



DOG AGILITY EQUIPMENT GUIDEBOOK



**Mastering the Art of Dog Agility Training
STEP BY STEP**

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CHAPTER 1 _____	1
Introduction to the SparklyPets Dog Agility Guidebook _____	1
CHAPTER 2 _____	3
Getting Yourself Ready for the Work: How YOU Should Be Prepared _____	3
CHAPTER 3 _____	5
Pre-Workout Activity for Conditioning: How YOUR DOG Should Be Prepared for Agility Training _____	5
CHAPTER 4 _____	9
SAFETY COMES FIRST! Always feel healthy and safe when you start training. _____	9
CHAPTER 5 _____	11
Basic tips and tricks you need for grounding the training experience _____	11
Guiding and Luring _____	11
The Verbal Commands _____	12
The Sit Command _____	14
The Stay Command _____	16
CHAPTER 6 _____	18
THE PAUSE BOX _____	20
1. The objective of the activity _____	20
2. The setup _____	20
3. Training points _____	21
Sit and Lying Down Command _____	22
Staying and Waiting in Place _____	24
The Starting Point of the Agility Course _____	25
4. Plan of action _____	27



DOG AGILITY WEAVE POLES	28
1. The objective of the activity	28
2. The setup	29
3. Training Points	30
4. Plan of action	35
THE DOG AGILITY TUNNEL	37
1. The objective of the activity	37
2. The Setup	37
3. Training Points	38
4. Plan of action	39
DOG HURDLE JUMP BAR	41
1. The Objective of the Activity	41
2. The Setup	41
3. Training Points	43
4. Plan of action	45
DOG TIRE JUMP	49
1. The objective of the activity	49
2. The Setup	49
3. Training Points	51
4. Plan of action	54
CHAPTER 7	56
Getting Started with Simple Dog Agility Course Layouts	56
The Straight Layout Course	56
The Turning Layout Course	59
The Clockwise Layout Course	61

DOG AGILITY EQUIPMENT GUIDEBOOK

Welcome to our **DOG AGILITY EQUIPMENT GUIDE-BOOK**, dedicated to our **PAWESOME COMMUNITY** and our beloved SparklyPets Team!

This Guidebook is designed to enhance the bond between you and your furry companion and help you both stay active and healthy.

Whether you're first-time trying dog agility or familiar with the field, this guidebook will provide you with valuable tips and techniques to improve your dog's agility skills and overall well-being.

We hope that you and your furry friend will enjoy the journey of mastering agility training together.

So, let's get started and have some fun!





TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPARKLYPETS DOG AGILITY GUIDEBOOK

Thank you for choosing our SparklyPets Agility Set!

This guidebook is designed to introduce you to the world of dog agility and help you become familiar with the various elements included in the SparklyPets Dog Agility Set you just bought. The information provided in this guidebook is meant to give you a basic understanding of the agility field and a starting point for training with your SparklyPets set.

Please note that this guidebook is not intended to replace professional advice from dog agility trainers or more comprehensive training materials. If you are interested in competing in agility contests or advancing your skills, we recommend seeking out more qualified guidance.

However, if your goal is to create fun memories with your furry friend and strengthen your bond, this guidebook will provide you with a consistent training routine and a solid foundation to build upon.

BY FOLLOWING THE GUIDEBOOK, YOU SHOULD:

- Be able to understand how to use the various elements of the SparklyPets Dog Agility Set;
- Learn simple tricks to teach your dog the basics of agility;
- Become familiar with a dog agility course layout and how to set one up for your specific needs;

Keep in mind that every dog is different, so adapt the training to your individual dog's needs and don't force things.

Most importantly, have fun!



TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

We rely heavily on feedback from our Pawesome community to improve our guidebook, so if you feel there are subjects that are missing or areas that need more explanation, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We wish you the best of luck in your training and look forward to hearing about your progress.



CHAPTER 2

Getting Yourself Ready for the Work: How YOU Should Be Prepared

Before beginning agility training with your dog, it's important to prepare yourself as well. Treat this guidebook as a reference and don't overthink the steps outlined. Remember that some aspects may not apply easily to you and your dog, but through the process of learning and unlearning, you will gain a deeper understanding of yourself and your dog.

