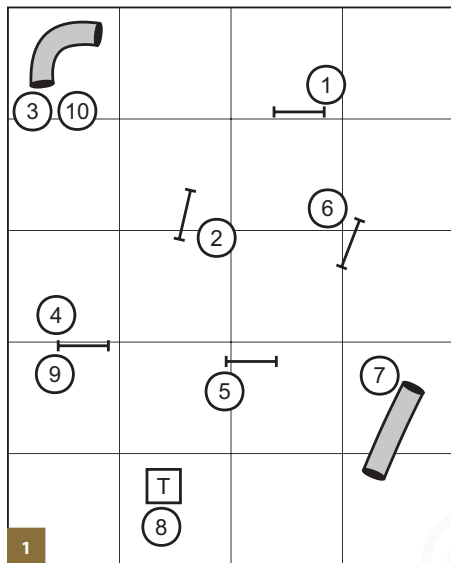


Improve Your
Handling Skills
at Home

Backyard Dogs



By Karen Holik



This month's exercises include jumps, tunnels, and the table. Some sequences are meant to be fast and fun and others are more technical.

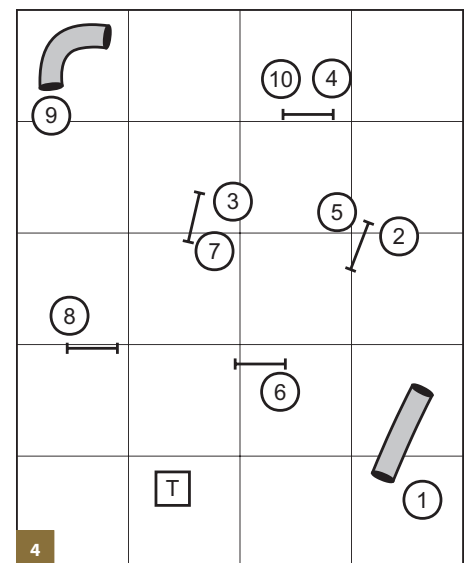
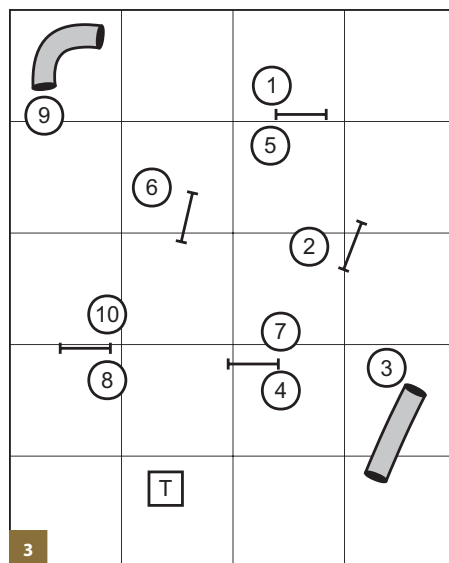
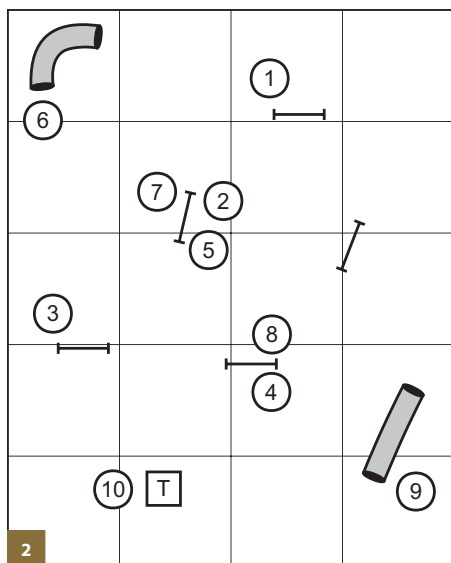
In **Figure 1** the sequence is probably best done without much of a lead-out. Starting with the dog on your left, you can then cross and pick him up on your right after the #3 tunnel. You can either do a front cross between jumps #5 and #6 or do a rear cross at jump #6. The rest of the sequence is probably best handled on your left.

