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Is the Tire an Inherently Unsafe Obstacle?

The breakaway tire has undoubtedly improved the overall safety of the tire, but is it enough? There are many other factors about the tire's design and placement that can increase the likelihood of crashes. By Anne Andrlé



Turn Fizzling Seesaws into Sizzling Seesaws

Each dog brings their own challenges to seesaw training. Some worry about motion, some have trouble with weight shift, etc. So if your dog's seesaw performance is more fizzling than sizzling, read on! By Jen Pinder



Training in Small Spaces, Part 3: Making the Most of What You Have

Agility is a game of many behaviors chained together and there are many pieces that have to be put into place. Space, or lack of it, does not have to be a reason you can't play agility. By Bobbie Bhambree

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5 Editorializing: Training Agility Indoors vs. Outdoors

If your training classes are generally held inside, can you successfully compete outdoors if you don't get outdoor agility training time? By Sandy Rogers

13 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

21 K9 Conditioning: Exercise Progression Using a Donut

Making a few minor adjustments to the same basic exercise allows you to progressively increase the level of physical difficulty for your dog. By Bobbie Lyons, Cert CF, FitPAWS Master Trainer Course Instructor

26 Being an Innovative Dog Trainer: Arousal, Part 6—Boundary Games

In these games, your dog has to stay in or on a designated area until he is released (a mat, a crate, etc.). Boundary games help develop impulse control and also boost motivation. By Tom Mitchell

28 Should We Rethink the TPLO? Part 2

There probably isn't an agility competitor who hasn't known or had a dog that needed a tibial plateau leveling osteotomy to repair a torn cranial cruciate ligament. As the incidences of ruptured cruciates are increasing, so is the need for improved surgical and non-surgical care. By Kimberly Henneman, DVM

32 Power Paws Drills: Preparing for the FCI Agility World Championships

Warm up your front-cross feet, this month's drills have lots of opportunities to work on leaving your dog in the weaves and getting into position for front crosses and pushes to the next obstacle. By Nancy Gyes

52 Using the Treat & Train to Proof Stopped Contacts

Whether you have taught your dog a two-on/two-off behavior or a four-on behavior at the end of a contact, the Treat & Train can help you solidify your dog's understanding of this behavior. By Daisy Peel

58 Training with the Stars: Eva Bertilsson and Emelie Johnson Vegh

They joke that they share a brain. While that may be hyperbole, Eva Bertilsson and Emelie Johnson Vegh unquestionably share a passion for learning theory, positive teaching methods, and a desire to share what they know with others. By Sally Silverman

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8 Making Your Rewards More Dynamic and Effective, Part 1

By elevating the value of what you use to reward your dog and injecting energy, fun, and excitement into how you reward your dog, you can turn mediocre agility behaviors into stellar skills. By Stacy Winkler

36 Circle Work: A Benefit to Any Handler

Circle work is a foundation drill that has huge benefits regardless of your handling style. It teaches the dog not to cut ahead or behind you, not to spin or bite at you, to ignore your running style, to react to your shoulder rotation, and much more. By Greg Derrett



40 Mind to Win: First Steps to Dealing with Anxiety

You started out in agility because it looked like fun, perhaps even a stress-relieving escape from everyday life. But as we begin to care about this game we play with the dogs we love, we can find ourselves getting wound up and anxious, which can get in the way of our ability to give our best. By Kathrine McAleese, PhD

62 As the World Turns: Hungarian Cross (formerly Kabai Blind)

With this technique, the dog is approaching the jump while the handler moves across the bar on the landing side. As the dog is reaching his takeoff point, the handler executes a blind cross. By Mary Ellen Barry

Cover Dog

Gonduzo Alkonyat Karacsonyi Napsugar CD RA MX MXB MXJ MJB NF, a.k.a. Shimmer Shakers, a 4-year-old Mudi owned by Leslie Kozlowski of Michigan. Photo by Cathi Winkles Photography.

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