

Clean Run®

THE MAGAZINE FOR DOG AGILITY ENTHUSIASTS

NOVEMBER 11 VOLUME 17 NUMBER 11

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DEBORAH JONES, PHD, KAREN HOCKER PHOTOGRAPHY



Fit to Be Tricked: Peanut Racing

Pushing a peanut-shaped fitness ball is excellent exercise that works on the dog's coordination, wrist strength, hind quarters, and rear-end awareness. In addition to the dog's physical fitness, this particular trick is an excellent one for practicing handler coordination and mechanical training skills.

By Frankie Joiris



Teaching FOCUS and Impulse-control Classes: Week 7

In this week's class, we'll begin to fade the lures we used last time for two of the exercises, the fold-back/sphinx down and the spin, and we'll add a cue if the dog is ready. Plus, we'll continue to add distractions and movement to our focus exercises.

By Deborah Jones, PhD



Motivating the "Un-motivable" Dog

Low-drive. Slow. Stressed. Sensitive. Distracted. Once your dog receives one of these labels, it can be a real downer. But, what if he's happy, well-trained, generally loves to be with you, has incredible drive and stamina in other sports, but he's not super-excited about agility? Here are a few ideas to try.

By Lori Gwyr, KPA-CTP

Features

5 Editorializing: Sportsmanship: Stop Tearing People Down

We encourage others to join our sport by being considerate and caring toward all, no matter their circumstances or our personal level of achievement in the sport. Showing good sportsmanship elevates us by its practice of fair play and grace in both winning and losing.

By Debra Furphy

19 Challenges for Rising Stars

The objective this month is to control how the dog is coming out of the tunnels while moving to other types of obstacles such as spreads and contacts. In addition, you'll have a chance to start creating your own course sequences.

By Stuart Mah

29 Power Paws Drills: Tunnel-Weave-Jump Discrimination

This setup has a jump and a tunnel in very close proximity to the weaves and part of the focus of the drills is to practice having your dog enter or exit the weaves without an error, even though another piece of equipment is extremely close by. There are also opportunities for working gnarly rear crosses and tight front crosses close to the tunnel or jump traps. By Nancy Gyes

35 Ready, Set, Trial! Goals and Expectations

Expectations are based on what we believe is likely to happen, and may or may not be realistic. Replace expectations with clearly defined individualized goals that focus on process and performance rather than outcomes.

By Jamie McKay, CPDT KA

58 Three Years...

The common thread among those of us who have lost agility dogs at or near their prime is that we never really get over it. But as much as the hurt of losing one dog can be numbing, the joy of a new dog can be rejuvenating.

By Glenda McLarty

60 To Quit or Not: Life Lessons with a Polish Lowland Sheepdog

Even if it seems like agility competition may not be your strong point, there are many reasons to stay involved in the sport, including the life lessons we can learn from our canine partners. By Cindy Lynn Martin

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6 Tip of the Month By Kathryn Hawkins DVM

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

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24 Using Matches

and Fun Runs Effectively

There are many reasons why training in a competition-type environment is helpful. But matches and fun runs limit your time in the ring, so to make the most out of this time you need to set a goal and have a plan.

By Rachel Sanders

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37 Understanding

Canine Movement

The better we understand how our dogs move, the easier it is to help them navigate an agility course. This should help us put more Qs in our pockets, help prevent injuries, and prolong the competitive lives of our canine companions.

By Bill Ormston, DVM

43 Training to Your Weakness: Exercises for Dogs with Long Backs

Help your agility team have a successful and healthy career by training to your dog's weaknesses. This month we'll discuss flexibility and strengthening exercises for long-backed dogs.

By Dr. Debbie Gross Saunders

48 Becoming Your Own Coach

Successful dog training is all about you, the trainer. For the dog to learn, you need to do the right thing at the right moment. To figure out what you need to do, you need to look at the finer details of the training process. Here are some suggestions on how to be your own coach.

By Eva Bertilsson and Emelie Johnson Vegh

Cover Dog

Ursli Alina CDX, TDX, RE, OAP, OJP, VCD2, DD, BDD, ANDD, WDX, a.k.a. Lina, a Bernese Mountain Dog owned by Beth & Phil Atkinson of Massachusetts. Photo by Lesley Mattuchio, www.pbbase.com/lesleylou.

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