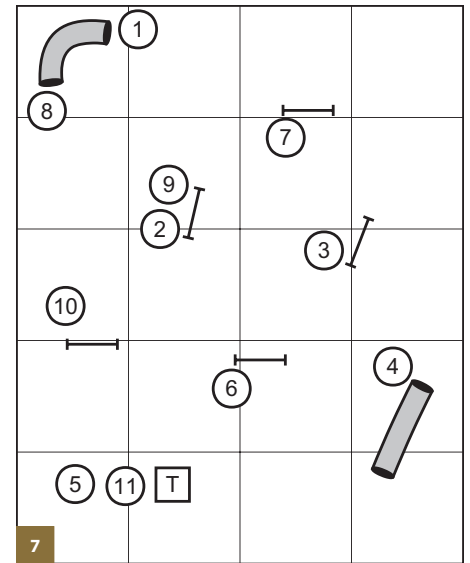
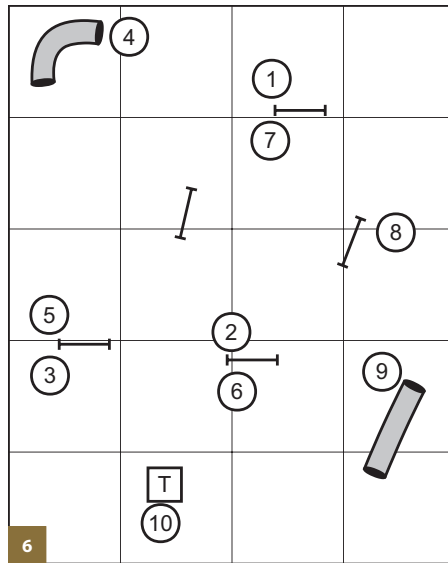
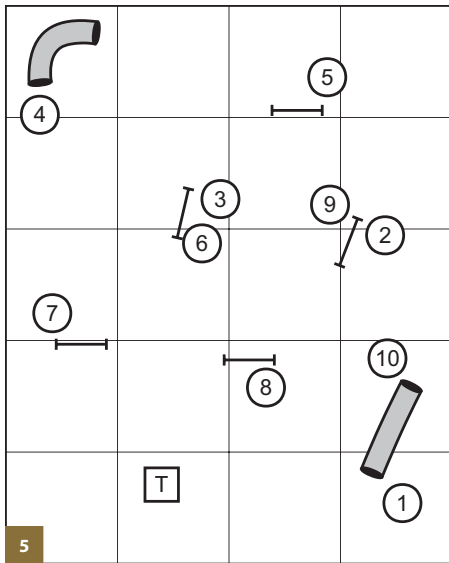
In **Figure 2** you can start with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #3 or just start with your dog on your right and

keep him on your right through tunnel #6. After the tunnel you can do a front cross to put the dog on your right for #7, #8, and #9 or keep the dog on your left and do a rear cross at tunnel #9. Try it both ways.

After starting with your dog on your left as seen in **Figure 3**, you can either do a front cross between jumps #4 and #5 and then again between jumps #6 and #7, or you can do a rear cross at jump #5 and then another rear cross at jump #7. Again, try this both ways.

In **Figure 4** after starting with your dog on your right, you can try a front cross between jumps #2 and #3, and again





between #6 and #7. You can also do a rear cross at jump #3 and after handling jumps #4, #5, and #6 on your left, you can do a rear cross at jump #7.

Try handling **Figure 5** with your dog on your left with a lead-out past jump #2. Also try handling with your dog on your right without a lead-out. Can you get a front cross between jumps #5 and #6 and also between jumps #8 and #9? You can also do a rear cross at #6 and at jump #9.

Try starting with your dog on your left and also your right for jumps #1 through #3 as in **Figure 6**. When starting with your dog on your right, you will have to do a

rear cross at jump #2. After sending to jump #7, try staying on the landing side of jump #8 to send to the tunnel.

In **Figure 7** try starting with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at jump #3, and also try leading out and attempting a front cross on the landing side of jump #2. After handling jumps #6 and #7 on your right, can you perform a front cross before the tunnel? You can also try a front cross on the landing side of jump #9.

Figures 8, 9, and 10 offer more chances for front and rear crosses. Try handling each sequence in different ways, even if it's a strategy you might not attempt at a trial. 🐾

Karen Holik has been involved in agility for over 10 years as a competitor and also a USDAA and AKC judge. She has competed in the finals of the USDAA Grand Prix World Championships seven times with all her dogs: two Shelties, a Border Collie, and an All-American. Her youngest dog, ADCH MACH2 Triune's Feelin Hot Hot Hot (a.k.a. Sizzle) won the Steeplechase event at the USDAA World Championships in 2003 and 2006. Karen and Sizzle were members of the AKC/USA World Team in 2003, 2005, and 2006. Karen offers private lessons and seminars and can be reached at oncourseagility@comcast.net.

