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CHRIS OTT/SPEEDDOGIE, ANN CROFT



New Options in the Management of Elbow Arthritis

All owners want their dogs to be free of pain but we know from our own experience with arthritis that it is not that simple. Arthritis is a disease we manage versus cure. Here's a look at well-established treatments as well as at several new treatment options. By Dr. Kurt Schulz with Dr. Peter Lotsikas



Fit to Be Tricked: Left- and Right-Foot Targeting

Targeting with two left feet or two right feet is a variation of the foot-targeting theme that works on body awareness and teaches the dog lateral movement while at the same time increases flexibility and coordination. By Frankie Joiris



How to Train Smart When You Can't Train a Lot

You and your dog will make the most progress in your agility skills by having a training plan. Here are my suggestions for developing a training plan and monitoring your progress, as well as ways to creatively make efficient use of the time, space, and equipment available. By Ann Croft

Features

5 Editorializing: It's All About the Teamwork

This sport is all about the teamwork. What's important is not that you're a perfect handler or that your dog is perfectly trained, but that you understand each other weaknesses and can think outside the box and adjust. By Silvia Trkman

15 Challenges at CR Central

Many agility handlers often forget that jumping is a "skill set," not a singular "behavior." Circle work over jumps is very for dogs. This month we'll practice the mechanical skills required for the dogs and the handling skills necessary for repeated pinwheels and circle work on course. By Annie Pyle

42 Teaching FOCUS and Impulse-control Classes: Week 8

For the final class, our main goal is to have fun with our students and their dogs. We'll play some graduation games that target the behaviors we've learned and engage in some friendly competition. By Deborah Jones, PhD

51 Ready, Set, Trial! A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Finish Line

Despite training and proofing before competing in agility, sometimes life throws you a curve ball. These unexpected challenges happen to novice and experienced competitors alike. Here are some experiences you can learn from. By Jamie McKay, CPDT KA

56 Challenges for Rising Stars: Interval Training Revisited

This month's exercises encourages the handler to try to learn a sequence faster, gets the handler used to the quick physical and mental ups and downs that can happen at a trial, develops the handler's ability to run and focus even when tired, and gets a lot of agility practice into a short amount of time. By Stuart Mah

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

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10 The Science of Strategic Reinforcement: When, Where, and How to Reward

Understanding when, where, and how to reward your dog for a particular behavior takes a lot of the mystery out of training. Rewarding correctly can make a huge difference in your agility training. By Jubie Rueschenberg CPDT



29 Combining Front Crosses

A double front cross occurs when two front crosses are performed in succession, typically on the takeoff side of a jump followed by another on the landing side of the same jump. Here we'll discuss the appropriate use of both the double front cross and the blended front cross. By Linda Mecklenburg

46 Start-line Training

Do you struggle to lead out on a course from your dog, worried that as you step away from him, he is likely to bolt away any minute? Are you guilty of "Wait, wait, wait...?" Ooops! Off he goes, and there you are chasing behind. Here are some suggestions for training a solid start line. By Laura Manchester Derrett

62 Get Connected... and Stay Connected

Handlers need to understand that if a dog does not bring his own drive and intensity to the job, they must take on the job of manufacturing and maintaining the connection. By Sandy Rogers

Cover Dog

Camelot's Simply Irresistible MH, AX, OAJ, NAVHDA UT II, a.k.a. Tyra, a 7-year-old Weimaraner owned by Sue O'Donnell of Connecticut. Photo by Lesley Mattuchio, www.pbase.com/lesleylou.

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