

Improve Your
Handling Skills
at Home

Backyard Dogs



By Karen Holik

This month's exercises focus on weaves: weave entries, weave exits, weaving away from the course, and also entering the weaves at speed even with a tunnel close to the entry of the weaves. These are challenges I have seen lately at shows. Agility courses are getting more difficult all the time, but I have noticed that independent weave pole performance is expected in most courses these days. Here are a few ideas to make the sequences more challenging.

In **Figure 1**, try starting with your dog on your right and also on your left. With your dog on your left, you will have to do a rear cross at the poles. Also try taking a very short lead-out and then racing your dog to the poles. Can he still hit the entry?

In **Figure 2**, try sending to the poles from the exit of the tunnel and also try staying behind the entrance of the tunnel. You can also do a front cross at the end of the weave poles or a rear cross at jump #5 if you keep your dog on the right through the poles.

In **Figure 3**, doing a rear cross at the #5 poles might be your only option for an efficient path for the dog. It is also set up as a very difficult discrimination with the tunnel in the way.



