

This month's exercises focus on exits from the weave poles.

It's good for your dog to understand his job in the poles, regardless of where you are on the course.

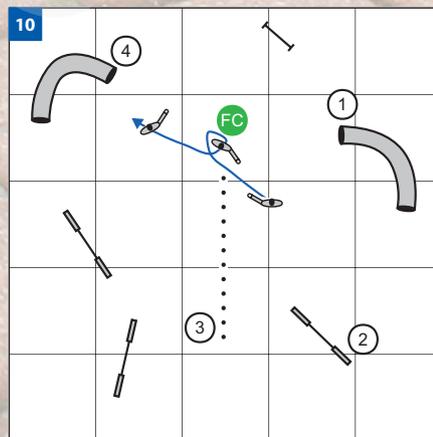
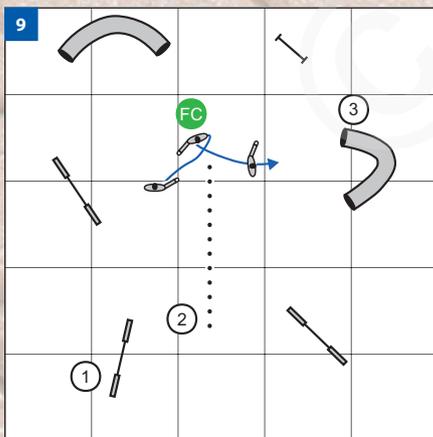
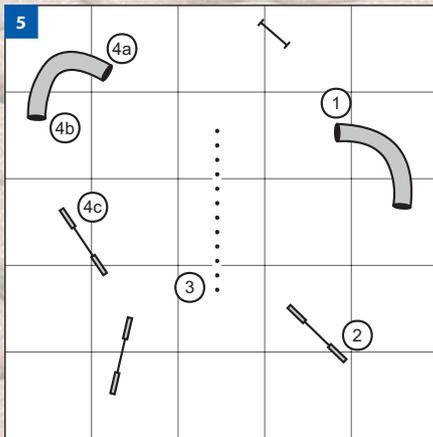
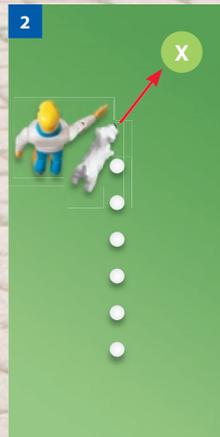
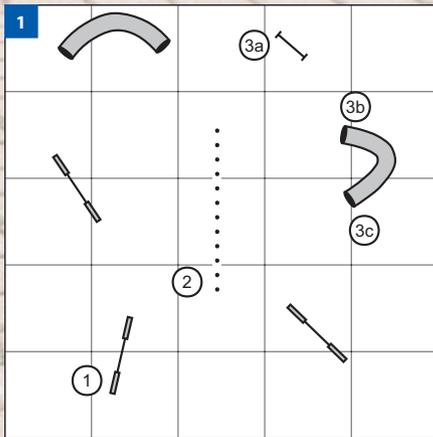
In [Figure 1](#) I have designed a sequence where you would normally lead out to obstacle #2, call your dog into the weaves on your left side, and then move on to either #3a, #3b, or #3c. But imagine that you don't have a lead-out with your dog or that you've encountered this sequence midcourse and you can't get to the other side of the weave poles, so you have to keep your dog on your right. Since we are limited by space for the "City Dog" exercises, we can't set up this whole sequence, but we can practice getting in front of the dog at the end of the weave poles and pushing to a target in place of an obstacle.

First pretend you are sending the dog to #3a by putting a toy or target at the position marked X in [Figure 2](#). This sequence should be fairly easy.

Next place your toy or target as shown in [Figure 3](#) so that you can pretend you are sending the dog to #3b. Here you will need to get ahead of your dog and cross in front of his path before he gets to the exit of the poles. Sending to a target or toy is much easier in this case than trying the maneuver on course. On the course you have to pass by an off-course jump. You can make this exercise harder by putting something on the ground your dog really wants in the spot where the off-course jump would be. Can your dog follow your direction and send to the target? Can you be ahead of him in the poles and send to the target? [Figure 4](#) is even more challenging with a really hard push from the poles as you mimic the action of sending the dog to #3c after the poles. On the actual course, your dog would be looking at the off-course jump and off-course tunnel if you didn't get in front of his path in time.

In [Figure 5](#) I have designed a course that would be much easier if you had your dog on your right when he is in the weave poles. Unfortunately, on this course you can't get to that position. Again, [Figure 6](#) is fairly easy with a push toward what you are pretending is #4a shown by the X. [Figure 7](#) gets more difficult and so does [Figure 8](#) as you pretend to push the dog to what would be #4b and #4c, respectively. Don't forget to reward highly if your dog stays in the poles when you are moving in front of him. This is not as easy as it might look.

Remember that in Figures 2, 3, and 4 you need to leave some space for your dog to wrap the last pole. In Figures 6, 7, and 8 he doesn't need to wrap the last pole to have the most efficient path; therefore, you can be very close to the last pole.



If you want to make each of these exercises even more difficult, try doing a full front cross while your dog is in the poles as shown in **Figures 9 and 10**. In Figure 9 your dog is on your right when he is in the poles, and after the cross he is on your left to the tunnel. In Figure 10 your dog is on your left in the poles, and after the cross he is on your right to the tunnel. 🐕

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.