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## Agility Handling Essentials - "Turn signal"

Teaching your dog to wrap tightly around a jump vs jumping long (in extension) is a necessary foundation exercise that will help your dog know what is expected before they take off!

Start with a pylon or a potted plant.. anything your dog can go around. Indicate the turn with a stirring motion but try not to stir around the pylon. Keep your hand motion on your side of the obstacle. See our "go around" hand out from earlier course work.

Make sure they can go around from various angles and with a least two to three feet of distance. If dog is on left, use your left hand to signal.

Now go back to an easy angle with shorter distance where you know the dog will do the behavior. Remember you should be willing to bet me 20\$ your dog will do it when you add the word.

Add the words "dig, dig," BEFORE they get to the pylon. They should go around the pylon before they turn back to you. For this they will always turn towards you!

Add a second turn in so they will go twice around. Great for teaching dogs to be comfortable bending and moving! Work both sides equally well. You can reinforce the dog at different points in the turn by throwing a piece of food such as popcorn. Use a release cue such as "get it". They should always be looking forward and not at you. IF they are looking at you be sure to check in with me asap.

To move to a jump, start with the jump very low. Be sure to watch that the dog is bending over the jump (not jumping long or straight and then turning) Slowly move the height up so they learn to bend over the jump when you are saying "dig"/

eventually we will add in the distraction of you moving away while they are finishing the turn so you can get even farther ahead of them!

