

Clean Run®

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Not Your Normal Agility Dog

Running a dog that isn't extremely motivated or physically built for agility is a challenge. But with time, patience, proper conditioning, and reasonable expectations all dogs can do agility. Learn why the owners of these dogs prefer to do agility with their breeds. By Juliet Franzen



Principles of Self-control on the Agility Course

If your dog is having difficulty staying at the start line or holding his contact position in the competition ring, the problem may be that you haven't explained the whole picture to him. Teach him his job so that he can be successful. By Dawn Weaver



Small Dog vs. Large Dog Handling

In most venues, all dogs—regardless of size—run the same courses and perform the same obstacles. Observing the differences in how small dogs and large dogs run, including striding, takeoff and landing distances, and the dog's line of sight, provides lessons on how best to handle all dogs. By Anne Stocum

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As more and more children are used as volunteers at trials, it's important for all of us to proof our dogs for the presence of children in the ring. By Brenna Fender
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The VALOR program is about demonstrating a good relationship with your dog through the sport of agility, in an environment set up for success. It's about using agility to work through and overcome behavioral obstacles. By Michele Godlewski, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, CC, BS
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There are several components required to run an agility course well. This month we will focus on two of those skills: reading the course correctly and remembering it. By Kathy Keats
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It can be difficult to create a good turn when the dog is jumping on a diagonal line, especially for long-strided dogs. These exercises should be part of your regular jump skills training. By Nancy Gyes
- 39 Building Blocks: Building Hands-on Confidence and Control**
If you were holding your dog on leash and he was struggling to get away, it is unlikely you would unclip the leash and let him go free. But many owners will let go of the dog if he fusses while they're holding him by his collar. Get your dog comfortable being handled and maneuvered by his collar. By Rachel Sanders

- 57 I Decided to Be Happy... and Then I Was! Tips on How to Get a New Attitude**
Could your attitude about things beyond your control be affecting your dog's performance in class and at trials? Here are some ideas for making an attitude adjustment. By Julia Kamysz Lane
- 63 What's in Your Toolbox?**
Many times in class situations we only have time to execute a sequence in one particular 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 see in competition, you should have several different ways to do it in your toolbox. By Mary Ellen Barry

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Joint replacement does not mean the end of your agility career. One competitor shares her post-op experiences and her successful road back into the ring. By Pat Paterson

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28 Higher Than a Kite: Training the Over-Aroused Agility Dog

Many people seem to think that over-arousal is a sign of high drive. But over-arousal does *not* translate into success in the agility ring. These dogs cannot work thoughtfully and tend to break start-line stays, jump off contacts, drop a lot of bars, bark at their handlers, and even bite their handlers! Self-control needs to be a vital part of their training program. By Tracy Sklenar

47 Chute Straight

The chute is one of the most undertrained obstacles in agility and it's also underused in training classes. Learn how to teach your dog to enter, perform, and exit the chute quickly and safely. By Jen Pinder

60 Footwork for Agility: Front Crosses

Every sport has some kind of footwork, agility included. Footwork for front crosses is very important. Proper footwork can get you through a course more fluidly, with fewer steps, and even take a few seconds off your time. It also cues your dog for the next obstacle and helps prevent knee injuries. By Karen Holik and Eric Bobkowski

Cover Dog

TACH2, UKC CH, AKC CH Cantrip's Life Is Good CGC, RN, NA, NAJ, NF, CL1, TMAG7, TAM2, a.k.a. Mikey, a 12-year-old Boston Terrier owned by Deb Chvilicek of Wisconsin. Photo by Alissa Behn, www.pet-personalities.com.

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