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On the Cover

6 Setting Up for Success on the Start Line

Every agility course has an opening. Often how we set up our dog on approach to the first obstacle, where we lead out, and our motion upon releasing the dog determines success or failure on the course. By Anne Stocum

12 Practically Training: Maintaining Skills

Just because you trained a behavior well in the first place doesn't mean you won't lose it. Losing behaviors and disintegrating skills are part of a normal life for teachers (us) and their pupils (our dogs). It is a simple matter; our dogs need our help. By Sandy Rogers

15 Finding Your Ready Face

When I see the Ready Face on the start line, I have no fear. It's my dog's way of telling me that life is good and, no matter what else is going on around him, he's made the choice that he's ready to run. So, what if you don't see a Ready Face? By Laura Hartwick

45 Power Paws Skills: What's New in Weave Training?

Here are some new ways to use 2x2s in your weave pole training as well as some games to improve your weave poles. By Nancy Gyes

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4 Tip of the Month – A training idea for people whose dogs don't like to do the table because it's no fun to stop running and doing the "action" equipment. By Marie-Josée Thuot

5 Editorializing: New Beginnings – January is a time for new beginnings, and we've decided to make a few changes in the magazine. By Brenna Fender

Cover Dog

Alta-Tollhaus Aiden VCD2, BN, RE, FDC, MX, MXJ, MXP2, MXPB, MJP2, MXF, MFP, CA, SCN, SIN, SEN, DN, CGC, TKI, a.k.a. Aiden, a 6-year-old German Shepherd Dog owned by Lynda Brogden-Burns of Massachusetts. Photo by Karen Hocker.

19 Reporative Medicine for Cranial Cruciate Ligament Injury in Agility Dogs: The Current Status – CCL injury is one of the most common causes of hind-limb lameness. Surgical treatment with the TPLO is the gold standard for full CCL tears, but there is great debate on how to treat partial or early CCL injuries. By Drs. Sherman Canapp and Alycia Lamb, DVM, CCRT

23 Everyday Distance: Cones – In this introduction to the series, we'll discuss distance training that can be used on many types of agility courses as well as how to use cones to teach distance and directionals. By Amanda Nelson

28 Welcome to Agility: First Show Jitters – *The nerves* and the questions. Am I really ready? What if I go into the ring and look stupid? What if people aren't nice to me? What if because I am new, I make a colossal mistake? By Angela Jackson, Lifecoach

29 Backyard Dogs – These drills include a full range of handling challenges including interesting tunnel to weave and weave to tunnel entrances. You'll work on jump wraps, slices, pin wheels, serpentines, backsides, and threadles. By Steve Schwarz

31 Beginning Sequencing with the A-Frame – Once your training on individual obstacles is done, it's time to start sequencing! Here we'll discuss important consideration for introducing the A-frame in sequences as well as provide many sequences to try on your own. By Jo Sermon

40 25% Solution for Fine Tuning Teamwork – Among other challenges, you'll practice landing-side approaches, or backsides, in one set of exercises and 270s in the other set. By John Reid

42 Making You the Focus of Your Puppy's Attention: Socialization and Puppy Classes – Do you really want to put your pup in a position to deal with a lot of challenges and stresses—many not under your control—before you have had a chance to develop a relationship, value for you, focus, and value for reinforcers? By Stacy Winkler

44 Mental Management Minute: Goal Setting – Taking time to set thoughtful and realistic big picture and action goals can help you start your 2019 agility year off on the right foot. By Brenna Fender