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As the World Turns: Front Cross with a Shaped Takeoff Point

This month we will discuss front crosses where the dog is jumping on a slice and the takeoff point needs to be shaped, but the handler is not in the correct position for performing a reverse V-set. By Mary Ellen Barry



Traumatic Patellar Luxation in Agility Dogs

While patellar luxation is believed to most commonly have a developmental or congenital etiology, traumatic patellar luxation can be seen in both performance and companion dogs. By Brittany Jean Carr, DVM and Sherman O. Canapp, Jr., DVM



Never Underestimate the Power of a Good Role Model

Copying is not just for cats! Dogs are known for their allelomimetic behaviors. Their ability to mimic dogs around them is why those of us who have more than one dog have an advantage in training any new puppy who comes to live with us. By Kathy Lofthouse

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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

8 Sense of Self: Breaking from Agility, for Agility

Programming rest periods into your yearly agility training and competition seasons can reduce physical, emotional, and mental strain for dogs and people. Plus, regularly implementing rest periods is just considered good practice when it comes to prepping an athlete for peak physical and mental performance. By Tori Self

17 Team Small Dog Agility Humility: Dabbling in the Dark Arts

"In my little corner of the agility world, we call the mystical sorcery of Gamblers the dark arts. If this is a holy grail you're trying to find, there are secret forces who will pass along the mysteries of teaching your dog to Go Out and Go Far Away and Left and Right and other important little details." By Laura Hartwick

22 Judge's Eye: Wrong Courses

One of the few things that all agility organizations have in common is penalizing an exhibitor for taking a wrong course. Off-course penalties vary based on level and organization. By Cindy Deak

24 A Balancing Act: The Three-Legged Stool of Behavior Change, Part 2

How you approach changing a behavioral challenge is critical to the outcome. Using the model of a three-legged stool helps us understand how to balance and integrate the most critical elements of a successful behavior modification program. By Terry Long, CPDT-KA

41 Power Paws Drills: Double Tunnel Weave

This setup is great to work on sending to tunnels with hidden openings and polishing up your tunnel-weave-jump discrimination skills. By Nancy Gyes

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Whether you are an athletic handler, slow handler, or physically challenged handler, long lead-outs can help your dog have a speedy and accurate head start on many courses. By Kristy Netzer

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Many people say, "I just want to teach my dog to come when called." While that's an understandable goal, there is no such thing as "just" when teaching a recall. Coming when called is not a single behavior, like a sit. By Pamela Dennison

36 An Unexpected Odyssey: Canine Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and Agility

Veterinary behaviorists often recommend agility for OCD dogs because it provides healthy physical and mental activity for dogs. But there is little to no information out there about *how* to do agility with an OCD dog. By Susan Klavon



57 Puppy Skills for Total Team Performance: Comfortable Contact Performance

When teaching a stopped contact performance, it is important that the puppy learn to find a comfortable and balanced position at the bottom of the contact obstacle. This can be achieved with rear-foot targeting. By Frankie Joiris and Chris Ott

60 Novice and Beyond—A Survival Guide: Understanding Line Setting

To keep a dog on course, we have to learn how to "see" the correct line from the dog's point of view, how and when to cue the dog to turn so he stays on the correct line, and how our path affects the dog's line, for better or worse. By Sandy Rogers

Cover Dog

Safranne's Puttin' On The Glitz OA, AXJ, OF, a.k.a. Dazzle, a 2-year-old Miniature Poodle owned by Mitzi and Terry Keating of California. Photo by Nancy Gyes.

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