

# Clean Run®

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## Control Unleashed Solutions and Answers: A Sticky Situation

Many dogs have a strong eye behavior and literally get “stuck” because agility training brings out their prey drive, which puts them in eye/stalk mode. It’s not that they’re choosing to ignore you; they really can’t hear you because they are operating from a different part of their brain, the primal part. By Leslie McDevitt MLA, CPDT, CDBC



## Early Takeoffs in Jumping: Update

In the last several years, it has become widely accepted that early takeoffs for jumps can be attributed to vision problems. In 2010 we discussed the classic history and characteristic signs associated with the jumping problem coined “early takeoff syndrome” (ETS). Here is some updated information on ETS. By Linda Mecklenburg



## Table Manners: Proofing the Table for Competition

You’ve trained your dog to perform the table well at home, but in competition you have to babysit it to make sure your dog doesn’t jump off. How wonderful it would be to be able to give your dog his *Table* cue and have him do his job while you get to the next obstacle! Learn how you can have this skill. By Kathleen Alles

## Features

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What if wearing a colored bandana at trials would be enough to make sure your reactive or shy dog was not petted unexpectedly or sniffed from behind without warning? By Michele Godlevski CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, CC, BS

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Challenges from international courses are making their way into U.S. courses with increasing frequency. This month we look at a standard agility course designed for the 2012 World Agility Open in Belgium. By Greg Derrett

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Successes and failures are just moments in time. By keeping things in perspective and enjoying the process of working with your dog, you’ll find the highs and lows of agility easier to weather. By Kathy Keats

### 23 Building Blocks: Building a Perfect Walkthrough

Many of our performance errors can actually be seen during the walkthrough, which is a dress rehearsal for your performance. Here are tips for using your time wisely. By Rachel Sanders

### 35 Awesome Paws Drills

These drills will challenge you to perform a variety of cue combinations and test your knowledge of the different strategic options available. Simply by changing the angles of various jumps, the handling choices may change. By Linda Mecklenburg

### 44 Training with the Stars: Stuart Mah

In his training program, Stuart Mah teaches handlers how to deal with problems on course as they occur and to keep focus for the entire run, not just the parts they find most difficult. By developing “situational awareness,” his students will be able to adjust, improvise, or adapt while moving. By Sally Silverman

### 63 Challenges for Rising Stars

The Red Jump Down training game is designed to teach handlers the skill of being aware and able to react or adapt to sudden changes on course. It also creates a situation where after fixing the problem, the handler must not lose concentration just because the crisis has been averted. By Stuart Mah

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By Mary Ellen Barry

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There is a long list of exercises that can be done to improve handler speed. But what you really want to focus on are short bursts of speed, which start with a strong push off. By Karen Holik and Eric Bobkowsky



### 28 False Turns: Sensational or Demotivational?

Some handlers use false turns for obstacle discrimination, or even to tighten corners. Are they successful? Several potential problems with false turns need to be considered before choosing to use them. By Dawn Weaver

### 31 The Cruise Director: Solutions for the Dog That Is Too Social

Dogs that appoint themselves as “cruise director” have the same issue as dogs that sniff, zoom, or are otherwise distracted—they have never been taught to ignore a high-value, self-reinforcing distraction. For the cruise director, socializing has as much value as food does for the chow hound or toys for the tugging maniac. The dog needs to learn self-control and that agility is a game to play with his handler. By Tracy Sklenar

### 49 Scratching the Surface: A Look at Natural Outdoor Agility Footing

Whether you are outfitting your backyard for training or preparing an outdoor ring for your club or training center, the options are many. How do you decide what natural surface will provide the best footing, while still being affordable with maintenance you can handle? By Brenna Fender

## Cover Dog

MACH Contact Point’s Mix’Em Up, a Border Collie owned by Jen Pinder of Michigan. Photo by Cathi Winkles Photography.

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