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Foundation Jumping: Part 4

Most of us would like our dogs to bend tighter on turns so they can negotiate the line faster and more efficiently, but bending while jumping is a very difficult task for your dog to perform. Here are some exercises designed to help dogs perform bend work with greater ease so they can negotiate a tight line while jumping on a turn and also save their bodies the wear and tear of doing the task incorrectly. By Susan Salo



First Jump, Last Jump

Your training can be enhanced or compromised on your way to the first jump and after the last jump is finished—your dog is receiving critical information as soon as he leaves his crate to go to the ring, and immediately after he takes that last jump. The trouble is that our attention is often not on fully our dog at these times. Small changes in your routine can make big differences. By Sandy Rogers



Out Spot Out! Understanding Paths

Once your team has trained all of the skills necessary for distance work, the next step is to determine how to maximize your success by creating a smart, efficient path through a course. This month we'll discuss how to determine the best place to set up at the start line, the similarities between paths for distance and close-in work, and how to plan your path when there are handler restrictions. By Lorrie Reynolds

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5 Editorializing: Is My Dog Ready to Trial?

We were eager to learn all the equipment and in a hurry to start competing with our friends. But by the time you get your next dog, you realize that just being able to complete a string of obstacles in class is not the determining factor that your dog is ready to compete. By Mary Jo Johnson

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How I survived my first USDAA judging assignment despite briefing walkabouts, weak "tweets," and exhibitors judging me. By Julia Kamysz Lane.

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Experiment with different cue combinations for cueing a 180° turn on one jump and a 180° turn from the backside of one jump, while adding speed and distance to the equation. By Linda Mecklenburg

22 Training with the Stars: Dave Munnings

The relationship with their dog is the thing that British handler Dave Munnings believes allows certain handlers to have continually good dogs again and again. By Sally Silverman

30 Developing Resistance to Hamstring Injuries in Agility, Part 2

Now that you've performed the tests in Part 1, here are some exercises and stretches aimed at helping correct the faulty movement patterns or deficiencies you observed. The goal is to gain optimal hamstring performance and integrated movement function. By Kimber Chase and Kristin Rosenbach

38 Class Challenges for Rising Stars: Rear Crosses

Rear crosses are a complicated maneuver to do cleanly but they are a necessary tool in some situations. Learn what can cause a rear cross to fail and how to train for successful rear crosses. By Stuart Mah

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Back of the Jump

Until recently only handlers with international aspirations needed to perfect complex back-of-the-jump skills. But now we have backsides presented at local AKC trials, and quite often on USDAA courses. This two- and three-jump setup is Nancy's "go to" drill for working on backsides. By Nancy Gyes

14 Taking a Deeper Look into Soft Tissue Injury: Diagnostic Musculoskeletal Ultrasound for the Canine Athlete

Diagnostic ultrasound offers a quick, noninvasive way to diagnose soft tissue injuries and an accessible way to monitor them during treatment. New diagnostic ultrasound can give peace of mind in visually confirming that injuries are healed and it's appropriate to return to sport. By Debra Canapp, DVM, CCRT, CVA Diplomate, ACVSMR



28 Secrets to Perfect Timing: It's All About Commitment

Your dog's commitment to an obstacle can be early or late, it can be strong or weak, it can be obstacle-specific, and it can be more obstacle- or more handler-oriented. All of these factors affect your timing. By Kathy Keats

49 The 10-Minute Trainer

Although a stay at the start line can be advantageous, it is not, as many might think, necessary—at least, not as often as you might think. So let's look at how to handle opening sequences without a start-line stay. By Daisy Peel

Cover Dog

Tyrone Keller AX, AXJ, NF, NW1, a.k.a. Tyrone, a 10-year-old mixed breed owned by Fran Sisson of Washington state. Photo by Django Photography, www.dogagilityphoto.com

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