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Using the Treat & Train to Teach a Moving Foot Target Behavior

An issue with either stopped or running contact training is that if the reinforcement is not directly ahead of the dog, he does not carry on to the end of the contact. You can solve this problem by teaching your dog a moving foot target behavior. By Daisy Peel



When "Run Faster" Isn't an Option, Part 3: High School

Strong verbal cues are crucial in solid distance work. Without verbals, getting the dog around a course is difficult at best. You can use verbal cues to communicate what kind of turn is coming and tell the dog to take the backside of a jump. By Helen Grinnell King



An Inside Look at Agility Training Centers: Skyline Agility Club

Kristen Mathieson, a member of Skyline's Board of Directors, answers questions about all facets of their dog training business, including managing instructors, students, and dogs; class structure and policies; and administrative topics. By Brenna Fender

Features

5 Editorializing: How Many Is Too Many?

For some people, one dog is enough; others enjoy living with multiple dogs. There was a lot of discussion on Facebook when someone was denied a dog through a rescue because she had "too many dogs." This had me asking, how many is too many? Two? Four? A dozen? It's not an easy question to answer. By Andrea Davis.

16 If the Shoe Fits: Finding the Right Agility Footwear

Buying the right shoe for agility has become a complicated endeavor. First there is the quality of the shoe itself, then there is the profile of the shoe to consider. The sole also plays a crucial role in the choice. By Sally Silverman

25 Power Paws Drills: Italian Inspiration

This month's exercises are based on a course designed by Italian judge Sandra Diedda. The setup fits in a 60' x 80' area. By Nancy Gyes

29 In Case of Injury Have a Plan

The risk of injury is inherent in sports and when one occurs, it must be dealt with swiftly and carefully. As these two modes are frequently incompatible, it's wise to plan how you would care for your dog in advance of a canine sports injury. By Kathryn Schneider

31 K9 Conditioning: Increasing Forelimb Stability

Hip flexor (iliopsoas), shoulder, or knee injuries are some of the concerns for dogs who lack lateral strength. The exercises included here target lateral (side to side) forelimb strength and stability. By Bobbie Lyons, Cert CF

35 Being an Innovative Dog Trainer: Choices, Choices, Choices

Understanding choices presented to our dogs and enhancing them through reinforcement means you can work on any behaviour, anytime, anywhere, and with *zero* equipment. By Tom Mitchell

52 Class Plans from Happy Dog Ranch

One of the challenges instructors face each week is designing exercises and courses that require little moving of equipment between groups and challenge all the students in the class while not making it so difficult that they cannot be successful. By Kristy Netzer

57 Weave Skills and Drills, Part 3: Proofing Handler Maneuvers and Trialing

This month we introduce rear, front, and blind crosses before and after the weave poles, sequencing the weave poles, and proofing. By Ann Croft

60 Training with the Stars: Sandy Rogers

Inspired by the teaching process now more than ever, Sandy says, "I am always looking for more fundamental things, the things that people really need to make the sport easier for them. The little 'holy grails' in teaching that I think get overlooked." By Sally Silverman

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

8 Backyard Dogs By Dudley Fontaine

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13 Why Does My Dog Do Well in Class, But Breaks Down at Trials?

Competitive thoughts, especially negative self-criticism, can cause fear which quickly turns to stress and shock. This shock travels down the leash to your dog who may then display stress behaviors which send anxiety traveling back up the leash. By Diane Zimmeroff

20 Gait Analysis: Knowing What's Right So You Can Recognize What's Wrong

Agility dogs are often stoic and do not always show overt signs of pain or limping when they're injured. Gait analysis is an important diagnostic tool. By M. Christine Zink DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACVSMR, CVSMT, Sherman O. Canapp, DVM, MS, CCRT, DACVS, DACVSMR, Brittany Jean Carr, DVM



37 Improving Your Dog's Motivation and Speed, Part 1

Knowing what is rewarding for your dog is one of the keys to success in any aspect of dog training. This month the author focuses on prey drive, tugging games, and fetching games. By Katarina Podlipnik

46 As the World Turns: Whisky Cross

The whisky is a technique in which the dog is approaching the jump from the backside or on a very tight angle, and the handler performs a rear cross on the jump, cueing the dog to jump on a slice. By Mary Ellen Barry

Cover Dog

MACH 2 NATCH Heads Up Red Zinger CD, WC, JH, T2B, NF, ONYX, a.k.a. Zinga, an 8-year-old Golden Retriever owned by Jennifer Wagner DuRocher (Michigan) and Anne Everett. Photo by Cathi Winkles Photography.

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