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Ultimate Instructors: What Makes a Really Good Instructor?

Whether you are a competitor looking for the best possible instructor to take you to a new level in the sport, or you are an instructor yourself and want to be the next big name on the ever-growing seminar circuit, what are the top qualities of a good instructor?

By Lauren Langman



Head-Turning Turns, Part 3

Turning tightly isn't a skill we require only for jumps. We need to expose our dogs to horizontal arc groundwork that teaches them how to use their bodies and read approaches to *all* obstacles. This month we'll focus on approaches to contact obstacles and also teaching the dogs how to work their bodies on curves of all degrees. By Jenni Shelegy



Living Room Agility: Front & Rear Crosses

Front and rear crosses are fundamental, a skill set that every dog and handler need to have to navigate through any agility course. Crosses are also very easy to training and practice in your living room since they don't require any equipment and can be done in small spaces. By Frankie Joiris

Features

5 Editorializing: Would You Treat a Dog Like That?

How we treat our fellow competitors speaks to the future of this sport. How we treat each other describes us. Much has been written in the press about children bullying each other, but bullying is not limited to children—adults bully too. By Anonymous

18 Power Paws Drills: Gnarly Rears

In these drills you will find rear crosses to a threadle, serpentine to rears, threadle to a rear cross, and just plain gnarly rear crosses where you need to stop at the obstacle prior to the rear cross and set the line before you move into your side change. By Nancy Gyes

23 Can You Handle It?

Here's an analysis of the winning runs in Team Medium Jumpers at the 2012 FCI Agility World Championships as well as sequences based on the course that will fit in a 60' x 80' training space. By Marquand Cheek

35 Busting the Myths: Set Goals? Or Just Enjoy the Moment?

Putting having fun with your dog above doing well makes you lighter on your feet because it takes the pressure off and lets you breathe. Forget about your goals, train when you feel like training, and train what you find the most fun to train at that moment. By Silvia Trkman

45 Nutrition for the Canine Athlete, Part 2

Nutritional supplementation to the basic diet enhances recovery from stress, illness, and injury, helps prevent the onset of degenerative disease, and assists the canine athlete to perform optimally. By Dr. Julie Mayer

57 Training with the Stars: Greg Derrett

Consider this mathematical equation: cue equals behavior equals reward. Simple enough, yet it is the theoretical basis of the successful agility career of Greg Derrett. His simple equation is at the heart of all of his foundation work, which is where he sees the biggest holes in student's training. By Sally Silverman

Columns

6 Tip of the Month By Mark Bills

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

8 Backyard Dogs By Marquand Cheek

32 The 10-Minute Trainer By Daisy Peel

61 The Judge's Debriefing By John Senger

Cover

11 Knowledge Equals Speed! Teaching Verbal Directional Commands, Part 1

Verbal directional commands tell your dog where he is going next, even if you are handling from behind. This month we'll work on an obstacle discrimination cue and cues for a tight wing-wrap in each direction. By Dawn Weaver



38 Out Spot Out! Five Required Skills for Successful Distance Work

With an understanding and enough practice of the five skills discussed here, any team can expand its repertoire to include successful distance work—regardless of the dog's size or breed. By Lorrie Reynolds

52 Puppy Agility Games, Part 1

These games teach your puppy some of the most important aspects of our sport without using any agility equipment. The games tap into your puppy's love of food and his natural prey and chase drive to build focus for you and value for interacting with "obstacles." By Anne Stocum

64 Foundation Jumping, Part 1

Foundation jump work allows the dog to focus on the skill set necessary for jumping—speed, balance, and footwork. The mechanical process of jumping is more complicated than many handlers think, particularly when you consider the speed at which we need the dog to perform the activity. By Susan Salo

Cover Dog

CH MACH5 Bijan-Lyrix Megabucks JC MXC2 MJB4 NAP NJP MXF NFP, a.k.a. Keno, an Afghan Hound owned by Robin Cohen and Robin Kletke of Washington. Keno passed away in November 2012. He ran in agility until he was 13 1/2 years old. Photo by Jerry & Lois Photography.

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