

SEMINAR TOPICS

Importance of structure to performance

- Introduction to the musculoskeletal system
- How to evaluate your dog's structure
- How conformation showing fits into a performance career
- Understanding your dog's physical advantages and disadvantages for performance
- Body size (gigantism vs. dwarfism) and shape
- How to evaluate a dog's front and rear angulation
- Dewclaws and tails – their use in performance
- How you can use your dog's structure to maximize performance

Locomotion and lameness

- Gaits (walk, trot, canter) – what they look like and how they are used in performance
- Pacing, crabbing – why they are not ideal gaits and what to do if your paces or crabs
- How to train your dog to gait on cue
- **Videos** demonstrating dog gaits and gait transitions
- The use of ground poles in conditioning and gait modification
- How to determine which leg your dog is lame on and how to help your veterinarian make an accurate diagnosis

Conditioning the performance dog

- Organizing a fitness program
- Strength and endurance exercises
- Intensity, frequency, duration of training
- Conditioning for specific muscle groups
- Appropriate ages to begin strength and conditioning exercises

Contact obstacles, tunnels, weaves

- The role of the front and rear in climbing and descending contact obstacles
- How dogs of different shapes and sizes perform the contact obstacles
- Reasons for slow performance
- Ways to make obstacle performance safer and more accurate
- What muscles dogs use to weave fast
- How structure affects the ability to weave
- How dogs of different sizes accommodate to the tunnels
- Why some dogs get stuck in the chute
- **videos** of dogs of various shapes & sizes performing agility obstacles & obedience exercises (how they use their bodies)

Jump Training

- Biomechanics of jumping
- Training jumping from puppies to adults-this is really more than just jump training-it is body awareness training
- Styles of jumping and when dogs use them
- Lead legs – what they are, why they are important, and how to train your dog to use them appropriately
- Jumping problems – what causes them and how to fix them

Heeling

- the contribution of spinal/neck length and flexibility to attention and heeling
- How heeling alters gait
- Off-lead heeling - accentuation of heeling problems by conformational problems.

Fronts and Finishes

- the effects of length of back, rear angulation and tail length and set on fronts and finishes.

Recalls

- Speed of recalls, retrieving, approaches to jumping
- The effect of limb angulation and body length-to-height ratio on speed of recalls.

Stationary exercises

- Conformational reasons why some dogs have trouble with the stationary exercises.

Retrieving and scent discrimination

- Facial structure, limb angulation and the ability to scent and the speed of pick-up.