

Improve Your
Handling Skills
at Home

Backyard Dogs



By Karen Holik

This month's exercises are meant to be fast and fun. The exercises in **Figures 1 and 2** challenge your dog's entry to the weave poles while moving at speed.

The exercises in **Figures 3 and 4** focus on fast entries to the poles from the tunnel. Try handling each sequence by doing a front cross after the #4 tunnel. Also try running with your dog and doing a rear cross before #5. Again, these two exercises are set up both directions to handle both sides of the poles.

The exercises in **Figures 5 and 6** can be handled two different ways. Try handling each sequence from the middle of the course and send your dog without moving, which will really challenge your weave pole entries and also test your distance handling to the jumps.

The drills in **Figures 7 and 8** are a little more challenging. Again, try to handle the sequences from the middle of the course (on either side of the tunnel).

In the sequences in **Figures 9 and 10**, can you get a lead-out to the #2 tunnel or run with your dog from #1 through #3 with your dog on your left and then on your right? 🐕

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 with all four of her dogs on six different occasions. Her youngest dog, MACH Triune's Feelin Hot Hot Hot (a.k.a. Sizzle) won the USDAA Steeplechase Finals in 2003. Karen and Sizzle were members of the AKC/USA World Team in 2003 and were chosen again to be part of the team in 2005. Karen offers private lessons and seminars and can be reached at oncourseagility@comcast.net.



