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As the World Turns: Backlap

With the backlap, the dog is sent to the backside of a jump while the handler remains on the landing side. The dog jumps toward the handler and then a lap turn is performed to turn the dog away. The handler remains on the landing side of the jump and layers the jump after the dog performs it.

By Mary Ellen Barry



Returning to Agility Competition After TPLO Surgery

Many dogs that return to agility after a Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy are able to perform at or above their pre-injury level. By Shannon Heidorn, DVM, Sherman O. Canapp Jr., DVM, MS, CCRT, DACVS, DACVSMR, M. Christine Zink, DVM, PhD, ACVP, DACVSMR, Christopher S. Leasure, DVM



Mind to Win: How Your Emotions Affect Your Dog's Emotions, Part 1

You are part of a team trifecta that consists of you, your dog, and your partnership with your dog. All three interact with each other. Many handlers acknowledge how their dog's behavior affects them, but it's not a one-way street! Your dog may also be reacting to you. By Kathrine McAleese, PhD

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5 Editorializing: If I Don't Like It, It Must be Stupid

Can we take up the challenge to avoid negative generalizations about agility organizations, handling systems, training methods, and dog breeds? Specifics matter. Telling a fellow competitor or student what you don't like about something is far more helpful than just calling it stupid.

By Brenna Fender

25 Being an Innovative Dog Trainer: Arousal, Part 4—Arousal Manipulation Games

Learn a game to help you switch on your dog for training and competing, and another one to switch off your dog so he can rest, recuperate, and relax. By Tom Mitchell

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This month's drills mimic some of the opening and closing challenges on the courses from this year's AKC/USA international Team Tryouts.

By Nancy Gyes

37 K9 Conditioning: Exercises for Retired Performance Dogs

Inactivity and age cause muscle loss. Doing some simple exercises will help your older dog keep the muscle he has and increase muscle with continued supportive exercise as well as keep him mentally stimulated. By Bobbie Lyons, Cert CE, FitPAWS Master Trainer Course Instructor

49 Feet First, Part 4: Footwork for Agility

In the last article of this series, you will learn the six basic footwork cues that Sandy uses for agility handling so you can start practicing with your imaginary dog. By Sandy Rogers

56 Using the Treat & Train to Proof Your Contacts

One of the biggest problems with weaving is that sometimes circumstances require your motion be at odds with supporting your dog to the end of the weave poles. This is where a visible target like the Treat & Train can come in handy. By Daisy Peel

63 The Cone Zone: Cone Courses and Advanced Cone Work

Once your dog loves the cone, you can create cone courses and integrate the cone with other exercises where you want to encourage speed and drive. By Stacy Peardot Goudy

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42 What We Can Learn from Race Car Drivers

Navigating a dog through the best and fastest path is not unlike driving a race car. The handler or driver needs to understand speed, turning, velocity, and lines of travel to optimize the dog's or vehicle's path. By Frankie Joiris



45 How to Improve Everything You Train

What if there was a simple way to improve all of your dog's trained skills? What if, by making a couple of changes, you could massively improve your dog's connection with you, attention, speed, desire to work, and so much more?

By Stacy Winkler

60 Training in Small Spaces, Part 1: Making the Most of What You Have

Learn how a trainer kept her Masters level dog tuned up for agility and also did foundation work with her up and coming dog while living in a New York City apartment. By Bobbie Bhambree

Cover Dog

A Miniature Schnauzer racing across the dogwalk at the 2012 CPE Nationals in Altamont, New York. Photo by Donna Kelliher Photography.

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