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Early Agility Training and Exploring the Art of the Possible, Part 1

In the infancy of our sport, the major focus was on how to teach the dog to do the obstacles, which seemed like an impossible task back then. Let's look at some of the early contact and weave pole training "methods." By Nini Bloch



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Judge's Eye: So You Want to Be an Agility Judge

If you are interested in becoming a judge and you don't mind standing on your feet for hours at a time in the heat, humidity, rain, and every single other adverse condition you can think of, then read on! By Cindy Deak



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How to Train Legendary Lead-Outs, Part 10

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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5 Point to Point: Shoot the Chute?

Instead of looking at what obstacle we can eliminate, perhaps we need to be focus on how we can make the equipment safer. And, we need the agility organizations to look at ways to reduce and prevent injuries in the sport. By Cindy Deak

10 Sense of Self: Mental Game, Part 3—Smart Training

A focus on perfection in performance has led to the emergence of obsessive and fixated training practice that often involves constant over-drilling of skills and obstacle performance. But 1,000 hours of poor practice will never be as beneficial as 100 hours of well-crafted, focused, and deliberate effort. By Tori Self

13 Power Paws Drills: Slice 'n Dice

There are quite a few lead-out pivot opportunities in these drills which you can replace with front crosses and running off the start line with your dog. By Nancy Gyes

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The conclusion Laura's story on how she was introduced to dog training and how she got hooked on agility. By Laura Hartwick

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If variety is the spice, then Charlene Wiglesworth is enjoying a very zesty canine career! She has been involved in dogs her whole life, but has never committed to a single breed; instead choosing to enjoy the immense variety of breeds available. By Sally Silverman

46 Extreme Canine Conditioning Exercises

Just because a dog *can* do something and it is *possible* to train them to do it, does not mean it is *appropriate* and *safe* for them to do. When did canine conditioning become a competitive sport? By Debbie Gross

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Here's a holiday project that makes use of all those agility ribbons you have gathering dust! By Deborah Davidson-Harpur

63 Puppy Skills for Total Team Performance: Perfecting Performance

The formula for perfecting any behavior at any age is to teach it in tiny steps with a high rate of reinforcement, leaving dog and handler with a feeling of accomplishment as well as getting a very high standard of behavior. By Frankie Joiris and Chris Ott

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We hear much discussion about how important the socialization period is for your performance puppy, but what is this period really? And is all hope lost for your pup if you missed out on it? By Tom Mitchell BSc, BVSc, MRCVS

34 Underfoot Updated: Composite Surfaces

Composite surfaces have the advantages of dirt and sand agility footing with the addition of increased stability, cushioning, uniformity, day-to-day consistency, and dust reduction. By Brenna Fender



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50 Novice and Beyond: Zen and the Art of the Rear Cross

There is so much to understand with regard to executing good rear crosses and the training takes patience. Let's discuss what skills you need before you start rear cross training, and also identify the key elements for great rear crosses. By Sandy Rogers

59 As the World Turns: The Flick at a Jump

In a previous issue we looked at using the OneMind Dogs Flick technique to turn the dog on the flat before a jump. This month we'll look at performing the Flick at a jump, where its purpose is to turn the dog tightly around the wing and/or take an off-course obstacle out of view. By Mary Ellen Barry

Cover Dog

Sealore Perfect Silver Lining Forecast, HSA, MX, MXB, MXJ, XF, T2B, a.k.a. Cloudy, a 3-year-old Rough Collie owned by Carol Lariviere of Rhode Island. Photo by Jeremy Kezer Photography.

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