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Embrace Your Dog's "Inner Naughty" to Build Tug Drive

All of our dogs have a bit of naughty in them; that is, they each have fun doing something self-reinforcing that we consider to be outside the bounds of polite pet behavior. You can use this inner naughty to take you and your dog to the next level in tugging. By Tracy Sklenar



Review: Rubberizing Contacts

The trend toward rubberizing contact obstacles is spreading across the country. "Old fashioned" paint-and-sand finished equipment is being replaced by obstacles covered in rubber granules or rubber matting. With several methods now available, how do you determine what's the best way to rubberize your contacts? By Brenna Fender



Centered Dog Agility: A Closer Look at Reeducating Mind and Body

By using the Four Basic Principles of Centered Dog Agility and adopting these new ways of seeing; of breathing; of balancing; and of being centered and self aware, you can compete free of anxiety with a clear focus of intent and enjoy improved agility performances. By Kathy Miller

Features

5 Editorializing: Our Best Agility Moment

One of the best agility moments of my life didn't take place in the ring. It wasn't a clean run. My dog dropped a bar. I gave late cues. But, it was one of the most satisfying agility moments ever. By Diane Pellowe

18 Building Blocks: Building Value for Jumps and Teaching Sends

This month's exercises include drills for building the reinforcement value of jumps as well as for training lateral and forward sends. By Rachel Sanders

30 Power Paws Drills: New Fun Drills with Letter H

Adding a tunnel and weaves to the lowercase letter H drill makes for some rather challenging weave entry and exit drills. By Nancy Gyes

39 Analyze This! Judge Thomas Ammitzbøll

Challenges from international courses are making their way into U.S. courses with increasing frequency. This month we look at an agility course designed by Thomas Ammitzbøll. By Greg Derrett

53 What's in Your Toolbox?

Many times in classes we only have time to execute a sequence in one way. In reality, there is usually more than one way that sequence can be efficiently and effectively executed. To be the best competitor you can be, rather than fret about how to get through a sequence, you should have several different ways to do it in your toolbox. By Mary Ellen Barry

59 Agility Mind Gym: Focus and Distractions

Focus is the ability to attend to relevant information and ignore the rest. It is one of the elements that is consistently found in top performers in any sport, and it is a skill you can learn. By Kathy Keats

63 Tips for Purchasing a Supplement

We all want our dogs to live long, healthy, and happy lives. This is especially important for those who have dogs that work. Nowadays, there are so many choices and so many claims it's tough to know what's the best product to buy for your dog. By Dr. Deva Khalsa VMD

70 How to Become an Agility Judge

So you want to be an agility judge! The process isn't easy, but the contribution you make to the sport is well worth it. By Julia Kamysz Lane

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Here's a look at the pros and cons of different weave pole training methods as well as an in-depth description of how to train the poles using Lee's take on the weave channel method. By Lee Windeatt

33 Formula for Success

There is a series of steps that a successful person goes through to reach the goal she has set. This article addresses the actual steps, direct and to the point, you must take to increase your odds of being successful in agility or any other endeavor. By Kathy Keats



73 The Agility Road Less Traveled: Competing with Shy Dogs

If you have a shy dog, you may wonder if your dog can ever compete. Finding help can be a challenge because few resources are available, many agility instructors lack expertise with shy dogs, and most behavior experts have no agility experience. Eleven handlers of shy dogs share the lessons they learned. By Susan Klavon

78 Four Handling Tools for Obstacle Discrimination

Whenever possible, obstacle discrimination challenges should be handled in a way that informs our dog of the correct next direction rather than constantly stalling our dogs by pulling them off obstacles. Here are four handling tools to help you accomplish that. By Dawn Weaver

Cover Dog

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