One of the key phrases you'll come across in this guidebook is "keep calm". While it may sound easy, it's important to prepare yourself for the challenges ahead as time is of the essence in agility training. You will need to invest a lot of time and effort, but the outcome of seeing your dog perform the tricks you've taught him will be extremely rewarding.

As humans, we are all different (that's the beauty of it), and this applies to dogs as well. When training your dog, try to mark and analyze which techniques work best for him. Each dog has their own personality and learning style preference that may work better than others. Prepare yourself to analyze your dog as a consultant and try to answer the following questions when you start training, as they will determine your stage and prepare you for the training part:

- *Does he like to get treats as an incentive or does he prefer his favorite toys?*
- *If your dog likes treats, which are the most delightful to him? Wet or dry food?*
- *Is your dog comfortable in dark places, such as a dog tunnel?*



- *Does he like to jump?*
- *How easily does he get distracted by other things?*
- *How much time can you keep your dog focused before he needs a break?*

Keep these questions in mind when analyzing your dog and be prepared for any outcome. Always adapt the incentives you use to reward or motivate your dog based on his personality. Some solutions you discover may work better than the recommended ones. Remember that each dog is an individual and has their own preferences.

You will get feedback from your dog by observing his behavior, and how he reacts will give you insights into what you're doing well and what you need to improve. Prepare yourself to be surprised by the outcome and adapt your learning techniques as you go. Don't overthink the process, find the skills that your dog is naturally inclined to and polish those. Chain the new skills your dog needs to acquire with the old ones.

Learning tricks, especially those related to agility, will be a mutual benefit for both of you. Your dog will improve his physical shape and behavior, and ongoing learning will prevent boredom and anxiety. These can be distractions at the beginning of training, but once your dog gets a taste of success, he will be more intrigued and eager to learn new tricks.

Most importantly, remember that this is all about fun and bonding. Keeping your mind active will help strengthen your relationship with your dog. Always adapt as you go and don't forget that this is a process of discovery for both you and your dog. The most important thing is to have a strong relationship with your dog and work as a team. Know your strengths and weaknesses and have a fun, yet useful experience together!



CHAPTER 3

Pre-Workout Activity for Conditioning: How YOUR DOG Should Be Prepared for Agility Training

As discussed in the previous chapter, each dog has their own unique personality and learning style, which is why it's important to prepare your dog for agility training ahead. By understanding your dog's strengths and weaknesses, you can easily condition them and bring them into shape for agility training.

Depending on your dog's personality, adapt to the challenges to make them as approachable as possible. Some dogs are more active and enjoy running, while others are calmer and prefer a steady approach. It doesn't matter the age of your dog, each has its own pace and personal limits that can help you set goals.

Every dog appreciates being praised and rewarded for their performance. They can sense your energy and love when they are rewarded for their efforts. It's important to use kind words and a positive tone when training your dog.

They will associate these words and tone with their success, helping them focus and improve.

Some dogs may need a boost to get started.

A calm or less athletic dog is not a lazy dog, they just need a bit of conditioning to get familiar and comfortable with the new situation. Keep calm and have patience in the beginning, try to get familiar with each other, and start with basic tricks that will prepare them for the next level. Through this process, you can analyze their behavior to determine the best rewards to keep them engaged. Start with small steps and short training sessions, and remember that learning should be fun.



Hyperactive dogs will be very enthusiastic about new toys in their yard, but they can easily get distracted and lose focus. Be careful if your dog likes to run around a lot as it can lead to accidents. We recommend reducing the speed and focusing more on the techniques rather than execution. Keep calm and reduce the pace to condition them on the techniques. Alternate activities to keep them active and understand the next step, but at the same time, make sure they understand the steps they need to take. As with a human workout, warm up your dog with some pre-workout sessions, such as tug playing or running around to help them get warmed up and eliminate excess energy. This will help improve their condition and focus on the tricks you want to teach them.

Keep the training engaging! The more supportive you are, the more receptive and eager your dog will be to learn new tricks. The goal is to have your dog fully focused on the task, just like how he focuses on you when you're eating "his" favorite food. You'll notice that when he's fully focused, he doesn't let anything distract him. The same level of focus should be achieved during training, and to do so, you'll need patience, a positive attitude, and treats. Once your dog gets a taste of the reward, he'll become more motivated to repeat the behavior until the activity brings him joy.

To ensure optimal results, it is important to calibrate your training sessions to match your dog's individual needs.

