

# Clean Run®

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DR. JULIE MAYER



## So You've Got a Small Dog Now

Are there "tricks" to training very small dogs? You'll find that some things in agility are harder for our tiny friends and some things are more difficult for our big pups. But being aware of the differences allows you to focus your training on what might be challenging for your small dog. By Brenna Fender



## Knowledge Equals Speed! Teaching Verbal Directional Commands, Part 3

When you get behind your dog, you need to provide him with information to allow him to continue with the course or he'll have to slow down and check back to see what you want. This month we'll look at teaching a verbal *Go on* command. By Dawn Weaver



## Carpal Hyperextension Injuries

Carpal hyperextension in dogs is an injury where the soft tissues on the underside of the carpus (wrist) have failed to support the carpal joint so the upright position of the leg collapses. Canine athletes are more prone to this injury because of repetitive landings on the front limbs. By Dr. Julie Mayer

## Features

### 5 Reflections from a Novice Handler or What I Have Learned from My Dogs

Dogs have important lessons to teach us, if we're willing to listen. By Janielle Daniels

### 33 Out Spot Out! Teaching Independent Obstacle Performance, Part 2

Independent obstacle performance is essential for all facets of agility and is particularly important for distance work. The process of teaching independent contact performance is similar to what we did last month when teaching independent tunnels. By Lorrie Reynolds

### 40 How to Choose Your Best Agility Instructor

It's one of the most important, long-term relationships you will share with your dog. You owe it to yourself and to your dog, to choose *your* best agility instructor. By Julia Kamysz Lane.

### 51 Power Paws Drills: Timing Turns

We want to keep the dog in full, long strides until just a moment before he needs to turn in order to have him collect up just the right amount. Every dog needs a different amount of collection and turning information, you need to pick the correct amount and correct timing for *your* dog. By Nancy Gyes

### 57 Ultimate Instructors: Lesson Planning & Foundation, Part 2

Lesson planning is fundamental to the success or the downfall of any instructor. This month we continue to develop a lesson plan for a foundation class. By Lauren Langman

### 59 Busting the Myths: Too Slow for Your Dog?

Many people say, "I'm not fast enough for my dog!" But it's not about the length of your legs or your age, it's about trusting your dog, teaching him good commitment, sends, and distance skills, and then just showing him the jump to take while you *move* to the next spot you're needed. By Silvia Trkman

### 61 I Know That's Not the Way You're Supposed to Handle This, But...

When I walk a course I look at how I can get my dog to run the shortest route possible, regardless of what bizarre handling things I might need to do to accomplish that. By Michelle Hrnchar

### 63 Training with the Stars: Amanda Nelson

While everyone knows that it takes two to play agility, Amanda Nelson's concentration on understanding and honing the team relationship has propelled her to the top of NADAC competition. By Sally Silverman

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### 18 Training to Your Strengths

Problems and holes in training need to be addressed, especially if they that prevent us from qualifying. But sometimes we are so focused on these issues that we neglect to see how easily we could improve our overall performance by spending more time zeroing in on our *strengths*. By Frankie Joiris

### 22 Front Cross Footwork

Many of us aren't as athletically gifted as our dogs, so we need to be as efficient and clear as possible with our body cues when we are communicating to them on course. Understanding front cross footwork will increase our efficiency on course. By Laura Manchester-Derrett



### 26 Club Games to Light the Competitive Fires

Just as a smoldering match can start a mighty blaze, a wee bit of competitive success can spark a flame that will motivate agility neophytes and keep them coming back to classes. Succeeding in competitions, whatever the magnitude, raises our self-confidence. By Jan Manning

### 42 4 Easy Steps to Getting More Accomplished When You Train

Use this simple four-step process to ensure that your dog is learning what he needs to be learning each time you train. By following these steps you will increase your dog's comprehension of your handling cues and you will stay on track, addressing exactly what your dog needs, when he needs it. By Sandy Rogers

## Cover Dog

Bubba ExFH, ChFH, ChWC, ChSn, ChJP, and 10 Qs from C-ATCH, an 8-year-old Border Staffy owned by Judy Raffone of Vermont. Photo by Jim Poor - The Dog Sport Photographer.

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