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Knowledge Equals Speed!

The Complete Guide to Dog Agility Training

By Dawn Weaver

Reviewed by Lindy Margach



Description: This book by world class competitor, Dawn Weaver explains how to direct - without suppressing - a dog's enthusiasm, thus motivating him to use his own natural power and speed to navigate a course successfully. Her unique style of handling gives the dog clear, early and reliable information, so that he always knows what is coming next and has the confidence to run at top speed, perform with confidence and, most of all, enjoy agility.

Table of Contents:

- First make your dog an agility addict
- Waits and recall starts
- Directional commands and cues
- Rear, front and blind crosses, which to use and why
- Contacts and weave poles, proofing
- See-saws and tunnels
- Wraps around wings
- False turns

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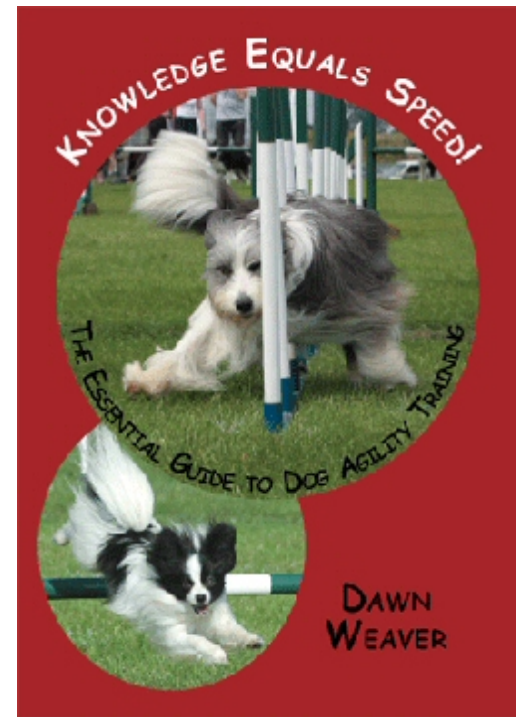


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- Postscript



Knowledge Equals Speed!

The Essential Guide To
Dog Agility Training



Best features:

I rushed to the letterbox when I heard the tell-tale thump that Dawn's book had finally arrived and tore off the packaging. I pored over the preface and first chapter, then made a cup of coffee and settled down to the rest of it. That bit then took the best part of a week and several more cups of coffee. It's a bit like training a dog, really.

Then I came to an overwhelming decision. I didn't actually want to review the book! Not because I wasn't finding it well written, but simply because I wanted to keep it all for myself! I don't want everyone else in agility knowing just what a really valuable publication this is! I want to spend the winter months working on these exercises and bounce back into the ring next Easter fired up, ready to go, with an enthusiastic dog that has perfect contacts, perfect weaves, awesome turns and even greater drive. Now, I guess, everyone else who buys this book will be doing the same.

But if that improves the standards, it has to be a good thing which is why I decided I should review this book after all.

Dawn has called it *Knowledge Equals Speed!* The first thing you have to understand is that the knowledge she is talking about is not your knowledge. It's the dog's knowledge of what you are trying to convey through clear commands, good body



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language and perfect timing. Throughout the book, she does everything in her considerable power to explain and show exactly what she means - at every stage of handling. For me, it switched on a lot of lights and has shown me not just where I need to improve my handling, but how to do it.

Dawn's methods are tried and tested and she has proved their success beyond doubt. Whether the rest of us can raise our game to her levels will depend on our desire to succeed and our levels of dedication.

Could be better: To be honest, it's not an 'easy read'. You have to work a chapter at a time, think about it, build on what you have already read and then move on to the next bit. My advice to would-be buyers, however, would be... Don't miss out on this one!

Design & format: The illustrations and literally hundreds of coloured diagrams throughout make the suggested training techniques really easy to understand. The care that's been taken throughout to link the text to the correct placement of the diagrams is superb and the care in actually producing the diagrams in the first place sets a standard that most other publications could seek to follow. Paperback 320 pages. Personally signed by Dawn.

Overall rating: Points out of 10 - just for once: 11. And I really mean it!

Price: £16.95 + P&P. Available direct from [Dawn Weaver's web site](#), personally signed, or online from [Agility Warehouse](#)

Value for money: Absolutely - don't know what you pay for a private lesson, but this gives you a whole range of private lessons in the privacy of your own home! It's the best investment you can make.

About the author...

Dawn Weaver is one of today's top agility handlers, working seven dogs of varying breeds and sizes, including ABCs, collie-crosses and her fabulous miniature Poodle - all at the very top level of the sport. She was the only handler to qualify two dogs for the 2009 FCI World Championships.

Dawn, who has been training dogs for over 20 years, currently teaches both individual dog owners privately and group classes in Portland and at Tarrant Gunville in Dorset. She also runs training days for clubs at their venues on request.



About the reviewer...

Lindy Margach shares her home in Wallington, Surrey, with four Labradors - eight year old Shannon, four year old Bracken who has attained her Gold Warrant this season, two year old Ree and her recently rehomed youngster, Hobi.

She has been competing in agility for about five years, has been an agility judge for two years and has recently also passed her Agility Club Instructors exams.



Lindy is a journalist and PR consultant working mainly in the sectors of agriculture, equine and animal health.

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