One effective method is to use the Pomodoro technique, which involves breaking up your training into clear tasks and interspersing them with short breaks. To start, it's a good idea to keep the training sessions as short as possible, such as 5-minute training sessions with a 10-minute break. As your dog becomes more familiar with the new trick and the training process, you can gradually increase the training time and decrease the break time.



This allows for a more focused and effective learning experience. During these breaks, make sure to take the time to relax and bond with your dog through play and positive reinforcement, such as petting and using kind words. This will help your dog to feel comfortable and confident as they learn new tricks.

Learning new things may be a challenge, and from time to time it can be frustrating for both of you if a trick doesn't go as planned. If you try a new trick for a few minutes and you don't get a good result, take a step back and analyze how you can improve your technique, and repeat a few of the already learned tricks to prevent frustration and to strengthen your dog's focus and determination to restart training.

When you start each training session, begin with a recap of the previously learned tricks as a warm-up for the new training session. By proceeding this way, you will strengthen your dog's already learned tricks and they will be more open to learning new tricks. Always end the training session with a positive vibe and focus on strengthening the bond between you and your dog.

Use the notes section from each chapter from this interactive guidebook by tapping the '**TAP TO JOT NOTES**' orange button from the upper left corner. Or use a dog training log book as a diary for you and your dog's progress, where you can write down anything you consider relevant from your previous session.

This will help you have a more objective approach regarding the results and will help you calibrate for the next session.



To offer you a structure, you should include these questions in your logbook:

- *What did you practice today?*
- *How did your furry buddy and you feel today?*
- *What new tricks did you try today?*
- *What new tricks did you learn today or started learning?*
- *What didn't work well today in the training session?*
- *What are you grateful for today?*
- *How do you both feel today?*

Remember that each step you take together is a success! Don't overthink the process and adapt the training session to your dog's personality. This new dog agility activity should bring you joy, not frustration.

Have fun!



CHAPTER 4

SAFETY COMES FIRST!

Always feel healthy and safe when you start training.

Safety should always be a top priority when starting agility training with your dog. Before beginning any training, ensure that both you and your dog are feeling healthy and safe.

Avoid pushing your dog to perform exercises or tricks that may harm him and postpone training sessions if your dog is unwell. It is important to check your dog's health and consult with your veterinarian to determine what your dog can and cannot do in their current state. Some tricks may be painful for your dog, so it is important to avoid them. If your dog has difficulties with their vision or hearing, it may be best to avoid training.

Is your dog physically ready to start training?

Regularly check his health and if he has any health issues, avoid starting training. Young puppies don't fully develop their bones and muscles until they reach 18 months of age, so it's important to avoid any strenuous jumps or maneuvers that could harm their natural growth until they reach the appropriate age range.

If your dog is hyperactive with their current agility trick, it may be best to move to a safer and calmer activity to reduce overexcitement. Moving to a new location and trying other activities that work better for your dog's current situation can be helpful. Remember to also include pre-workout activities to set your dog in a balanced energy state. Avoid high jumps with puppies, as they have a high potential for injury and can leave a negative impact on their agility experience. It is also important to start with low-level activities to get them used to agility training, and not to power-boost training sessions until they are fully grown.



The environment in which you train your dog is also crucial for safety. Make sure that the area you use for training and learning new tricks is safe and free of distractions. Inspect the surface before setting up any dog agility elements and take the necessary precautions. For example, if you are training indoors for a dog hurdle jump, use a carpet as a landing zone and avoid slippery surfaces. Limit indoor activities to simple tricks such as “Sit,” “Stay,” and “Come,” and save more advanced, speed-based tricks for outdoor training.

When training outdoors, inspect the ground area for sharp objects or holes that may cause injury. Use a flat surface and avoid concrete setups as much as possible. Instead, opt for yard-style setups, as jumps are safer on soft surfaces.

Make sure your dog is not distracted by other animals during training, and it is best to avoid an audience during the initial training sessions. It is recommended to use regular collars, such as the SparklyPets Dog Collar with Handle, and avoid choke chains. Avoid harnesses, as they can limit your dog’s movement and make it harder for them to feel safe when jumping.

If you choose not to use a regular collar, ensure that the training area is free of hazards.

If training in an open space area like a dog park, consider using a SparklyPets Hands-Free Leash for a more flexible approach while still having full control during basic training commands.

