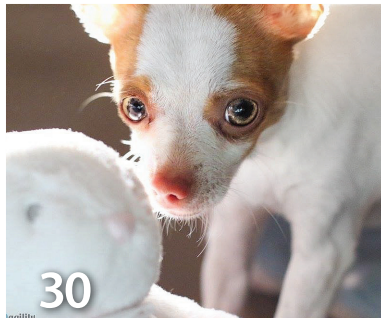




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On the Cover

14 Course Design and Judging - Social Media & Conflict

Many handlers feel it is okay to make negative comments about judges from the safety of their home or smartphone. Instead, the agility community should be encouraging judges to take on as much education as possible and offering constructive feedback in a positive way that inspires judges to want to improve. By Lee Gibson

30 Let's Talk Puppy: My Puppy is Fearful

Fear responses can be caused by many things; some are genetic, some are from lack of exposure or overexposure in the neonatal period through the transitional period, and other fear responses are due to normal fear periods in a puppy's development. By Jubie Rueschenberg

40 Compulsory Skills for Agility Success, Part 5: Jumping Skills

It cannot be assumed that a dog knows how to jump appropriately. There is a difference between "getting over" obstacles in the yard or park and true jumping skills that can be safely repeated over and over with finesse and success. By Debbie Harrison

46 Getting on Contacts Safely from Any Angle

Unfortunately, a "straight" approach isn't always as easy as it might appear. Much depends on the size and speed of your dog and other factors on course. So to help ensure your dog's safe entry onto a contact, teach him to get on from any angle. By Jo Sermon

Features

4 Tip of the Month – Break your weave pole training into three skill categories: entries, exits, and rhythm. By Sandy Rogers

5 Editorializing: The End and the Beginning – While the magazine in its monthly format may be ending, there are new and exciting things to come! By Brenna Fender

Cover Dog

Spiderwick Nimble Ninja, a.k.a. Edge, a 5-year-old Cocker Spaniel owned by Jo Glead of Coventry, United Kingdom. Photo by David Midgley at agilityfoto.com

6 Power Paws Drills: Jumping with Jay and Friends – 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

18 Train with Elaine: Fun with Boxes – The box—four jumps set up in a square formation—is often seen on agility courses. Use these nested courses to work on your timing and positioning for getting the next correct jump. By Elaine Rinicker

22 Backyard Mastery: All the Wraps – This month you'll learn another way to wring every challenge out of every course by using all the methods for wrapping a jump. By Steve Schwarz

26 The Myth About Icing an Injury – Icing was once thought to speed up the healing process by reducing inflammation. But what if rest and ice actually delay healing and recovery? By Carolyn McIntyre

28 The 25% Solution: Sequences for Small Spaces – This month's exercises, which fit in a 40 x 60 ft. space, offer many opportunities to practice rear crosses. There are also exercises for working on your ability to keep your dog on course in the face of attractive off-course options. By John Reid

33 Don't Watch Your Dog, MOVE! Mastering Timing Basics – Great timing involves having a great eye and knowing when to move. Watching your dog perform an obstacle will often put you behind on course. If you are watching, you are not moving. By Chris Tucci

35 Backyard Dogs – Dogs are often asked to locate "hidden" tunnel entries and predict exit direction when handlers run the "backside" of the tunnel. "Find the tunnel" and "know where to go" are the names of the game this month. By Dudley Shumate

37 Senior Dog Fitness – Performing hind-limb strengthening exercises is really important for keeping your senior dog's hind limb muscles strong and moving. By Lisa Schmit, PhD, CCFT, CPMP