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When Pigs Fly: The Perfect Table, Part 1
No one knows for sure why, but the table is incredibly stressful for many dogs. All you have to do to understand this is sit ringside and watch the body language of these dogs while they're on the table. This month we'll look at free shaping a down on the table. By Jane Killion



NADAC Hoopers Strategy and Tips
Hoopers is a NADAC strategy game where the only obstacles on course are hoops. There is no numbered course; handlers must design their own plan to meet the qualification requirements in the fastest time. Here are some tips for developing a strategy for your team. By Andrea Dexter



Train to Maintain: Straight Tunnels and Chutes
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 straight chutes and tunnels. By Mary Ellen Barry

Features

5 Editorializing: And I Fought It For So Long...

Some people take longer than others to get hooked on this dance with your dog that we call agility. By Marilyn Pinard

18 Power Paws Drills: Consistency Drills

This month the drills focus on consistency in cueing the course path you wish your dog to take. No matter which handling system you use, each physical signal you use on the agility course should have just one meaning to your dog. For each signal you give, you should be able to anticipate your dog's response to that signal. By Nancy Gyes

32 Cancer Dogs Can Do

For an agility handler, a dog's cancer diagnosis is especially terrifying. The potentially grim reality means not only the loss of a best friend but also a teammate. The good news is cancer is no longer an immediate death sentence. There are dogs thriving out on the agility field and in life that are currently fighting cancer or have beaten cancer. These dogs have achieved the most precious title of all, cancer survivor. By Amy Sanderson

38 It's Your Turn! Cue #6: Lateral Motion

Lateral motion is another cue that takes a back seat to the front cross and the rear cross in the training program. It is cousin to the pull cue, the two having the common role of no side change. Turns that do not have side changes need to be understood and embraced just as much as the ones that do have side changes. By Sandy Rogers

44 Shelter Champs: Zip

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 Zip, a Jack Russell Terrier. By Lisa Barrett

66 Work That Line! The Send

When I want the dog to drive away from me and continue on a forward path, the command I use is *Go*. Not only does this command help me in gambles, but it's also great when there is a long, straight stretch of obstacles on a course. By Kristy Netzer

78 Making Connections at Your First Agility Trials

While agility trials provide a chance to run with our dogs on course, they also give us the opportunity to connect with friends we've made through the sport. But what does an agility newcomer do for support and to make connections at those first trials? By Susan Klavon

Columns

6 **Tip of the Month** By Diane DuBose

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

8 **Backyard Dogs** By Sharon Freilich

Cover

12 Start Lines: from Chaos to Confidence

Whether you and your dog prefer a lead-out or a running start, the way we start sets the tone for the entire run and often makes or breaks the run. Here are some training ideas and exercises to help you perfect your team's start line. By Debbie Sacerich

48 Canine Gait Patterns

Injuries, orthopedic disease, illness, and poor structure may alter your dog's gait pattern. By learning to observe and understand your dog's normal gait patterns, you can ascertain when his movement is off. By Dr. Debbie Gross Saunders

CLAUDIA COOPER DVM



56 Visual and Spatial Awareness

One of the most common handling faults in agility relates to a handler's positioning, timing, and spatial awareness. How many times have you heard handlers say, "I didn't get to where I wanted to be," "My timing was awful," or "I got lost." So how do good handlers get to the right place at the right time? By Steve Croxford

62 Pup Psych 101: Did I Really Train You to Do That?

In dog training, we can inadvertently teach our dogs to do undesirable behaviors by occasionally rewarding those improper actions. This is using the potent method of variable reinforcement to impede the dog's training rather than help it. By Dara Tarolli

Cover Dog

Albert the Great MXJ, AX, a.k.a. Albert, a 9-year-old Jack Russell Terrier owned by Christina Hewitt of Florida. Photo by Pix 'n Pages.

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