To ensure a secure and safe training experience, start with a setup inspection and routine veterinarian checks. This will help you and your furry companion feel more secure and facilitate progress in training sessions with suitable techniques.



CHAPTER 5

BASIC TIPS AND TRICKS YOU NEED FOR GROUNDING THE TRAINING EXPERIENCE

In the next chapter, we will delve into the importance of mastering basic commands before beginning agility training with your dog. These foundational skills will lay the groundwork for a successful and enjoyable experience for both you and your furry companion.

GUIDING AND LURING

It is crucial to ensure that your dog has a solid understanding of basic commands such as guiding and luring. Teaching your dog to follow your hand motions using treats or favorite toys can greatly aid in guiding him through different agility obstacles.

Start by holding a treat close to your dog's nose and gradually move your hand, encouraging your dog to follow.

Gradually increase the speed and difficulty of the routine, such as circling a chair or table. It's important to reward your dog when they successfully follow your guidance to reinforce the behavior.





As your dog becomes more accustomed to the routine, gradually reduce the use of treats to avoid dependency on them. Continuously review and practice already learned tricks to ensure they are not forgotten. With these basic commands mastered, your dog will be well-prepared for the agility training ahead.

THE VERBAL COMMANDS

Verbal commands are an important part of dog agility training. Teaching your dog specific words to associate with specific actions will make it easier for him to understand and respond to your commands. It's important to use the same tone and energy level each time you give a command to help your dog create a pattern.

Dogs respond and associate specific actions with verbal commands or word associations, such as calling them by their name. It's crucial to use the same level of energy and enthusiasm each time you give a verbal command to make it easy for your dog to understand and learn.

Long phrases can take time to establish a consistent tone, so it's recommended to limit yourself to one or two words such as "Sit," "Stay," "Jump," "Go!," "Come!," "Fetch!," etc.

By using a consistent tone and voice when giving commands, your dog will understand and learn the command faster and be able to create a pattern. Observe your dog's reaction and if they don't respond as desired, analyze what might be causing the association issue.



To help your dog learn and understand verbal commands, combine them with the luring technique using treats. For example, when teaching your dog, the “sit” command, give him a treat as you say the command. This will help him associate the action with the verbal command. To make the training more effective, try varying the location where you give the command, this will help your dog understand that the command is not location-specific.



Always use kind words and a positive tone when training your dog. He will be more willing to learn and perform tricks if the experience is positive. Remember to avoid using long phrases or sentences and stick to one or two words like “sit”, “stay”, “jump” or “fetch” to make it easier for your dog to understand and respond. If your dog doesn’t respond to a verbal command, try analyzing the issue and adjusting your approach.



THE SIT COMMAND

The “Sit” command is a fundamental and widely recognized command that all dog owners should teach their furry companions.

Teaching this command typically involves using a verbal command, such as “Sit,” in combination with a treat as a reward for the successful execution of the command.

To ensure maximum effectiveness, it’s best to teach the command in a distraction-free environment, such as your home or backyard.

To begin, hold a treat in your hand and stand in front of your dog. Allow your dog to smell the treat, then calmly give the command “Sit” and wait for your dog to sit. As soon as your dog sits, give them the treat as a reward. This way he will have an ‘aha’ moment, repeat this process until your dog associates the command “Sit” with the action of sitting.





If the previous approach doesn't yield results, you can try incorporating a luring technique. Start by sitting in front of your dog and using a treat to coax him into sitting down. Hold the treat in your hand and let your dog see it. Move the treat over his head, and as he focuses on it, he will naturally sit down. Once he does, give him the treat. Repeat this process until he understands that sitting results in a treat. At the same time, use the verbal command "Sit!" to reinforce the behavior.



It's important to avoid physically pushing your dog into the sitting position, as this can be confusing and forceful. Remember to be patient and consistent, and once you master the "Sit" command, the rest will be a breeze.



THE STAY COMMAND

Teaching your dog the “stay” command is an important step in agility training. The command helps your dog understand when to remain in a specific location, such as a pause table or starting point for an agility obstacle. To begin training, combine the “stay” command with the “sit” command. Start by having your dog sit and then take a few steps back and give the “stay” command. Use a hand signal, such as holding up your palm, to reinforce the command. Gradually increase the distance and duration of the stay command as your dog improves.





Remember to give a release command, such as “come” or “go,” and reward your dog with a treat.

