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Does Gender Matter When Choosing an Agility Dog?

When you are choosing your next dog for agility, there are so many factors to consider. Should the gender of your dog or pup be one of them? Or is neither gender superior to the other in terms of agility prowess?

By Brenna Fender



Control Unleashed Solutions and Answers: The Overexcited Spectator

Many dogs become overexcited as they enter the ring and see another dog running. You can take the drama out of your trips to the start line by "reframing" the ring entrance behavior as "just another go-to-place exercise."

By Leslie McDevitt MLA, CPDT, CDBC



10 Games to Play with Dogs That Are Recovering from an Injury

Your high-drive dog is sidelined to recover from an injury. That means no agility, no running, no jumping. So what's going to happen to all that energy? In lieu of your conditioning runs and agility drills, try playing a different game. By Sally Silverman

Features

5 Editorializing: All Roads

Most of us in agility have always had dogs, but few of us grew up as "dog people." Regardless of how most of us started this journey, we have all ended up in this world we call Agility.

By Carole Lynn Evans

12 Challenges for Rising Stars

In these 30-second drills handlers will work on practicing multiple wraps from a jump to a tunnel in rapid succession over a short time. This will require multiple transitions from handler focus to obstacle focus, or vice versa, and also give the handler practice dealing with unexpected results (situational awareness).

By Stuart Mah

21 Agility Mind Gym: Full Circle

When we are struggling, we sometimes lose the joy and passion that got us started in agility. We have doubts about why we are doing agility, and don't see the point. But agility is not just about ribbons and Qs; it's about learning, growing, and challenging our boundaries. It's about living fully and feeling alive, and sharing that with your canine buddy. By Kathy Keats

27 Awesome Paws Drills

A U-shaped tunnel can be performed multiple ways. At higher levels, the entrance is not always obvious and the dog must find it. These drills are designed to help teams become comfortable with a variety of tunnel challenges.

By Linda Mecklenburg

53 Training with the Stars: Maureen Waldron

Maureen Waldron may be a world-class agility competitor, but she spends eight-plus hours a day at a job that has nothing to do with dogs. Waldron is not the usual agility success story.

By Sally Silverman

60 Building Blocks: Developing Solutions for Agility Problems

If you're having problems in agility with a particular obstacle or behavior, you need to develop a training plan that takes three areas into consideration: reinforcement, general behavior 24/7, and obstacle training. By Rachel Sanders

64 Being a Good Student, Part 2

How many times do we attend seminars, or even weekly classes, and get the big picture of what is being presented yet miss those pesky details that really make the picture complete? The devil is in that detail. By Elaine Coupé

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Front Crosses

Front crosses are one of the most prevalent and natural ways that we change sides on a course with our dogs. What's new with front crosses? Nothing and everything—position cue fronts, deceleration fronts, double fronts, and fronts in all sizes and shapes! By Nancy Gyes



23 Training a Deaf Dog to Go the Distance

Can a deaf dog be trained well enough to earn a USDAA Agility Dog Championship? The ADCH requires difficult distance work, since it requires five Qs in Gamblers as well as five Qs each in Snooker, Standard, Jumpers, Pairs, and Tournament classes. By Lisa Barrett

44 Gait Analysis Helps Diagnose Early Lameness & Improve Performance

Gait analysis equipment tests the pressure and timing of each step a dog takes, evaluates weight on front and back, and compares the relationship between strides. This technology can detect a problem 99% of the time, making it a very effective diagnosis tool. By Carole Williams

48 The F-Word: Building Resiliency to Failure!

Many of us avoid failure during training at all costs, fearing that allowing the dog to fail might cause the dog to stress or lose motivation. But never allowing the dog to fail will have far worse results than teaching the dog to be resilient and bounce back from failure. By Tracy Sklenar

Cover Dog

Lucky Charm XXVII, NAI, RN, U-AGII, AKC/UKC CD, a.k.a. Belle, a 9-year-old Dalmatian owned by Carrie Oisten of Michigan. Photo by Cathi Winkles.

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