

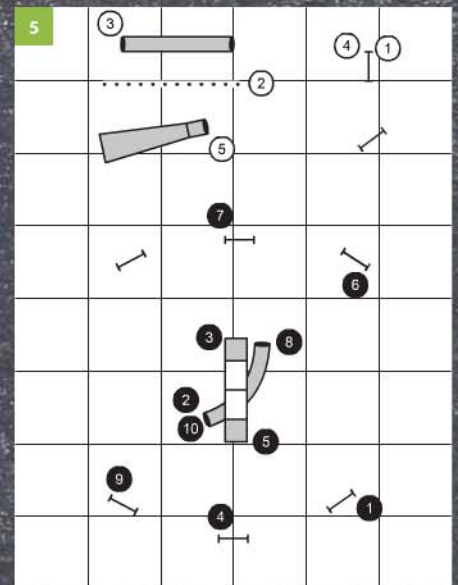
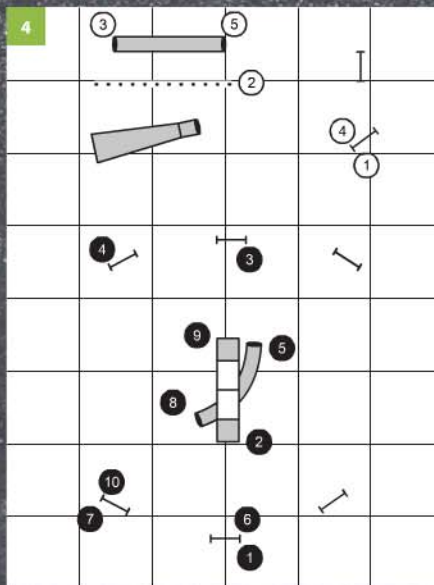
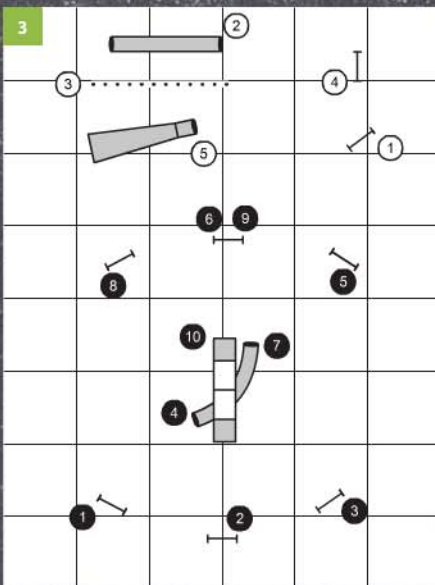
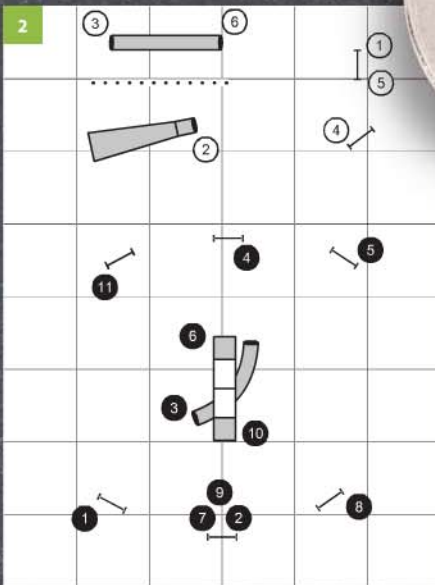
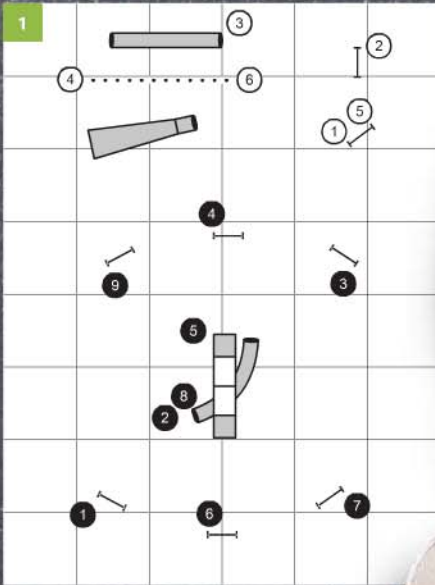
SKILL OF THE MONTH