Consistently repeating the command and having a positive attitude towards training will help your dog master the command and focus on learning new tricks.



Once your dog has mastered the ‘Stay!’ command, you can gradually increase the distance and incorporate it into the agility course tricks. Having a positive attitude towards the training session and consistently repeating the learned trick is essential for your dog to focus on learning new tricks. Keep in mind that repetition is the key, as the brain works like a muscle that needs to be exercised to perform better and better.



CHAPTER 6

The SparklyPets Agility Set. How to use the elements included.

The SparklyPets Dog Agility Set comes with five obstacle course elements that you can use in your training:

THE PAUSE BOX

THE DOG TUNNEL

THE SLALOM POLES

THE JUMP HURDLE BAR

THE JUMP TIRE

This chapter will provide training tips on how to use each specific element and how to begin your training.

Each obstacle description will cover four main aspects:

- The objective of the activity
- The setup required for that specific obstacle
- The training points to keep in mind when teaching your dog agility
- A plan of action for where to start

We recommend reviewing the previous chapters of this guidebook to refresh your understanding of the basic tricks before starting this chapter.

However, if your dog is already familiar with agility or has some knowledge of it, you can begin with this chapter.

It's important to be open-minded when reading through the following information and to adapt our recommendations based on your dog's experience and needs.

Keep in mind that the most important thing is to keep both you and your dog safe while having fun.



TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

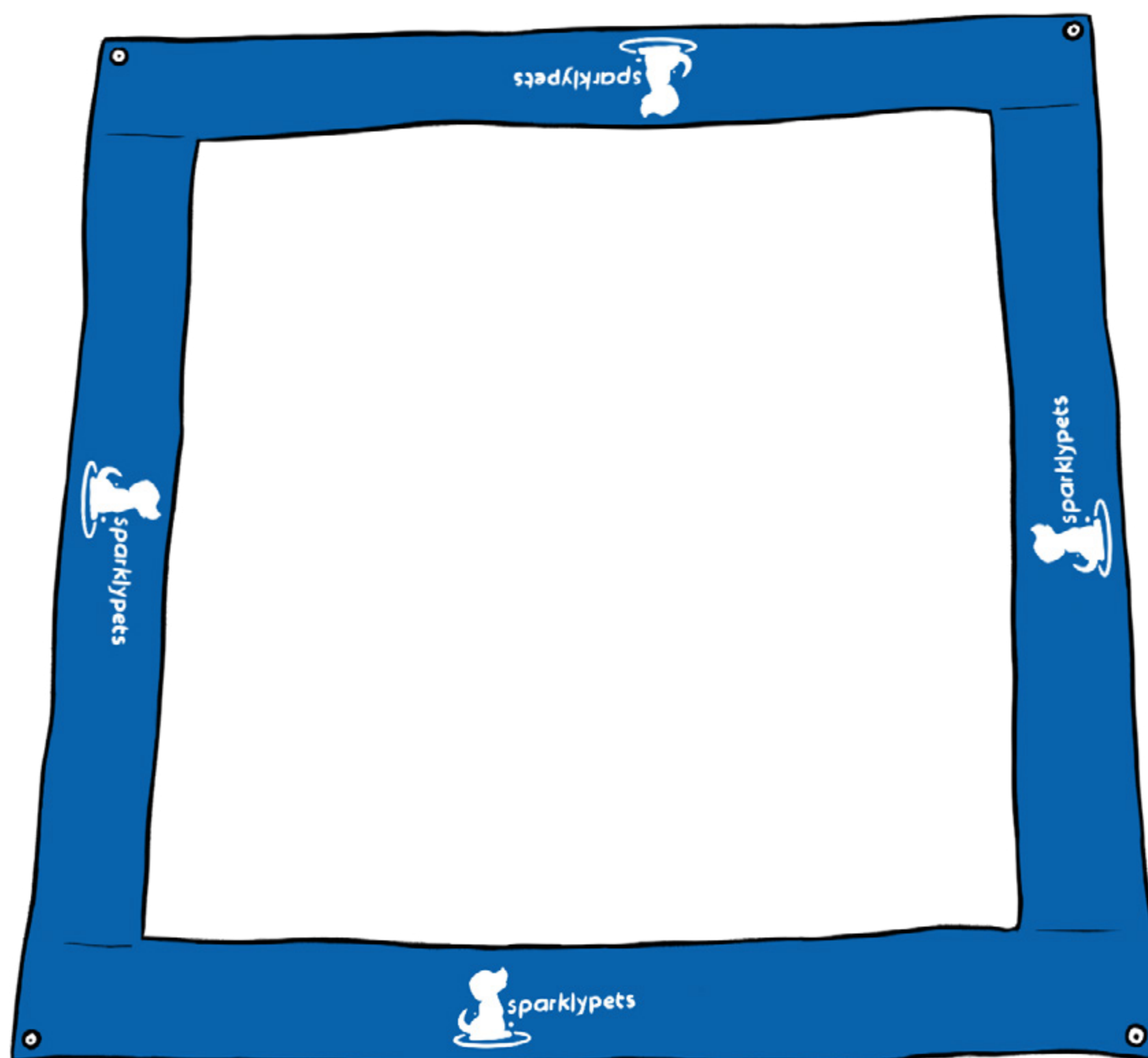
Some obstacles may be more challenging to master than others, so it's important to analyze your dog's behavior and approach the training in a step-by-step process. Start with the obstacles that are more comfortable for your dog to learn and move on to the more challenging ones over time.

