



PHOTOS © SIMONE "TIG" STEPHENSON, MATT ALLISON, CLEAN RUN, LAURA TSUK

On the Cover

7 Basic Handling Skills, Part 3: The Blind Cross

The blind cross is one the simplest of handling moves. Used at the right place at the right time it allows the handler to change sides swiftly while running ahead of her dog on course.

By Simone "Tig" Stephenson

20 Face the Fear! How to Address a Dog's Fear, Anxiety, and Stress in the Ring, Part 1

Fear, anxiety, and stress manifest in different ways on an agility course. Some dogs zoom around; some resort to sniffing and shutting down; some dogs bark and lunge at whatever triggers them. Learn how to reduce your dog's stress so that he is happy doing agility. By Bobbie Bhambree

25 Time and Illusion: How a Dog Sees an Agility Run

Some of the great sensitivity of dogs to our movements can be attributed to their faster visual perception of the world. In one second, our eyes can "snap" 60 images of the world while dogs can snap upwards of 80 images. By David Bozak

45 For the Love of the Teeter: Part 2, Fixing Typical Performance Problems

If you have a dog that loves the teeter but stops short instead of driving to the end of the board reliably or comes off the side of the board, this article is for you! By Sandy Rogers

Features

4 Tip of the Month – A different way to keep your dogs cool when crating out of the car. By Kathy Mocharnuk

5 Editorializing: Let Me Give You Some Advice... – Here's some unsolicited advice to help solve a common problem at agility trials. By Brenna Fender

6 You're LATE! – What if we looked at being late as a symptom and not the problem itself? If we have a cough, we would want to know if it's an allergy, a virus, etc. Could late cues also be a symptom of a larger problem? By Terrie Rolph

14 Change Your Brain, Change Your Game: Part 4 – Now that you've been working on your new agility mindset for the past few months, it's time to put it to practice. We'll look at pre-run rituals as well as the ten essentials for success. By Diane Patterson

18 Backyard Dogs – This month's sequences contain a wide range of handling challenges. As the drills progress, you'll work on jump wraps, slices, serpentines, backsides, and threadles. By Steve Schwarz

27 Power Paw Drills: Reno Flashback – The first course of action when planning a strategy where you have multiple dog path options is to choose the dog's lines and *only then* decide how you will apply handling to the chosen path. Let's look at some of the choices on the finals course of the 2018 AKC NAC. By Nancy Gyes

34 Let's Talk About Forced Layering in AKC Premier Courses – Should the forced layer challenge be removed from the AKC Premier course design options? By Sandy Rogers

36 The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces – This month's exercises fit in a 40ft. x 60ft. area and focus on pinwheel practice and lead-out advantages. By John Reid

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

Cover Dog

Sublime's Sofa King Amazeballs PerpADerp, a.k.a. Derp, a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois handled by Alicia Nicholas of Arizona.
Photo © GreatDanePhotos