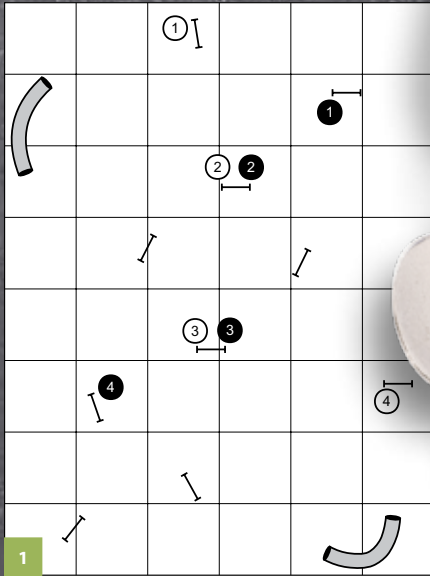


SKILL OF THE MONTH

BY KAREN HOLIK

This month's exercises focus on rear crosses. A rear cross is used to allow the handler to change from one side of the dog to the other. A rear cross is done with the handler behind the dog. All the sequences below are designed to practice your rear-cross skills. They are not set up so a rear cross is the only way you can handle the sequence. There is probably a better, faster way to handle some of these sequences. You should try to start off with the dog on the side noted to get the best practice for your rear crosses, even though there may seem to be a more logical handler maneuver for the exercise.



STARTERS/NOVICE EXERCISES

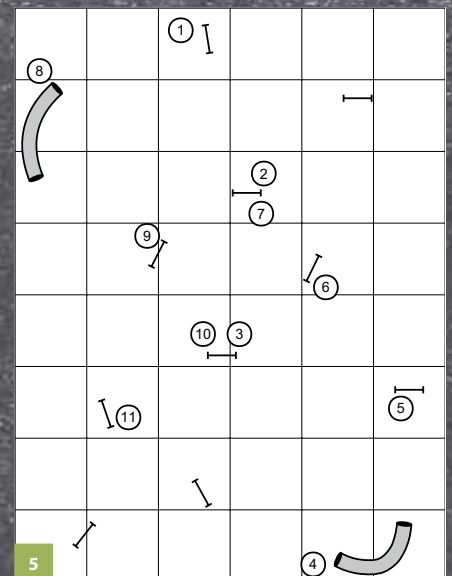
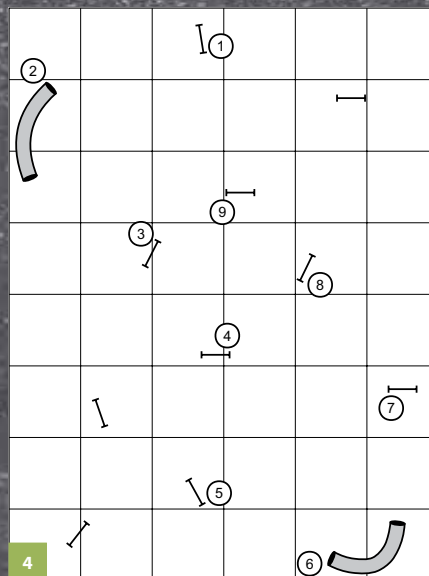
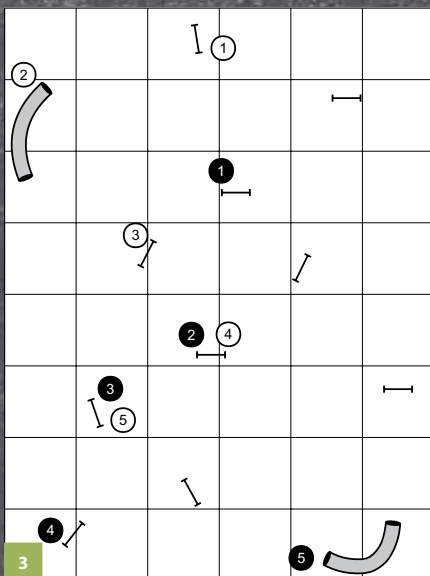
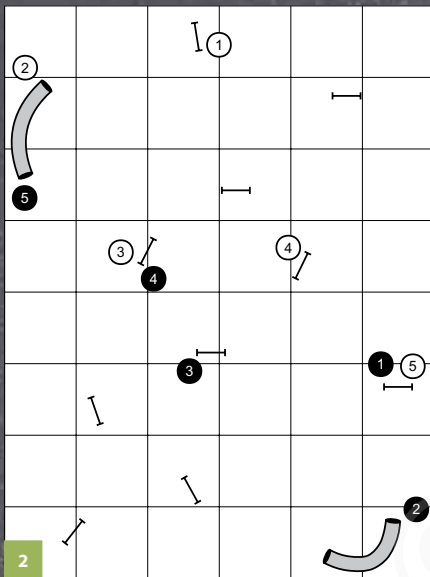
Figure 1: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #3. Black numbers: Start with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3.

