Editorializing

5 Kathy Keats discusses puppy training and the minimum age for trialing a dog.

Features

16 Say Yes to the Learning Curve: Testing...Positive Associations for Your Agility Puppy
Methods for associating positive puppy responses and behaviors with the agility trial environment. By Susan Garrett

26 Basic Crate Manners: Establishing Your Rules for a Reliable Lead-Out
While you are working on crate manners, you can be teaching your puppy self-control and a solid stay—the basis for a reliable lead-out in agility. By Nancy Ouellette

33 Bobbie Anderson on Puppy Games
Play should be indistinguishable from training for your puppy. Award-winning author Bobbie Anderson shares some of her favorite puppy games. By Kathleen Monje

37 Hello, Puppy!
Ideas for socializing your new puppy, choosing the right training methods for his temperament, and things to work on before beginning "career" training. By Sheila Booth

44 Drive That Puppy
Do you want to cultivate unbridled enthusiasm and outrageous drive for agility in your puppy or even in your older dog? By Kimberly Sisak

48 Knowledge Is Power... and More
Structural faults affect performance and a dog’s ability to remain healthy. Recognizing structural weaknesses or faults is important for picking an agility puppy. By Pat Hastings

52 Help Your Pup Learn with a Marker
Empowering your pup: A simple sound can not only teach your dog how to learn, but make him interested in the process. By Mandy Book and Cheryl S. Smith

56 Fetch 101
Playing fetch with your puppy exercises his mind and body and provides a great reward for a job well done. By Deborah Jones, Ph.D.

60 The Really Reliable Recall
How to train an instantaneous recall response. By Leslie Nelson

62 Laundry Basket Game
Develop confidence and problem solving skills with this fun game. By Ginsey Nickles

64 What Would You Do Differently?
Ever say “I’m not going to do it that way with my next dog?” Some experienced handlers describe the lessons they have learned from previous dogs. By Brenna Fender

70 Let’s Play!
Don’t bore that puppy! Follow these suggestions on how to initiate play with your puppy and how to make it enjoyable for both of you. By Deborah Jones, Ph.D

73 Teaching Start-Line Self-Control
Self-control is achievable, even for your active puppy. Here’s a step-by-step program for teaching your puppy start-line self-control. By Terri Arnold

Columns

6 Tip of the Month
By Kathy Keats

7 Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Agility...

9 Dear Sallie Sports Vet
Learn how to avoid injuries and prepare your growing pup so that he will have the longevity in agility competition that today’s canine athletes need. By Chris Zink, DVM

12 Backyard Dogs
Handling on the flat—teach your puppy agility handling moves without any agility equipment. By Mary Ellen Barry

19 From the Middle of the Pack
From Cute to Catastrophe—Do you have a new puppy with herding instinct that needs some direction? Here are some ideas to help you work through these instinctual behaviors. By Fred Brattain

22 Unleashing the Velcro Dog
Now that you have mastered each agility obstacle at a wide variety of angles and distances of up to 30’ away, it’s time to put those skills to work and perform smooth, fast, and accurate sequences at a distance. By Jane Simmons-Moake

78 The Construction Zone
Plans for building a wobble board (also called a tippy board or Buja Board), which is a simple piece of equipment that you can use to help build your puppy’s confidence. By Kathy Keats

Cover
A Shetland Sheepdog puppy. Photo by Diane Lewis, www.DianeLewisPhotography.com