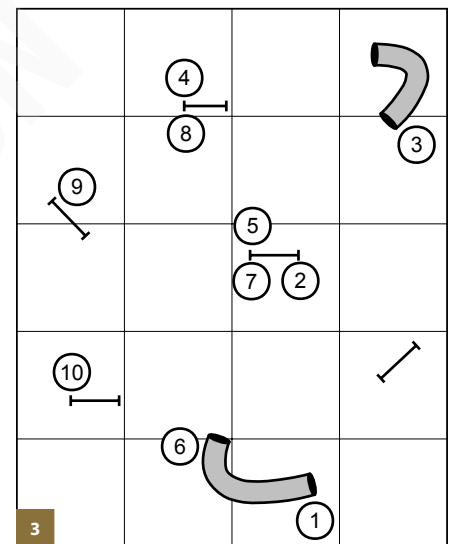
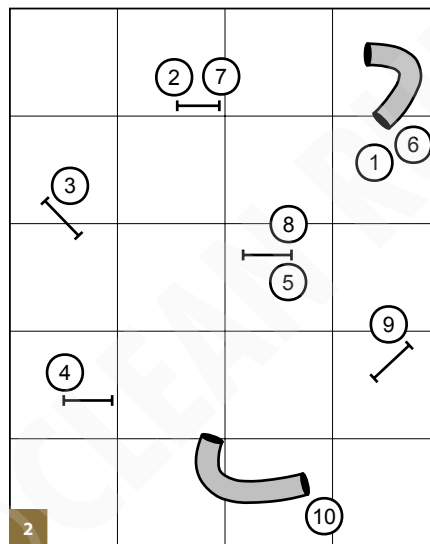
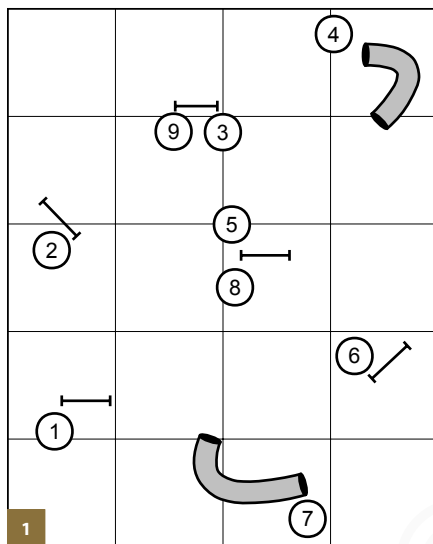


Improve Your
Handling Skills
at Home

Backyard Dogs



By Karen Holik



This month's exercises are not meant to cover any specific skills. Your job is to concentrate on handling them the best way possible for the speed and skill level of your dog. Be sure to have fun and reward often.

In **Figure 1** you can try handling the sequence starting with your dog on your left until jump #5. You can then do a rear cross at #5 to put your dog on your right, and another rear cross at #6 to put your dog back on your left. You need one more rear cross at jump #8 to end with your dog on your right. Or try keeping your dog on your left for the whole sequence. The serpentine from #4 through #7 may be a little difficult, but not impossible if you can send your dog to jump #4 and get a head start.

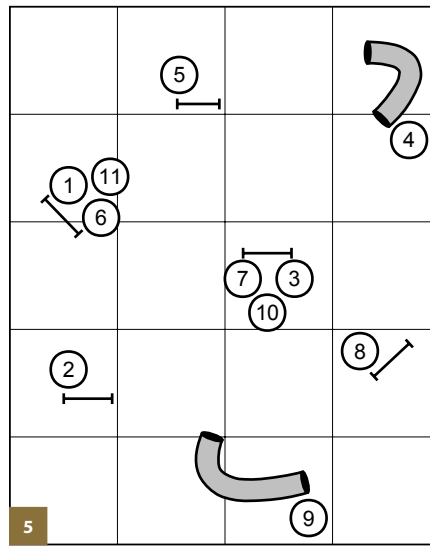
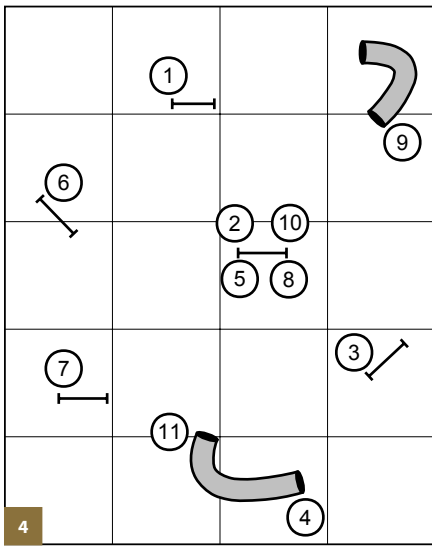
In **Figure 2** you can start with your dog on your right and you won't have to execute a side change until jump #9, where you will have to do a rear cross. You might also choose to do a front cross between #4 and #5, but this would also require a rear cross at tunnel #6. Try it both ways and see what works for your dog.

