill of the Month By Karen Holik

81 Nested Courses for a Small Universe By Debbie Sacerich



38 Deciding When to Take a Break from Training to Retrain

Retraining is always harder because you have two projects: making the old behavior go away and replacing it with a different behavior. So what factors do you need to consider when deciding whether to retrain an agility skill? By Nancy Gyes

70 It's Your Turn! Cue #5: The Push-through

A dog with well-trained turn cues can make your life easier and is also much easier on his body and brain. In this series, you'll learn how to teach your dog the seven turn cues. Here's the fifth cue, the push-through. By Sandy Rogers

Cover Dog

UOCH, Can OTCH, MACH3 Brightspot Lindty Linus UDX2, XF, AGN, AGNJ, a.k.a. Linus, a 6-year-old Dalmatian owned by Elaine Hamill of Massachusetts. Photo by Lesley Mattuchio, www.pbase.com/lesleylou

Clean Run (ISSN 1089-8506) is published monthly by Clean Run Productions, LLC. Principal office: 17 Industrial Dr., South Hadley, MA 01075. Periodicals postage paid at South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-9902 and additional offices. © Copyright 1995-2010 Bud Houston and Clean Run Productions, LLC. All world rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Clean Run, 17 Industrial Dr., South Hadley, MA 01075.**