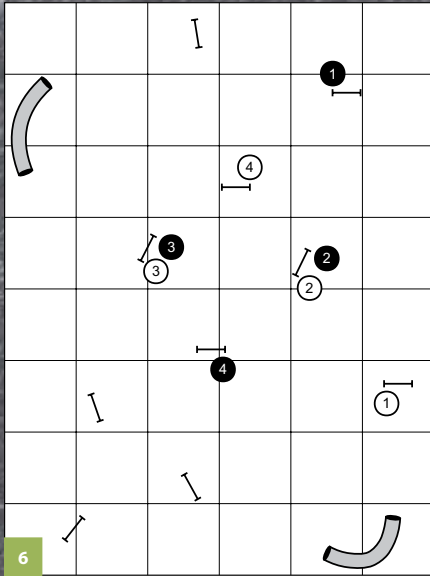
Figure 2: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #4. Black numbers: Start with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #3.

Figure 3: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3. Black numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #2; and now that your dog is on your left, do a rear cross at #3.

Figure 4: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3. Now that your dog is on your left, do another rear cross at #5. Next, with your dog on your right, do a rear cross at #8.

Figure 5: Begin with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #3. Now that your dog is on your right, do a rear cross at #9.





OPEN/ADVANCED EXERCISES

Figure 6: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3. Black numbers: Begin with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #3.

Figure 7: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #4. Black numbers: Begin with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #3.

Figure 8: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3. Now that your dog is on your left, do a rear cross at #8.

Figure 9: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #2. Now that your dog is on your left, do a rear cross at #7.