The order in which we present the elements is not the exact order that you have to follow. If your dog is more comfortable jumping over things than staying still in a pause box, start the training with jumping obstacles and end the training sessions with drills for the pause box.

It's good practice to review previously learned drills in each training session and to continue with new ones.



THE PAUSE BOX



1. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

The goal of using a Pause Box or Pause Table in agility training is to teach your dog where to begin the course, how to assume the proper position, and where to stop and lie down on the course in a controlled manner.

The pause box is a common feature in many agility courses and its purpose is to establish a clear starting and ending point for the dog and to provide a place for them to rest.

2. THE SETUP

The setup for the pause box is simple and easy. A Pause Box is a great option as it is compact and can be easily transported, making it a space-saving alternative to a traditional Pause Table. It is also not as expensive as traditional Pause Table options.



To begin, place the pause box at the start of your agility course or use it as a standalone element if your dog is new to agility training. This will help your dog understand where the course starts and where he should stop and rest.



3. TRAINING POINTS

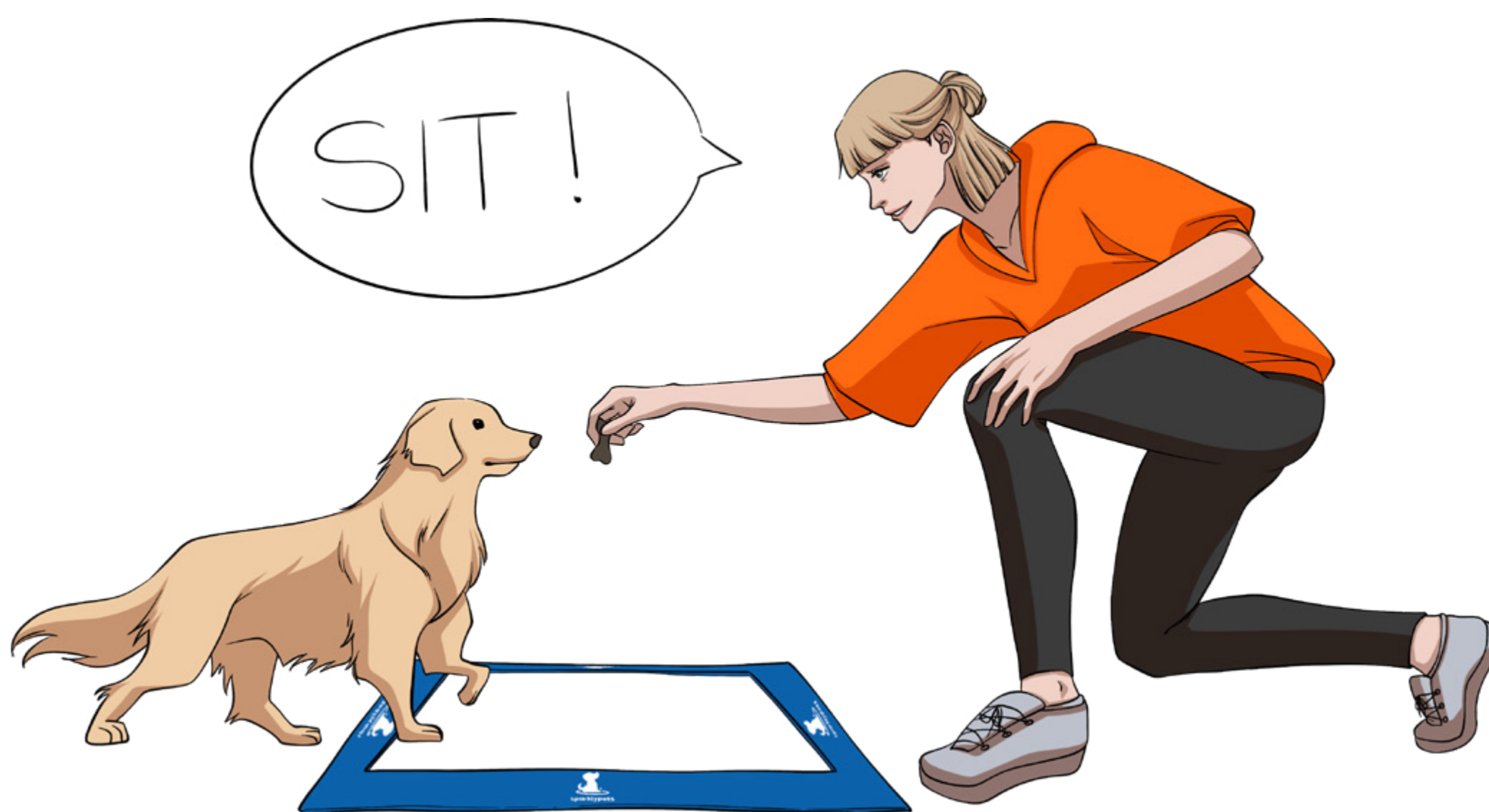
When it comes to training your dog on the Pause Box, there are a few key commands you'll want to focus on:

