

# Clean Run®

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## AKC's New Kid on the Block: Time 2 Beat

AKC unleashes its new independent titling class Time 2 Beat (T2B) on July 1, 2011. The class has been in development for over two years, and it looks to be a fast and fun class for all. Learn more about the challenge you can expect. By Ann Croft



## Intervertebral Disc Disease in the Canine Athlete

Dogs that participate in agility are at higher risk for developing IVDD than other performance dogs, due to the repetitive flexion and extension of the spine. By Peter J. Lotsikas DVM Diplomate ACVS, Chris Leasure DVM, Faith M. Lotsikas DVM, CCRT



## Ready, Set, Trial! Walk, then Run

Everyone processes and learns information differently. Whether you are a visual learner, an auditory learner, a tactile/kinesthetic learner, or you prefer a combination of these styles, here are some tips for memorizing the course and for using your course walk-through time effectively. By Jamie McKay

## Features

### 5 Editorializing: When Did Agility Become About Looks?

Recently at trials, I have overheard people ridiculing people in the ring because of their size. When did agility become a sport only for the physically fit? Agility is supposed to be about the connection between us and our dogs. Who cares how we run, how we look, or what condition our body may be in? By Jen Knappenburger

### 12 Building and Balancing Handler and Obstacle Focus, Part 3

In this third installment, the exercises are designed to help build your dog's desire for jumps and his willingness to commit to them. By Ann Croft

### 37 Confessions of a Gambling Addict, Part 2: Planning the Opening

Last month, we discussed planning and handling gamble sequences. Now we'll talk about how to time the opening and choose the obstacles most likely to give your team enough points to qualify and a good chance for success at the gamble. By Dara Tarolli

### 47 Challenges for Rising Stars

Known informally as "Space Invaders," this particular setup is used to practice more advanced transition work; that is, more rapid and more frequent changes between handler focus and obstacle focus. You'll also work on maintaining handler focus for longer periods of time and over long distances between the obstacles. By Stuart Mah

### 56 Challenges at CR Central

More runs are disqualified from the dog's misreading his path via handler misdirection rather than incorrectly performing any individual obstacle. This month's drills all contain path challenges. By Annie Pyle

### 60 FOCUS and Impulse-control Classes: Week 2

In the second week of class, we'll begin work on seamless transitions between on and off states in the dogs. We'll also work on "Look at Me," "Come & Go Recalls," loose-leash standing, and shaping the dogs to remain on a mat. By Deborah Jones, PhD

### 71 When is Good Enough Enough?

We are constantly confronted with training choices. The education of the team is always a work in progress and we have long to-do lists. But we don't have the time to do it all nor can we train everything perfectly. Using the principle of good enough can help us make decisions about when the investment in time outweighs the potential improvement. By Linda Randall, DVM

## Columns

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### 18 Now You See It, Now You Don't: Stress in Performance Dogs, Part 1

Agility is often described as a great game and stress reliever for dogs; yet, we often see the signs of stress in classes and trials. Learning to recognize these signs can help you learn to better connect with your dog and optimize your training sessions. By Sue Alexander, CPDT, CDBC



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### 24 Sharpening Your Snooker Skill: Teach Your Dog to Bypass Obstacles

The game of Snooker requires the dog to move with or to the handler without taking an obstacle until directed to do so. This is a handy skill to have whether or not you play Snooker. By Stuart Mah

### 31 Lameness in Agility Dogs

Changes in a dog's jumping style may be due to the dog compensating for pain or weakness in his body. Diagnosing this type of subtle, intermittent lameness can be challenging. By Audrey DeClue, DVM

### 68 Tips for Training Running Contacts, Part 1

Are running contacts right for you and your dog? No matter which method you plan to use to train running contacts, there are some things you need to think about. By Daisy Peel

## Cover Dog

UCICB ADCH-Bronze MACH2 Joelle de la Vallee du Mouton RN, TD, PT, NF, SACH-Bronze, GCH-Bronze, RCH-Bronze, SCH-Gold, JCH-Platinum, TM-Platinum, LAA-Bronze, a.k.a. Hemi, an 8-year-old Pyrenean Shepherd owned by Elizabeth Evans of Texas. Photo by Fast Clicks Photography.

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