



Donkey on a Beach...

By Kathy Keats, The Agility Coach

One of the greatest strengths our dogs have is the ability to anticipate. One of the biggest weaknesses our dogs have is the ability to anticipate. If we pattern train too much, they become like a donkey on a beach that knows it goes up the beach in the morning and goes home in the afternoon, regardless of what the handler tells it to do. If you've ever been riding a horse that decides to head for home, you'll know what I mean!

Even though we may not pattern train per se, our dogs come to know the patterns that are common for the style of agility we run in. The sequences in this month's exercises should be done in order. They purposely get the dog thinking one thing and then you will cue something else. The goal is to make the dog mentally flexible and able to shift his focus. Also, in a different session, do the mirror image of these exercises to work the turns and skills on both sides. If you have CRCD 4, you can generate the mirror image by opening the file, selecting "Edit" and then clicking on "Mirror Horizontally."

These patterns can start to "melt together" in your head and if you have trouble remembering courses, pick up a copy of my newest release, *Never Forget! The Ultimate Program for Memorizing Agility Courses*, at www.theagilitycoach.ca or at www.cleanrun.com. You may also be interested in *The Art of Reading Agility Courses* to help you better understand how course sets affect what your dog will see and do! Enjoy!

MOJO
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**WINNING
PERFORMANCE**
...in any dog sport!

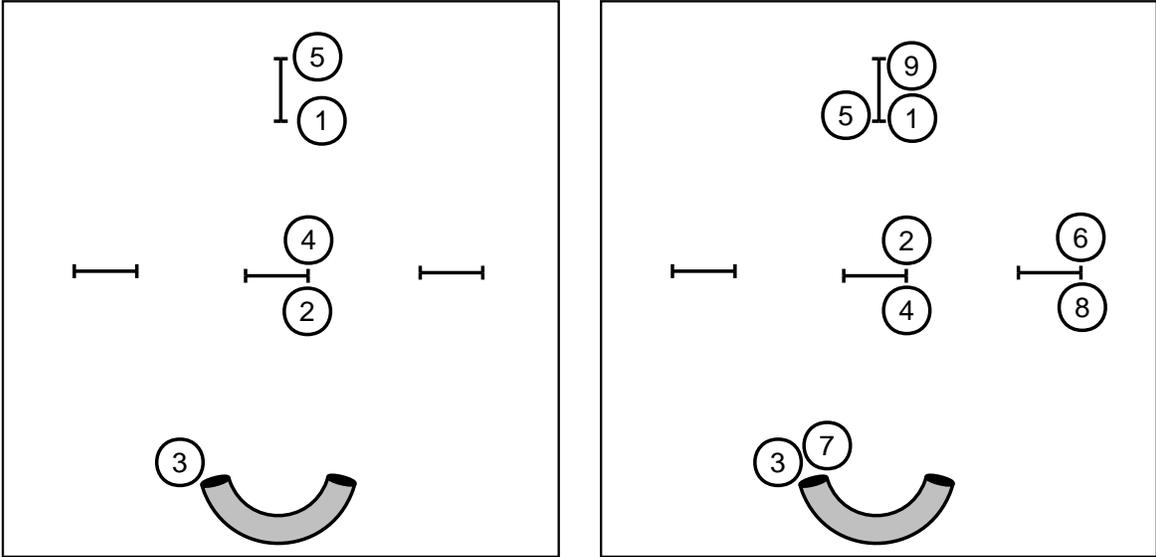
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with
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"Kathy's seminar was enlightening, motivational, and inspirational. It went so much deeper than anticipated and she has pushed me to become a stronger competitor."
- Anji Atkinson

- Run with more confidence
- Deal with ring nerves
- Have more focus & more fun!
- ...and much more!

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Exercises 3 & 4



Exercise 5

