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14 My Dog Can't Hold His Contacts in the Ring

This month, we're looking at those frustrating creatures, the dogs who are perfect in training but treat the contact areas like they're hot coals in the ring! By Jo Sermon

28 The "Stress" of Training & Competition in Performance Dogs

We commonly focus on the stresses that agility places on our dogs' muscles, tendons, and joints, but we take for granted the stress being placed on their immune, psychological, and GI systems. By Drs. Sherman Canapp and Debra Canapp

42 Do It When I Cue It, Part 1: Stimulus Control for Agility Dogs

Many "out of control" dogs look like the epitome of control when posed with traditional impulse/self-control games. So, what are these dogs missing? The answer is stimulus control. By Rachel Downs

55 Three Jump, Four Jump: Handling in Configurations, Part 1

Courses are made up of a finite number of configurations. My goal is to develop consistent handling for each configuration so that my handling is very familiar, and therefore easier, for my dog. We'll start with a discussion of straight-line configurations. By Sandy Rogers

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4 Tip of the Month – Fit small training sessions into your daily life. By Kathy Mocharnuk

5 Editorializing: What Do We Do Now? – No matter how agility looks when we return to it, the devoted competitors will overcome. They will adjust their expectations and do what needs to be done for those seconds in the ring. By Brenna Fender

Cover Dog

CUWin Give Me Your Answer MX MXJ XF T2B, a.k.a. Daisy, a 10-year-old Shetland Sheepdog owned by Ann Przybysz of Wisconsin. Photo by Alissa Behn/pet-personalities.com

6 The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces – This month's exercises allow you to work on sequences that include the table as well as some practice Pairs courses. By John Reid

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23 Power Paws Drills: International Style – Many international courses have the dog entering on one side of the weaves and needing to exit on the opposite side, so the handler also has to negotiate from one side of the weaves to the other using various pushes or side changes to show the path to the dog. By Nancy Gyes

35 Course Design & Judging: Skill Setting – Skill setting is a critical part of course design. No one wants to run courses that are too complex for the level of competition, or way too easy. Judges need to be aware of what they are testing and able to justify their choices, if only to themselves. By Lee Gibson

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62 Backyard Mastery: Putting It All Together – There are five techniques you can use to make simple modifications to an existing sequence to dramatically change the handling challenges and help you improve your team's skills. By Steve Schwarz