

Front Cross Exercises

Make sure your cues are clear and concise so that your dog can't miss them.

Step 1

Place your dog in a stationary position in front of and close to a jump and lead out two stride lengths past the jump (long enough so that your dog does not land past you). Handler is positioned with back to the dog to clearly define the shoulder turn. Call your dog over the jump while looking over your shoulder; at the same time turn 90 degrees so that you are perpendicular to the jump. Cue to come into a front position and reward. This teaches the dog to land in the handler's space without going past and coming back (see Part 4 Mecklenburg jump article CR April 06). As your dog becomes consistent, you can shorten the distance between yourself and the jump, still asking your dog to land in front on cue.

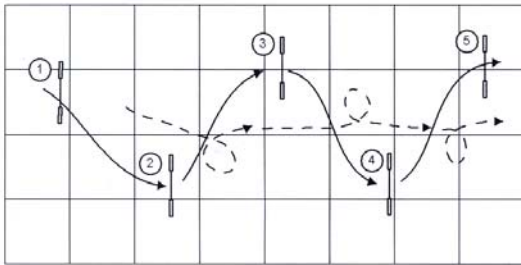


Figure 3

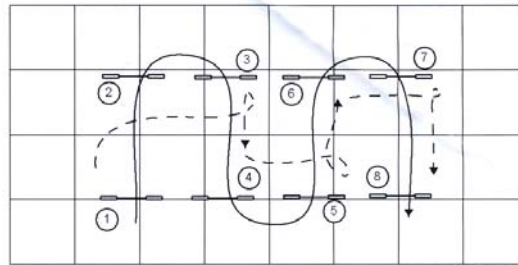


Figure 4

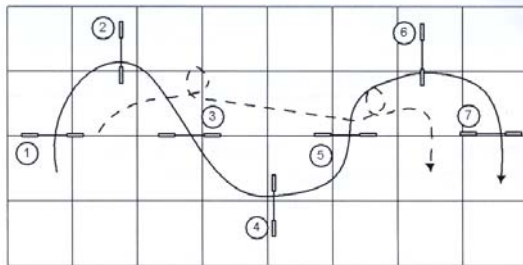


Figure 5

Step 2

The rest of the rotation can be added. The handler's signal should be low and close to the handler's side to indicate to the dog that they should stay close until told otherwise.

Step 3

Add speed to the FC by adding a second jump. Your dog will not be able to land as tight. Timing is critical.

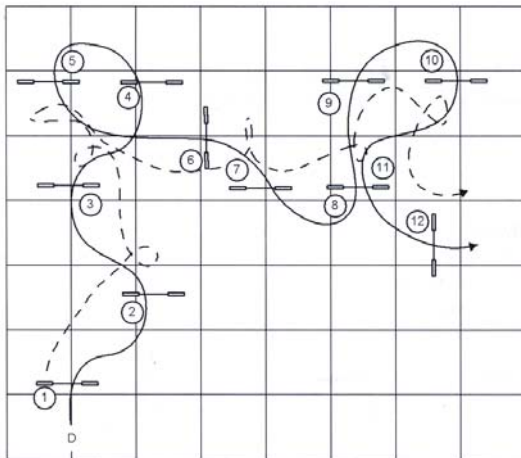


Figure 6

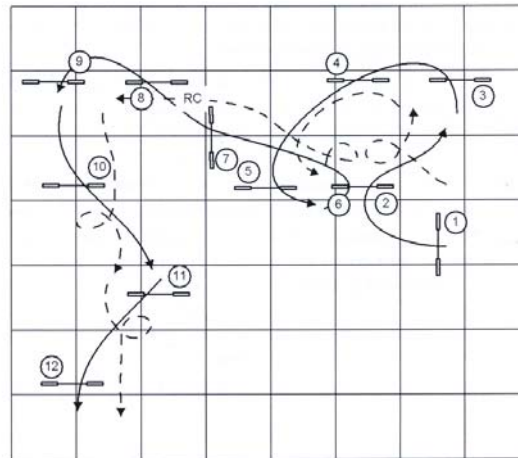


Figure 7

When executing a FC, it is important to remember that the dog is coming to the handler, the handler is not moving to the dog. If the rotation is executed before the dog can process the information, it will likely end up on the wrong side of the handler. Do not lose visual contact with the dog during the front cross; knowing the dog's position at all times is important.

Figures 3 through 7 will help to test your front cross prowess!