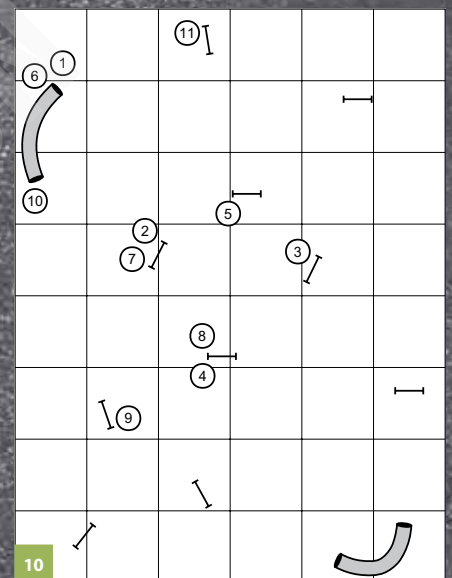
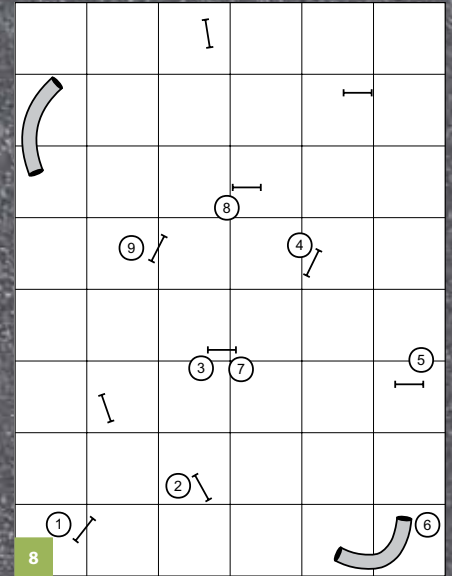
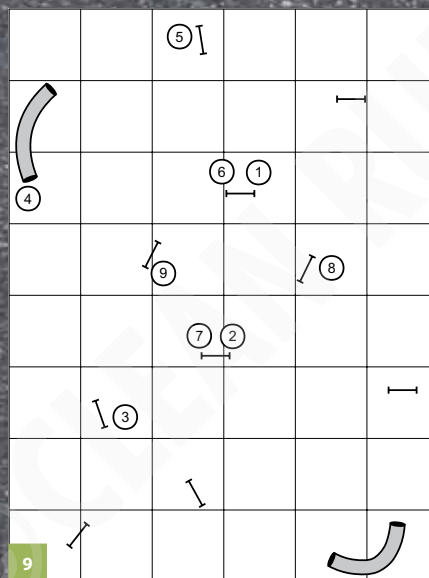
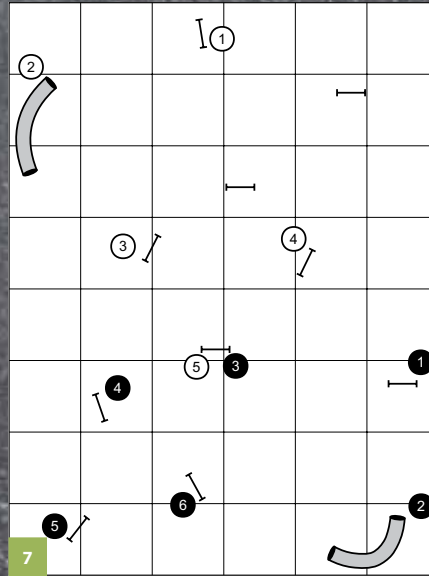
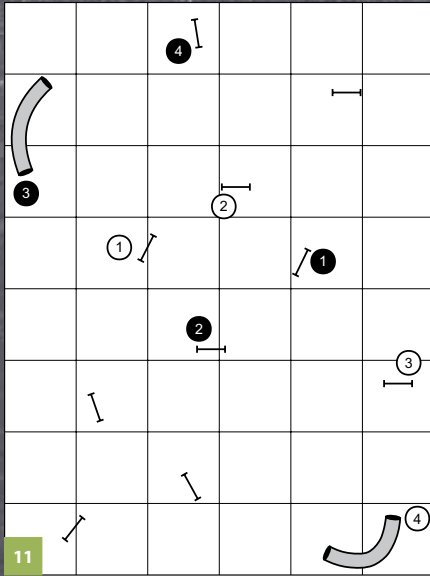


Figure 10: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #5. Next, with your dog on your right, do a rear cross at #7.

left, do a rear cross at #5. Next, with your dog on your right, do a rear cross at #7.



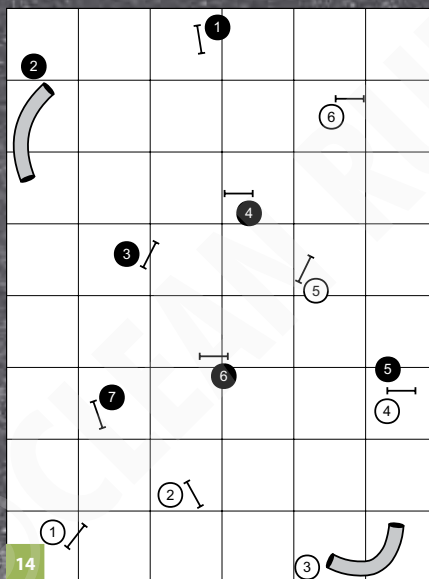
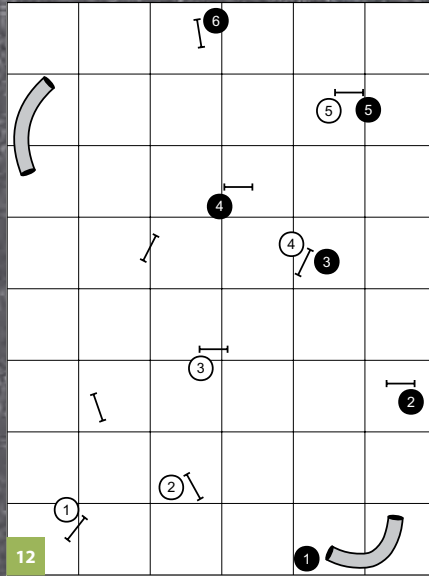
MASTERS/EXCELLENT EXERCISES

