

# Clean Run®

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## My Top 10 Skills to Master

There are many options available to teach you how to train and handle your agility dog, but whichever methods you use, these 10 skills will always be needed to succeed on the AKC courses we see every weekend. By Mary Watcher

## Starting Off Right: Tugging with Your Puppy

When you are tugging with your puppy, he is playing with *you*, not playing with a toy. Learning to play *with* your puppy is so very important to the enrichment of the handler/puppy relationship. By Bobbie Lyons

## Training Freedom: Here I Go Again!

Jo shares her successes, failures, and training “reboots” as she works with her three young dogs. This month it’s time to start weave pole training and tire training as well as continue with jumping, contact training, and sequencing. By Jo Sermon

## Cover

### 15 How Not to Lose Your 2-on/2-Off Contacts, Part 1

Trying to maintain a fast and accurate 2-on/2-off contact performance just by practicing sequence and coursework is often unsuccessful and the behavior breaks down. Adding a maintenance program can help you keep your 2-on/2-off contact performance. By Sandy Rogers

### 21 Practically Training: Verbal Left and Right Cues, Part 1

If you are often caught far enough behind your dog that you can no longer influence him with physical commands, or if you would like to excel at the higher level distance challenges more consistently, then you should train your dog to turn when he hears a verbal command. By Sandy Rogers

## Features

### 5 Editorializing: There’s Not Always a Reason

When our dog is running erratically, we often spend tons of time and energy trying to determine the reasons for the behavior. But sometimes, there is no real reason. Or, at least, not a reason that we will ever be able to determine. Because dogs are dogs, not humans, or robots, or machines. By Brenna Fender

### 18 Power Paws Drills: Tunnels and Threadles and Weaves, Oh My!

These drills will give you a chance to work weave entries and exits that are challenging, but not over the top difficult. There are also lots of front crosses and some tunnel pulls and sends. By Nancy Gyes

### 29 The Seven Sins, Part 2

The seven “sins” are the causes of many agility problems, regardless of which handling method a team is using. They are little things we do in training and competition that hold us back from progressing. By Simone “Tig” Stephenson



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### 38 25% Solution for Fine Tuning Teamwork

This month’s drills, which fit in a 60ft. x 40ft. area, focus on serpentines, backsides, and weave pole entries that are 180-degree turns from the previous obstacle. By John Reid

## Columns

### 4 Themes Like a Good Idea By David Bozak

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### 13 Backyard Dogs By Steve Schwarz

### 27 My Favorite Jumping Exercise By Tracy Hirsch

### 44 Super Sets By Dudley Shumate



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### 33 Productive Practice Sessions: Make Your Training Time Count!

Many people tend to train to train without a specific goal in mind. While this can be fun, it also can hamper progress. As the saying goes, “if you always do what you’ve always done, you will always get what you already have.” Here are ways to make your training more productive. By Robin Barber

### 40 For Play’s Sake

Playing should not be another training exercise; playing games with our dogs should be all-out fun. Do you need help finding the playful side of yourself and the right energy that matches your dog? By Tammy Moody

## Cover Dog

Sullivan’s Louie MACH, MXB, MJB, CGC, a.k.a. Louie, a 5-year-old Schnoodle owned by Bob Sullivan of Virginia. Photo by Stewart Event Images

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