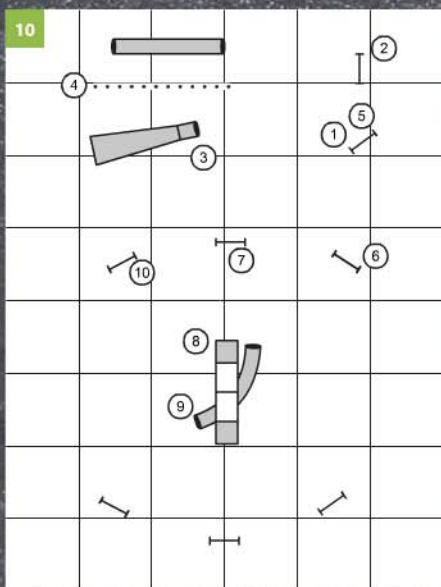
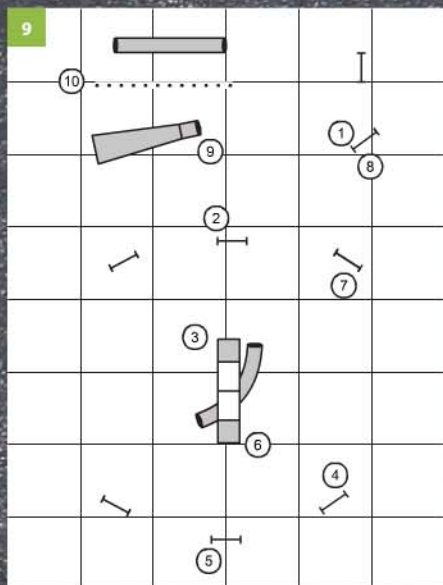
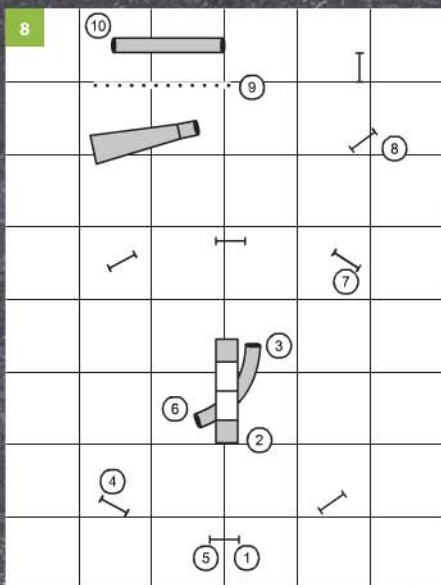
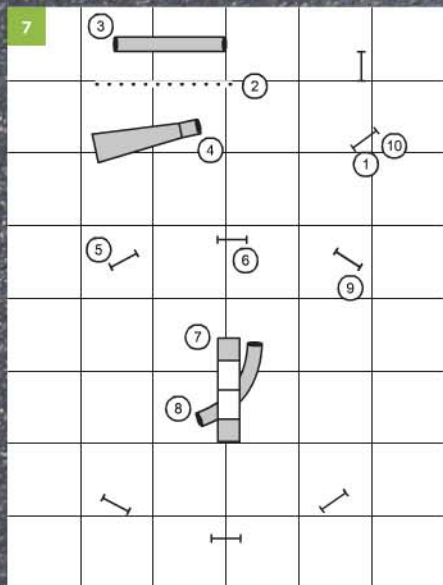
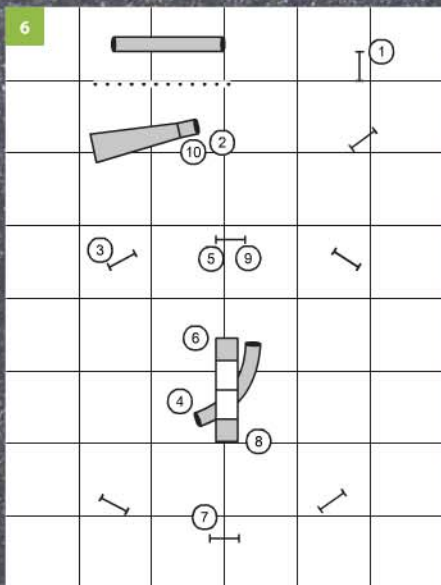
BY KAREN HOLIK

This month's exercises focus on obstacle discrimination. It seems that every course has at least one if not two or three discriminations. There are several ways you can handle obstacle discriminations. You can rely on your verbal cues alone to get your dog to the correct obstacle or you can also use your physical cues. Sometimes you can use only one or the other, but many times you can use both. Whatever you choose, attached are some interesting discriminations to try.

The first five sequences show two different exercises. One involves tunnel/weave pole discriminations and the other involves A-frame/tunnel sequences. Make sure when you practice that your dog is actually looking for a physical/verbal cue and not just taking the obstacle he chooses. You can try practicing each sequence with just verbal cues and also try to practice with just physical cues and see which way works better for you. I personally like to give my dog all the information I can so I try to use all the cues I am able to fit into the exercise.

The last five sequences are more like on-course sequences to make sure you can handle the discrimination tests at speed. I hope you will never see this many discriminations in the same course! 🐾





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 Grand Prix of Dog Agility World Championships and Dog Agility Steeplechase Championships many 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, is a two-time USDAA national Steeplechase champion and a member of the AKC/USA World Team in 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2007. Karen offers private lessons and seminars; contact her at oncourseagility@comcast.net.