



# Six Ways to Handle a 270

By Sandy Kagan

One of my favorite training exercises is to take a sequence and handle it as many different ways as I can think of. This is one way to push yourself out of your comfort zone and to perfect the skills that you may be avoiding, but you have to be able to imagine these clear maneuvers before you can get better at them.

One way to come up with different ways to handle a sequence is to be creative with your handling of basic configurations like 180s, sequences, boxes, grids, and 270s. Then all you have to do is recognize the curly cutters in the sequences and choose the best way for you and your dog to meet on course.

## Training the 270

You need to teach your dog to make the second jump of the 270 without your helping him every time. He must learn not to come in through the middle of the two jumps unless he is used to do so.

Here are a few good ways to teach the 270. All work equally well as far

as I can see. One way is to practice the classic 180 a bunch. Make it easy at first by having the jumps close together, then slowly spread the jumps farther apart until the dog will go out on his own for the second jump while you remain close to the first jump. Then gradually create one of the jumps while you work until the two turns into a 270.

Another common favorite way to teach the 270 is to start with the jumps set in the 270 configuration and have the dog try over jump #1 in a program like *Master Imagine* a path from the lead leg point on jump #1 to the rail-off point of jump #2. Each time you throw the toy to reward the dog for taking jump #1 you make the toy land along that path and a bit closer to jump #2, as shown in **Figure 1**. The dog is being rewarded for taking jump #1 and staying in the top half to the next jump. After a bit, to come through the middle requires a cut that makes him sharply and you did not give the dog that cut, right? Teaching and handling the 270 helps clarify many of your turns

more for both you and your dog. Often to your dog he will be honest with you about what he thinks of the consistency of your turns, too!

Your job is to teach the dog to "lead" the 270 more often in a target or English more than the classic, overly square configuration. As you train you can experiment with making the 270 into three target and three angled configurations. Notice how far you are taking the dog to lead to the second line of jump #2. The farther the dog

