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On the Cover

6 Training Your Dog to Turn Tightly

Tight turns are a balancing act between the amount of deceleration needed to achieve the turn and the time taken to cover the extra distance of a wider turn. How do you define what a reasonable turn is for your dog? Then how do you help him achieve it? By Jo Sermon

32 Let's Talk Puppy! How Science, Genetics, and Training Work Together

Getting a puppy is very exciting, but it can also be a little frightening. We have such big goals for our pups, and oftentimes we worry about not being the best trainer possible for them. There's no need to worry! By Jubie Rueschenberg

37 Course Design & judging: Safety in Course Design

Judges need to have safety in mind at every stage. When designing, they should look to create courses that are both safe and level appropriate. It is a balancing act to provide relevant technical tests whilst maintaining safety. By Greg Derrett

40 Three Jump, Four Jump: Handling in Configurations, Part 3

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 180s and 270s. By Sandy Rogers

Features

4 Tip of the Month – A unique way to make your own obstacle numbers. By Lisa Stoddard

5 Editorializing: Reaching Out – While we work on “reaching down” and pulling up the younger generations in agility, why aren't we working on “reaching out” to different communities and populations that might love agility if they were introduced to it. By Brenna Fender

Cover Dog

MACH2 PACH Volandos Ace Warden Baynard, PDCH, CATE, CATCH5, PAX, MXG, MJC, MXF, T2B, TOX, MJPB, MXPB, MPD, PJCH, Bronze-PKCH, Bronze-PGCH, PRCH, Bronze-PTM, ChST, ChCo, ChWC, ChJP, ChSn, ChFH, ChJU, ExST, ExFH, ExJP, ExSN, ExCO, ExWC, 10,000 lifetime point CPE award, CGC, a.k.a. Bug, a 10-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier owned by Gill Chapman of Florida. Photo by Phillip Simmons Photography

15 A Few Well-Designed Movements – Learn how big changes in your movement ability, speed, and coordination can be achieved without having to flog yourself in the gym. You don't have to be a certain age, height, weight, speed, body type, or gender to be more successful in agility. By Stacy Weeks

19 Train with Elaine: Fun with Tunnels – Tunnels are in almost every course we run. Use these nested courses to train where to be and how to send your dog to a tunnel to get ahead. By Elaine A. Rinicker

23 Power Paws Drills: International Drills – These international-style drills include working on running tunnel backsides and then handling the next couple of obstacles efficiently and in different ways, as well as some long weave pole sends and other challenges. By Nancy Gyes

47 Simple and Effective Strategies to Prevent Injuries in Your Canine Athletes – The best way to deal with injuries is to prevent them before they happen! By Carolyn McIntyre, PT

51 The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces – The exercises this month present opportunities to work on a handling maneuver known as a Reverse Wrap. By John Reid

53 Compulsory Skills for Agility Success, Part 4: Handling Skills – Handling is not necessarily about being able to perform the newest, greatest, fancy-name handling maneuver—it is about developing consistent, trustworthy, effective, and timely communication with your canine partner. By Debbie Harrison

57 Backyard Mastery: All the Crosses – The name of the game is to get the most training out of every sequence you set up in your backyard. This month the focus is on building your skills with front, blind, and rear crosses. By Steve Schwarz

61 Backyard Dogs – Using elements of course design commonly seen within all courses, this month's exercises call for putting skills together, along with some fun weave entries and exits. By Dudley Shumate

63 Team Small Dog Agility Humility: A Dog Agility Fairy Tale – Was the kingdom known as Dog Agility essential? Could it reopen for its subjects exactly like in the past? Would Pandemic shut down the kingdom forever? Could the kingdom exist half opened, and half shut, a splash of hand sanitizer and six feet all that would be necessary to reopen it's shining gates? By Laura Hartwick