In **Figure 3** try starting with your dog on your left. After doing a rear cross at tunnel #3, you can keep your dog on your right for the rest of the sequence. You could also try a front cross at the exit of tunnel #6 and then a rear cross at jump #8.

In **Figure 4** try starting with your dog on your left and also on your right. If

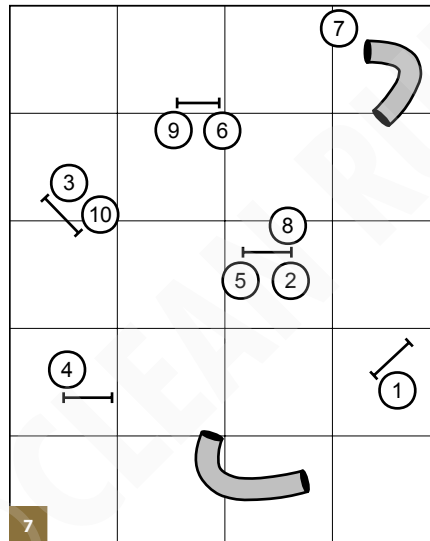
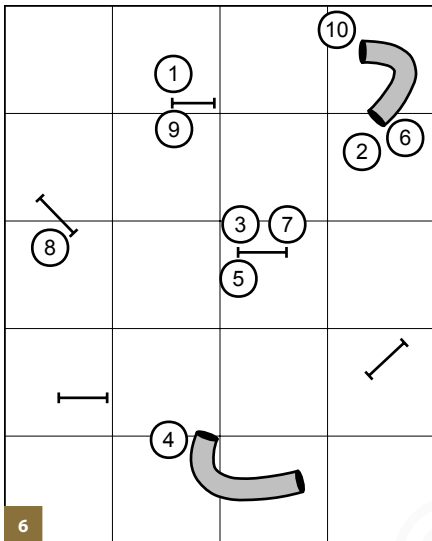
starting with your dog on the right, you will have to do a rear cross at jump #3 and probably at jump #5 also. If starting with your dog on the left, you can put in a front cross at the exit of tunnel #4 and handle the remainder of the sequence on your right.

In **Figure 5** can you handle starting with your dog on your right all the way to jump #8? You would have to do a rear cross at jump #8 if you handle this way. You could certainly also try a front cross between #6 and #7, and then pick up your dog on your left for the remainder of the sequence. Which way feels best for you and your dog?



In **Figure 6** you can start with your dog on your right and then do a front cross between tunnel #4 and jump #5. After doing a rear cross at tunnel #6, can you execute another quick front cross between the tunnel #6 exit and jump #7? This is a difficult sequence because you have a number of crosses and might lack enough time to do them since your dog is coming very fast out of a tunnel.

In **Figure 7** you can start with your dog on your right until you reach jump #6. After doing a rear cross at jump #6, you can keep your dog on your left until you do another front cross between jumps #8 and #9 to finish with the dog on your right. To practice more difficulty, you can start with your dog on your left and do a rear cross at jump #2. With your dog now on your right as you send to jump #4, can you get a front cross in between jumps #5 and #6 and finish the course the same as above?



In **Figure 8** try starting with your dog on your left and do a front cross between tunnel #4 and jump #5. With your dog now on your right, you can either keep him on your right until you do a rear cross at jump #9 or a front cross between jumps #7 and #8. You can also try keeping your dog on your left from the beginning all the way to jump #6. After doing a rear cross at #6, continue on with the rest of the course.

Figures 9 and 10 have more opportunities for front and rear crosses. Have fun and reward often! 🐾