- Sitting and lying down command
- Staying in place and waiting in the pause box
- Understanding where the starting point for the agility course is



SIT AND LYING DOWN COMMAND

To teach your dog to sit and lie down in the Pause Box, you can use a treat as a lure. If your dog already knows the “Sit” command, you can simply guide him to the designated spot in the Pause Box and give the command.



If he's not familiar with the command, hold a treat in your hand and hover it over his head as he looks at it. He will naturally sit on his bottom inside the Pause Box, at which point you can give him the treat to reinforce the behavior. Repeat this process until he understands that sitting in the Pause Box earns him a treat.





In professional agility competitions, dogs are required to lie down on the Pause Table, not just sit.

If your dog has already learned the “Sit” command, you can move on to the next level by using the same training techniques for the sit maneuver. This time, lure him to lie down by holding a treat in front of him and gradually lowering it to the ground until he lies his body down completely.

Repeat this process until your dog understands the command. Consistency in using the same verbal command “Lie down!” and tone will reinforce the training and help your dog master the trick.



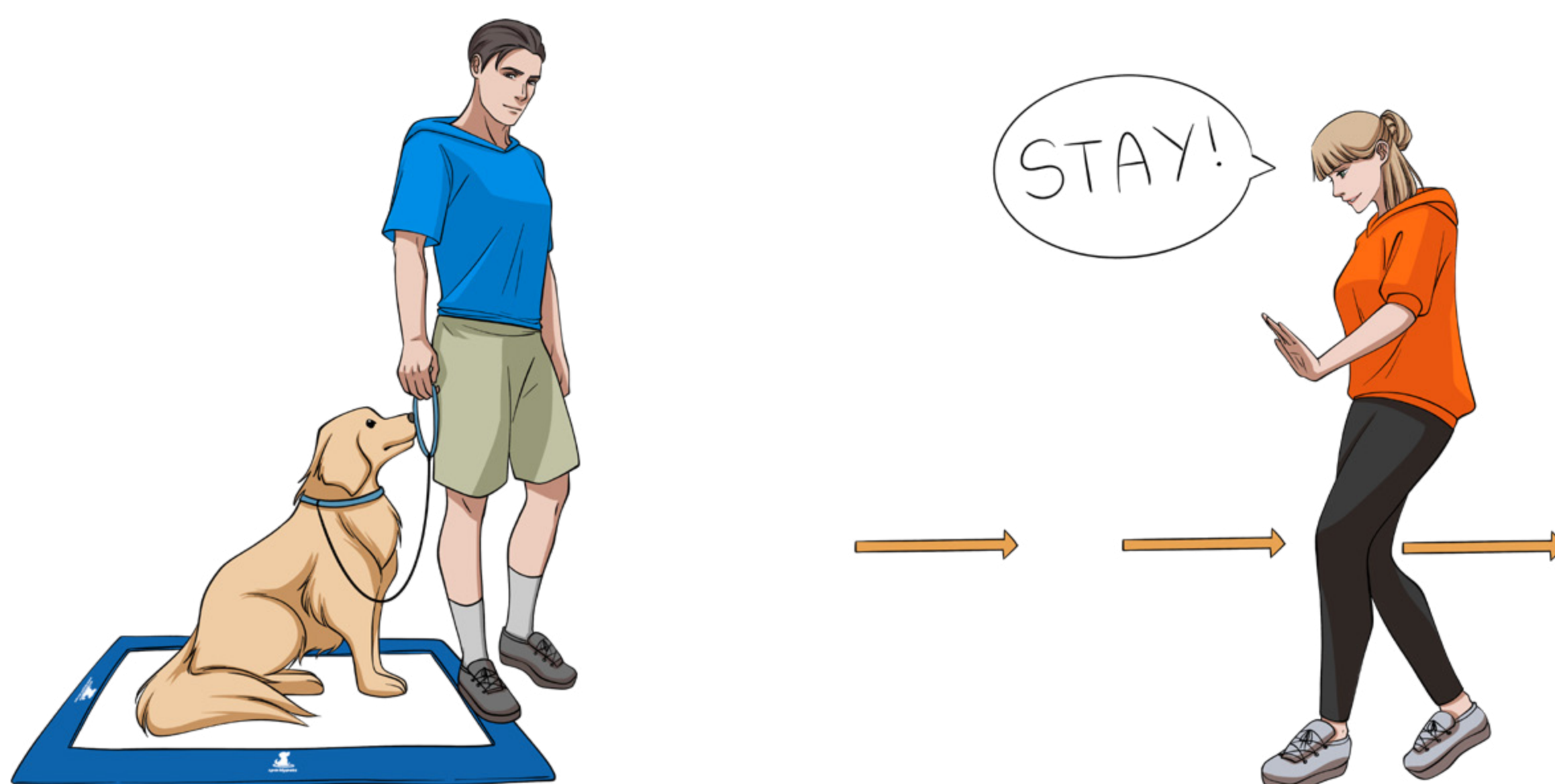


STAYING AND WAITING IN PLACE

To teach your dog to stay and wait in the Pause Box, use the “Stay!” command and take a few steps back. Show him your palm as a visible cue, and if he gets agitated, move slowly back to him and give him a treat. Increase the distance gradually until he can stay in the Pause Box without getting agitated.



