

Clean Run®

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Customizing and Organizing an Agility Trailer

Equipment managers know that properly outfitting and packing a trailer can reduce setup and breakdown time significantly, help keep equipment in good shape, minimize misplaced items, and increase safety during transport. By Brenna Fender



Are You Prepared for a Medical Emergency?

Knowing when to call 911 and what to do while waiting for an ambulance, as well as having the proper supplies on hand for medical emergencies, could mean the difference between a minor wound and a serious situation. By Sally Silverman with Deb Goodhart



Confessions of a Gambling Addict, Part 1: Planning and Running the Gamble

An agility competitor reveals her obsession with Gamblers and shares the strategies she developed to satisfy her habit. In Part 1, she discusses planning and running gamble sequences in any venue. By Dara Tarolli

Features

5 Editorializing: A Change of Plan

All of us have plans and goals for our performance dogs. How do we deal with the emotional aftermath when something happens that will cause our plans to change? By Julie Bacon

12 Building and Balancing Handler and Obstacle Focus, Part 2

A motivational object is a very helpful tool for teaching your dog to look and go forward ahead of you as well as to build your dog's desire to go to obstacles. By Ann Croft

22 Teaching FOCUS and Impulse-control Classes: Week 1

After discussing housekeeping rules and the FOCUS philosophy, you'll start teaching offered focus, In Your Face recalls, Slooooo Treats, and mat work. By Deborah Jones, PhD

42 Trials with Molly

I had always wanted a BC, but I was soon to discover that some have a gleam of mischief for the unwary. Buyer beware! By Robin E. Tower

46 Power Paws Drills: Crossing Patterns

The middle portion of this month's setup, which looks like a four-jump star pattern with an extra jump, is a natural figure eight that's versatile for all sorts of handling practice. By Nancy Gyes

56 Challenges for Rising Stars

Since weave poles require rhythm and power from the dog to do them well, this month's training sets provide the dog with opportunity for multiple rapid repetitions. By Stuart Mah

71 No Wrong Way to Teach Anything

Everyone obsesses about teaching things right the first time and about mistakes they made with previous dogs. But training evolves all the time: What we think is perfect now may well seem obsolete and "wrong" in five years. So there's no point in worrying about using the perfect technique. By Frankie Sassie Joiris

74 Self-Assessment: Learning from Your Students

Self-assessment is an opportunity for both you and your students to find success at an even higher level. Rather than waste time being defensive or ignoring weaknesses, embrace the opportunity to grow as an instructor and trainer. By Tracy Sklenar

80 Tricks for Agility: Ring Toss

Ring toss is a wonderful trick for dogs that are squirmy on the sit-stay, and also for dogs that are concerned about people's hands coming toward them from above or things moving quickly around them. By Frankie Sassie Joiris

Columns

6 Tip of the Month By Julie Bacon

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

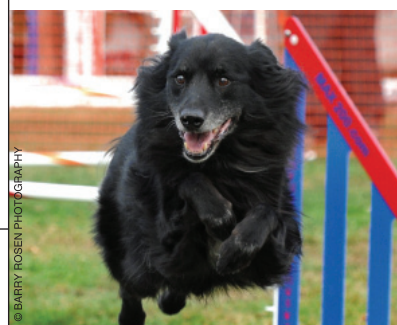
8 Backyard Dogs By Sharon Freilich

15 Bloopers By Brenna Fender

Cover

18 Avoiding Fatigue: How to Stay on Track During an Agility Trial

Physical conditioning, sleep, the number of meals and snacks we eat during the day, carbohydrate intake, and fluid intake are all factors that affect how we feel during an agility trial. Learn how you can keep your energy level at its peak so your experience at each trial is a rewarding one. By Penny Stryzek



51 Aging Agility Dogs

It is possible to have an active and fit senior canine doing agility. But it is important to balance your drive and ambition with your dog's ability. By giving your senior athlete some special attention you can make sure that he is able to have fun, be pain-free, and remain competitive. By Julie A. Roos DVM

59 Ready, Set, Trial! Your First Trial Day

You'll have much to do on your first trial day. Here is some information about what you can expect at your team's first trial. By Jamie McKay, CPDT KA

68 Vive la Différence!

In developing our cognitive skills, the difference between the "predicted reward" and the "experienced reward" of a particular event matters to us and to our dogs. You can use this difference to teach your dog and change his behavior. By Daisy Peel

Cover Dog

Maverick Jimenez CL2-R, CL2-H, CL2-S, CL3-F, NJC, a.k.a. Maverick, a 3-year-old Old English Bulldog owned by Iraidia Jimenez of New Jersey. Photo by Diane Lewis Photography.

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