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## On the Cover

### 23 Using Cato Board Platforms in Agility Training

A low platform is a versatile tool for training a wide variety of skills such as foundation positions, stays, and sends and directional cues. It can also be a handy tool in weave pole and contact training.

By Frankie Joiris

### 30 The Mechanics of Gaits and Lead Changes

Every time your dog changes direction in a canter, he is changing his leading leg. Before you can train something, you really do have to know what is happening and the mechanics of what you're asking of your dog. By Jo Sermon

### 47 Let's Talk Puppy: Starting Puppy Agility

While training combinations of equipment is fun and necessary, it should only be done when the puppy is ready. You really want to focus on building your relationship, your puppy's physical condition, and his basic skills prior to doing any combinations of behaviors on more than one piece of equipment. By Jubie Rueschenberg

### 51 Three Jump, Four Jump: Handling in Configurations, Part 4

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 serpentine. By Sandy Rogers

## Features

**4 Tip of the Month** – A tip for keeping weave pole bases from destroying your lawn. By Steve Schwarz

**5 Editorializing: A Final Bow** – An important announcement for all magazine subscribers. By Monica Percival

## Cover Dog

Laird Qwynessential of Clan Cactus PD1, RS-N, a.k.a. Qwyn, a 5-year-old Corgi-Cattle Dog mix owned by Christa Beauchat of Utah. Qwyn earned his first USDAA Qs at the trial where this photo was taken. Photo by Gloria Anderson/GoDogPhoto.com

**6 Mission Control: How to Train the High-Drive Dog** – A motivated dog is fun to work with, and clearly enjoys the challenges you are setting. But do you sometimes wish you could reign in some of that enthusiasm and produce the results that you both deserve?

By Jane Ardern

**12 It's a Fine Line** – One of the crucial elements to successfully running an agility course is recognizing the dog's optimal path through the obstacles. This is the path that will allow the dog to move as smoothly and quickly as possible around the course. By Karen Beattie Massey

**16 Power Paws Drills: Jumping with Jay** – This is a useful and fun setup for advanced as well as less experienced dogs. You can find lots of challenges for your Masters dog but you'll also find training suitable for your agility youngster. By Nancy Gyes

**21 Why Is Knowing If Your Dog Is a Lefty or a Righty Important for Sport?** – Knowing which side is dominant helps you developing a conditioning program to strengthen your dog's "offside," which will reduce the risk of injury when they turn on their non-dominant side. By Carolyn McIntyre

**28 Backyard Dogs** – This month's sequences let you work on turns while at the same time honoring the apple (you'll have to look at the article to understand that one!) By David Bozak

**38 Training with Elaine: Fun with Wraps** – Wraps are often seen on courses, and many dogs turn wide or backjump rather than take a tight turn in the direction best suited to the dog. Use these nested courses to work on your team's wrap skills. By Elaine Rinicker

**41 Deep Gluteal Syndrome/Piriformis Syndrome: Does it Exist in Dogs?** – Occasionally, dogs present with skipping or mild hind leg lameness without any obvious abnormal findings in the lumbar/back region or hind legs. Is it possible that the symptoms are caused by the same syndrome we see in humans? By Drs. Tiitu Toijala and Debra Canapp

**44 The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces** – This month you get to test out your layering skills on courses that fit in a 40 x 60 ft. space. By John Reid