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On the Cover

27 Practically Training: Embracing Difficult Weave Pole Entries

Your dog has been doing well with the weave pole training you've done this far, but he can't quite cut the mustard for the weave pole challenges presented in the more difficult agility classes. What can you do as a trainer and a handler to help him do better? By Sandy Rogers

35 A-frames: To Stop or Not to Stop

Several studies have indicated the A-frame may represent a higher than expected risk of injury, but there is limited objective information available to guide decisions as to best training practices. A survey by researchers at Oklahoma State University looks at what rationale agility handlers use in selecting their A-frame training criteria. By Dr. Kris Hiney and Dianne McFarlane

39 Arousal Assessment and Management: With Me in Three

Use the With Me in Three game to improve your dog's ability to perform responsively to your cues and engage with you, even when they're super excited. By Dudley Shumate

45 Beginning Sequencing with Serpentine

Once your training on individual obstacles is done, it's time to start sequencing! Here we'll discuss introducing serpentine as well as provide many sequences to try on your own. By Jo Sermon

6 Any Dog Can Have Awesome Contacts from a Distance: Part 2 –

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

11 The Judge's Debriefing –

This is a fun and challenging USDAA Steeplechase Regionals course that offers not one, but two puppy cannons! By Scott Lovelis

14 Building a Confident and Willing Performance Partner: Part 2 –

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

17 Using PennHIP to Detect Hip Problems in Canine Athletes –

The PennHIP evaluation can be used on dogs as young as 16 weeks before investing in athletic training, and it can be used as a diagnostic tool to find a hip problem. By Drs. Matt Brunke and Debra Canapp

23 Power Paws Drills: More Threadle to Rear Cross Drills –

These exercises are a companion piece to last month's article on the skill of pulling your dog between two obstacles with a threadle cue followed by a rear cross. By Nancy Gyes

33 Mental Management Minute: When Your Neighbors Are

Negative – How do you remain positive in a trial environment when people around you are being negative? Protecting your positive outlook can require some effort on your part. By Brenna Fender

37 Backyard Dogs –

This month's exercises highlight the usefulness of obstacle and line commitment to make longer distances easy for your pup to understand and execute. By Dudley Shumate

42 The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces –

This month's exercises fit in a 40ft. x 60ft. area and focus on practicing Jumpers skills and rear crosses. By John Reid

Features

4 Tip of the Month –

Here's a "lifehack" for getting dog hair off your car seats. By Kathy Mocharnuk

5 Editorializing: Train, Manage, or Endure? –

There are a lot of behaviors that we train to a point, and then after that point, we manage them. "Endure" is when we just put up with stuff that we haven't trained or don't know how to manage. By Brenna Fender

Cover Dog

Cassbar's More Than Meets the Eye MXJ, AX, NF, LAA-Bronze, ADCH-Bronze, JCH-G, TM-G, SCH-S, SACH-S, RCH-B, GCH-B, IAC 8, IWAC 6, CSS 2, WCSS, a.k.a. Min, a 6-year-old Shetland Sheepdog owned by Julie and Dean Heller of Minnesota (handled by Julie). Photo by GreatDanePhotos