

Clean Run®

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Preparing Shy Dogs for Agility Class

While some teams just seem to glide through agility training with an ability to focus in the presence of any distraction, other teams discover that their dog is sensitive to training environments and activities. Some preliminary preparation work and class strategies may help these teams succeed in group agility classes. By Stephen McKay



Foundation Jumping, Part 3

The low, plyometric, ladder grid works on speed, fluidity, balance, and ease of motion, and is essential to the dog's understanding of the mechanics of jumping. While the set point exercise we did previously teaches the dog the vertical element of jumping, the ladder grid teaches him the horizontal element. By Susan Salo



Overcoming Disappointment in Competition

Disappointment is a horrible feeling. In agility we not only risk being disappointed in ourselves, but in our dogs as well. If disappointment is getting the better of you, you don't have to quit agility to turn the train around. Disappointment can be managed and eradicated. By Sandra Rogers

Features

5 Editorializing: Improving Attitude

When you're too caught up in the hunt for double Qs, it's easy to become discouraged and lose sight of the positive things that happen during the journey toward your goal.

By Kathryn Hawkins, DVM

17 The 10-Minute Trainer

This month we're going to work on pushing our dog to the backside of a jump. Sending your dog past the plane of a jump to take it coming back toward you is something that is most often associated with international-style courses, but it is required once in a while on US courses.

By Daisy Peel

26 Training with the Stars: Lisa Kucharski

Lisa Kucharski still considers herself an agility newbie, even though she has stood on the podium at the USDAA Cynosport Games holding a blue ribbon. What made her first-place Grand Prix run even more special was that her partner, Finesse, an Aussie, is the only non-Border Collie to ever win at 22". By Sally Silverman

32 Power Paws Drills: More Threadles!

This setup has threadles that are pull-throughs without a second turn, forward threadles to the back of a jump, a rear cross to a pull-through, and some traditional threadles, of course.

By Nancy Gyes

45 Busting the Myths: Dealing with Fears

Rather than trying to convince your dog that something really isn't scary, observe what your dog does when he's happy, make a trick out of it, put it on cue, and then tell the unhappy dog to do the behavior that normally expresses happiness and you'll immediately get a happier dog!

By Silvia Trkman

48 Biceps Tendonitis Injuries and Prevention

Biceps tendon injuries are very common in highly active canines. Whether a house pet running around in the yard or jumping off the furniture, or a performance dog competing in sport activities, the dog's front limbs take a beating. By Dr. Julie Mayer

60 Trick or Train? Skill-building Halloween Games for your Club

Agility is a way of life for most of us, so it's fun to seek ways to incorporate the holidays into our training program. Here are three Halloween-themed games for your club's October get-together. By Jan Manning

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14 Reinforcement Really Matters!

Before you teach agility skills, you need to cultivate a strong reinforcement structure so your dog understands that reinforcement (his money) must be earned. You also need to understand placement of reward and when it's best to use a toy or food. By Laura Derrett

40 Knowledge Equals Speed! Cues That Affect Acceleration on Course

There are various ways of handling to ensure that you are always cueing maximum acceleration around a course. We are going to look at some of these cues as well as other factors that affect acceleration.

By Dawn Weaver



54 Out Spot Out! Teaching Distance

These exercises will help you teach your dog to confidently move away from you going forward or laterally. This allows you to send the dog to execute obstacles while you move into position to handle the next section of the course. By Lorrie Reynolds

64 Getting the Balance Right!

Is the team "coach," it is your responsibility to decide when to train, when to compete, when to exercise, and when to rest. Coming up with a training and competition schedule that will work for both you and your dog can have a big impact on how you progress. By Ashley Deacon

Cover Dog

MACH2 Solomons' Maggie's Daddy's Girl, MXB2, MJG2, AXP, AJP, RS-N, RS-J, NAC, NJC, TT-21-CHA, CGC, a.k.a. Maggie (or My First Girl, My Best Girl, My Maggie Moo), a 12-year-old Chihuahua owned by Teresa and Steve Solomon of Georgia. Photo by Diane Lewis Photography.

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