Figure 11: White numbers: Begin with your dog your right and do a rear cross at #2. Black numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #2.

Figure 12: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3. Now with your dog on your left, do a rear cross at #4. Black numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3. With your dog now on your left, do a rear cross at #5.

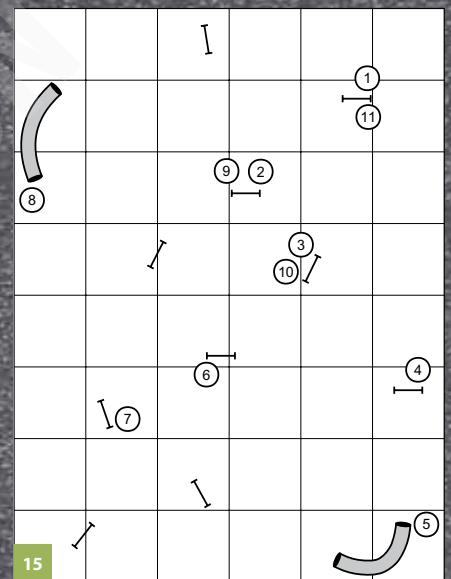
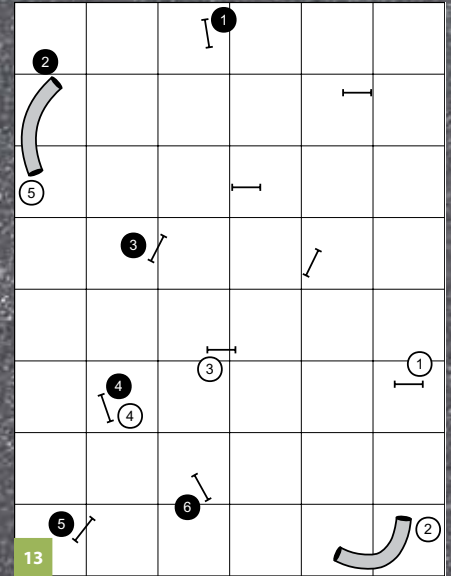
Figure 13: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #3. With your dog now on your right, do a rear cross at #4. Black numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #3. With your dog now on your left, do a rear cross at #4.

Figure 14: White numbers: Begin with your dog on your right and do a rear cross at #2. With your dog now on your left, do a rear cross at #3. Next, with your dog again on your right, do a rear cross at #5. Black numbers: Begin with your dog on



your right and do a rear cross at #4. With your dog now on your left, do a rear cross at #6.

Figure 15: Begin with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at #2. Now with your dog on your right, do another rear cross at #3. With your dog on your left again, do another rear cross at #6. Next, with your dog on your right, do a rear cross at #7. With your dog on your left again, do a rear cross at #9. 🐾



Karen Holik, involved in agility for over 15 years as a competitor and a USDAA and AKC judge, has competed in the finals of the USDAA World Championships many times with all her dogs: two Shelties, a Border Collie, and an All-American. Her youngest dog, ADCH MACH3 Triune's Feelin Hot Hot Hot, a.k.a. Sizzle, is a four-time champion at the USDAA World Championships and a five-time member of the AKC/USA World Team. Karen offers private lessons and seminars; contact her at oncourseagility@comcast.net.