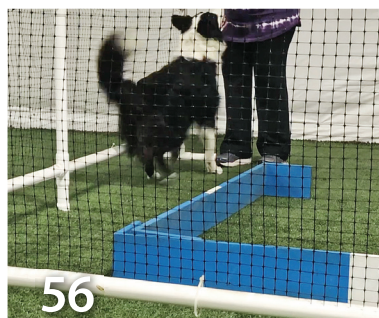




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On the Cover

27 **Jumping Style: What Is It and Can You Teach It?**

The important part about jumping style is that your dog's jumping action comes from his rear, not from his front. Jumping from the rear to the front gives your dog far more control over both his jump and his landing spot. There are many ways you can shape this style in training. By Jo Sermon

38 **Ira Mikkonen's Tips for Better Training**

Finnish agility coach and competitor Ira Mikkonen shares tips to help handlers train in a way that takes them forward in their development of specific skills. By Mari Oksanen

56 **Compulsory Skills for Agility Success, Part 3: Body Awareness & Proprioception Skills for the Agility Team**

Body awareness and proprioception are compulsory skills for both members of the agility team. We need to fully understand body awareness and proprioception as senses and how, if they are cultured and refined, they can positively influence our team's performance. By Debbie Harrison

62 **Three Jump, Four Jump: Handling in Configurations, Part 2**

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. This month we'll discuss pinwheels. By Sandy Rogers

Features

4 **Tip of the Month** – Want to make a change in the way you train? By Sandy Rogers

5 **Editorializing: Digital Life** – Although many of us are still analog people, we're living in a digital world now, so we're working to acclimate. By Brenna Fender

Cover Dog

NATCh, VNATCh, AANATCh, IntCH, IntComCH Silver HiFi's Blue Angel a.k.a. Jet, RN, RA, RE, BN, TKP, RS-O-OP, GS-O-SP, JS-O-SP, BN, CD, RN, RNX, RNC, an Australian Shepherd owned by Donna Clark of Washington. Photo by Bart Brinkmann, WhiskerTangoFoxtrot.com

6 **Listen to Me: Picking Up on Your Dog's Emotional Clues** – Learn to pick up on vital clues that tell us how our dogs are feeling. By gathering evidence in this way, we can make small but important changes in the way we behave with our dogs. By Tricia Hollingshead

16 **Power Paws Drills: Jumping with Jay** – These simple jumping drills are good for working on 270s and backside sends with young dogs, and they are an excellent refresher for dogs of any age. By Nancy Gyes

20 **Team Small Dog Agility Humility: Triple Tangent Trip around the Moon** – Your dog gets old, you get a puppy. When you love dogs, and you love doing everything with your dogs, especially doing agility with your dogs, you tend to have multiple dogs so that you don't ever have to quit the cycle. By Laura Hartwick

24 **The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces** – This month's exercises focus on four commonly encountered agility configurations—serpentines, pinwheels, threadles, and backsides—as well as a jumping exercise that's a "suicide drill" for agility teams. By John Reid

35 **Backyard Dogs** – Here are some exercise sets celebrating the arrival of spring. Each exercise gets progressively more difficult so they're suitable for different levels. By David Bozak

42 **Analyzing a Course and Picking a Handling Plan** – Knowing how to analyze a course and pick a solid handling plan helps give you the confidence you need to successfully handle your dog through the course as accurately and fast as possible. By Stefanie Rainer

46 **What Is the Iliopsoas and How Does it Affect Your Dog's Performance?** – In thirty-two percent of rear-end lameness, injury to the iliopsoas muscle group was the diagnosis, especially among working and sporting dogs. So, what is the iliopsoas, and how does it affect our dog's performance? By Carolyn McIntyre

49 **Train with Elaine: Fun with Serpentines** – Work on your serps at any level with these nested courses. By Elaine Rinicker

51 **Do It When I Cue It, Part 2: Stimulus Control for Agility Dogs** Many "out of control" dogs look like the epitome of control when posed with traditional impulse games. So, what are these dogs missing? The answer is stimulus control. This month we discuss applying stimulus control to obstacles. By Rachel Downs