



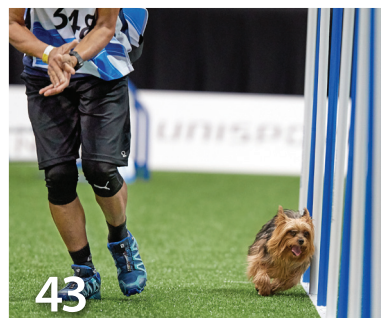
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14 Training Your Dog to Stay Responsive

With the increasing difficulty of agility courses, you must make sure your dog is responsive to your handling. Here are some drills to help keep your dog from anticipating what's next. By Loretta Mueller

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Your cues and their combinations are the language that creates communication with your dog. How clear and consistent your cues are, determines how well your dog understands you. How well he understands you affects success in and out of agility training. By Sandy Rogers

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We, the two-legged member and leader of the agility team, are responsible and required to possess and excel at many skills (besides check writing) to ensure a successful performance. By Debbie Harrison

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If we use cheerleading to try to support a nervous or worried dog, how can we be sure that our verbal encouragement is achieving its desired result? By Jo Sermon

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5 Editorializing: Well, Then – We're all looking for ways to have a little bit of the stuff we love in this altered reality. Training is what we do; it's what we have always spent a lot of time thinking about, why wouldn't we find ways to keep that up? By Brenna Fender

Cover Dog

MACH Rhumbline's Unsinkable Molly, UD, JH, RA, ATCH-2, P-MAD, a.k.a. Molly, a 9-year-old Labrador Retriever owned by Hollis McGuire (handler) and Robin T. Goodman of New Hampshire. Photo by Jeremy Kezer

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59 Power Paws Skills: Opening Lines Using Lead-outs – It pays to train your lead-out skills carefully. A tricky opening on a course can affect your entire run if you can't get into the correct spot to handle the next sequence after the opening. By Nancy Gyes