

Clean Run®

THE MAGAZINE FOR DOG AGILITY ENTHUSIASTS

DECEMBER 10 VOLUME 16 NUMBER 12

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Hip Dysplasia in Puppies

Canine hip dysplasia (CHD) is one of the most common orthopedic diseases of medium- and large-breed dogs. It can lead to pain, arthritis, and decreased quality of life. There are many treatment options for CHD as well as preventive measures that can be taken. By Felix Duerr, DVM



Work That Line! The Redirect

The final skill for your Gamblers work is teaching your dog the redirect. This cue is the most complex of the directional skills that you'll teach your dog. Essentially, the redirect is a rear cross done at a distance, but you don't actually cross behind your dog or the obstacle. By Kristy Netzer



Married to Agility

Spouses who do agility together have mostly good things to say about sharing their agility passion. Most agility couples train, travel, and trial together, and they think doing so has some major advantages. But there can also be a few challenges to coupling up for agility. By Brenna Fender

Features

5 Editorializing: More Roads

While I do believe 100% in a system, the trap I fell into was spending too much time thinking about the program and the rules that come with it. Finding a program that works for you, a system that is appropriate to your abilities and to your level of devotion to the sport of agility, is what is important for each of us.

By Carole Lynn Evans

12 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 an AKC Excellent Standard course by judge Deidre Crofton. By Greg Derrett, Rachel Sanders, and Jane Simmons-Moake

24 Challenges at CR Central

These exercises are about learning to execute tunnel/contact discriminations at speed and learning to thoughtfully direct the dog through a short technical sequence at either end of the discrimination. By Annie Pyle

28 You Know Your Dog Is Aggressive If... Part 2

Agility is fun, exhilarating, and exciting. But that shouldn't preclude good manners and calm, focused behavior at all times. Dogs that have an "edge" or that are over-the-top at agility class or trials, lunging and barking at dogs or people, need foundation behaviors to help them succeed in agility and in life. Here's how to teach those behaviors. By Pamela S. Dennison

42 Can You Handle It?

Top competitors from over 30 nations, including the U.S., commit to attend the European Open each year, rain or shine. You wouldn't necessarily think rain on a late July weekend in Europe, but that's exactly what confronted dogs and handlers in Liberec, Czech Republic. By Marquand Cheek

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8 Backyard Dogs By Stuart Mah

58 Skill of the Month By Karen Holik

74 Nested Courses for a Small Universe By Debbie Sacerich

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20 Use an Agility Trial Journal to Get the Most from Every Run

You can use an agility journal not only to track your performance, but also to plan handling strategies and warm-up routines for your dog, develop homework to improve skills, and even practice course analysis and game strategy skills. By Susan Klavon

34 Train to Maintain: Weave Entrances

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 entries. By Mary Ellen Barry



52 Get with the Plan: Developing Training Plans for Students

Training for agility without a plan is like baking without a recipe. As instructors, we need to impress upon our students the importance of having a plan. We also need to help students develop that plan, and then support and motivate them as they implement the plan. By Tracy Sklenar

67 Centered Dog Agility: Applying Sally Swift's Centered Riding Techniques to Dog Agility

Do you get stage fright in the ring or have trouble with ring nerves? Learn how to apply Centered Riding principles to agility. It will help with your mental game and increase your confidence and clarity in competition. By Kathy Miller

Cover Dog

CH MACH3 Stirling Blackstone Spitfire UD, a.k.a. Callie, a 9-year-old Airedale Terrier owned by Susan LeVasseur of Rhode Island. Photo by Lesley Mattuchio, www.pbase.com/lesleylou.

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