



PHOTOS © KRISTINE HAMMAR, FRANK BARNHART, © BARRY ROSEN, WWW.BARRYROSEN.COM, CLEAN RUN

On the Cover

- 8 Building a Confident and Willing Performance Partner: Part 1**
A confident canine performance partner is worth their weight in gold, so why not include confidence-building as a separate, and critically important, component of a dog's training foundation.
By Kristine Hammar
- 25 Any Dog Can Have Awesome Contacts from a Distance: Part 1**
Establishing fast, independent, and solid stopped contacts when you're at a distance from your dog is a many-faceted project. However, when approached methodically, pretty much any dog can have awesome results. By Stacy Winkler
- 29 Getting the Most from Agility Seminars**
Advice for how to choose the right seminar at the right time for you and your dog, as well as considerations for setting realistic expectations and making the most of the learning opportunity.
By Marilyn Pinard
- 46 Practically Training: Understanding How to "Set the Line"**
Being a good handler is not about earning titles and winning ribbons. It is about being polite to your partner. Once you embrace line-setting for all that it is, you may look at the sport in a new way.
By Sandy Rogers

Features

- 4 Tip of the Month** – Next time you train your dog, be totally prepared before you get your dog out of his crate. By Laura Derrett
- 5 Editorializing: Contact Me!** – Contact training has evolved a lot since the 1990s. By Brenna Fender

- 6 Backyard Dogs** – This month's sequences have two focuses: challenging weave entries/exits and jump approaches with speed where the dog will need collection cues before taking the jump to navigate to the next jump. By Steve Schwarz
- 11 Power Paws Drills: Threadle to Rear Cross** – This month's drills focus on practicing a threadle to a rear cross, a skill that's also referred to as a pull-through to a rear or "bringing your dog across your feet." By Nancy Gyes
- 18 Face the Fear! How to Address a Dog's Fear, Anxiety, and Stress in the Ring, Part 3** – 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
- 23 The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces** – This month's exercises fit in a 40ft. x 60ft. area and focus on backside sends to tunnels as well as turning in the opposite direction of the curve of the tunnel. There's also a Snooker mini-course to practice. By John Reid
- 32 Beginning Sequencing with Pinwheels** – Once your training on individual obstacles is done, it's time to start sequencing! Here we'll discuss introducing pinwheels as well as provide many sequences to try on your own. By Jo Sermon
- 40 What's Traveling Down Your Leash?** – People tell you not to be anxious because your fears will influence your dog. But that is demanding something you probably cannot do. What can you do when you experience fear about your performance or your dog's? By Terrie Rolph
- 42 How to Rescue Your Next Great Agility Dog, Part 2** – Shelters and rescues are a great resource for intelligent, high-energy dogs looking for jobs. But how will you know which is the right dog? Here's some advice for how you can stack the odds in your favor when selecting a rescue for your next agility partner. By Lisa Lanser Rose

Cover Dog

Rudolph Augustus Perkins MXP4, MXPB, MJP5, MJPS, a.k.a. Rudy, a Bulldog owned by Debbie Perkins of Ohio. Photo by Mike Lifer.