It can be beneficial in this process to involve another person, ideally someone familiar to your dog. The assistant’s role is to hold the dog on a leash in place, helping him understand that he needs to remain in his current location and not follow you. Continue to use hand gestures as cues and the verbal command “Stay!” Once you observe that your dog has become comfortable in his position, return to him and reward him with a treat. Repeat this process until you can gradually remove the leash and, if successful, the assistant from the equation.



THE STARTING POINT OF THE AGILITY COURSE

In order to teach your dog the starting position for the agility course, or to help him understand where he needs to position himself in the agility Pause Box, it is recommended to use a leash to guide him. While guiding him, use verbal commands of your choice, such as “Come!” or “Go!”, to instruct him to go to the pause box area. It is important to be consistent and use the same word commands each time you start the agility course with your dog. This consistency will help your dog understand and learn the starting position more effectively. We suggest using a short and simple word command each time to make the learning process easier for your dog.





Once you reach the target area with your dog, reward him with a treat. Repeat this process until he understands the trick. Then, remove the leash and continue to guide him to the pause box area by walking alongside him. Make sure to consistently use the same words of instruction and reward him with a treat once he reaches the target.

Next, teach your dog to go to the pause box on his own by using hand signals and word commands such as “Go on!” from a different location. When he successfully reaches the pause box, go and reward him with a treat, then repeat this process.



As you continue with the training, remember to remain calm and avoid putting pressure on your dog. Take regular breaks to ensure that both of you can recharge and maintain a positive experience. Keep in mind that this time spent training is meant to strengthen the bond between you and your dog, not to force progress.



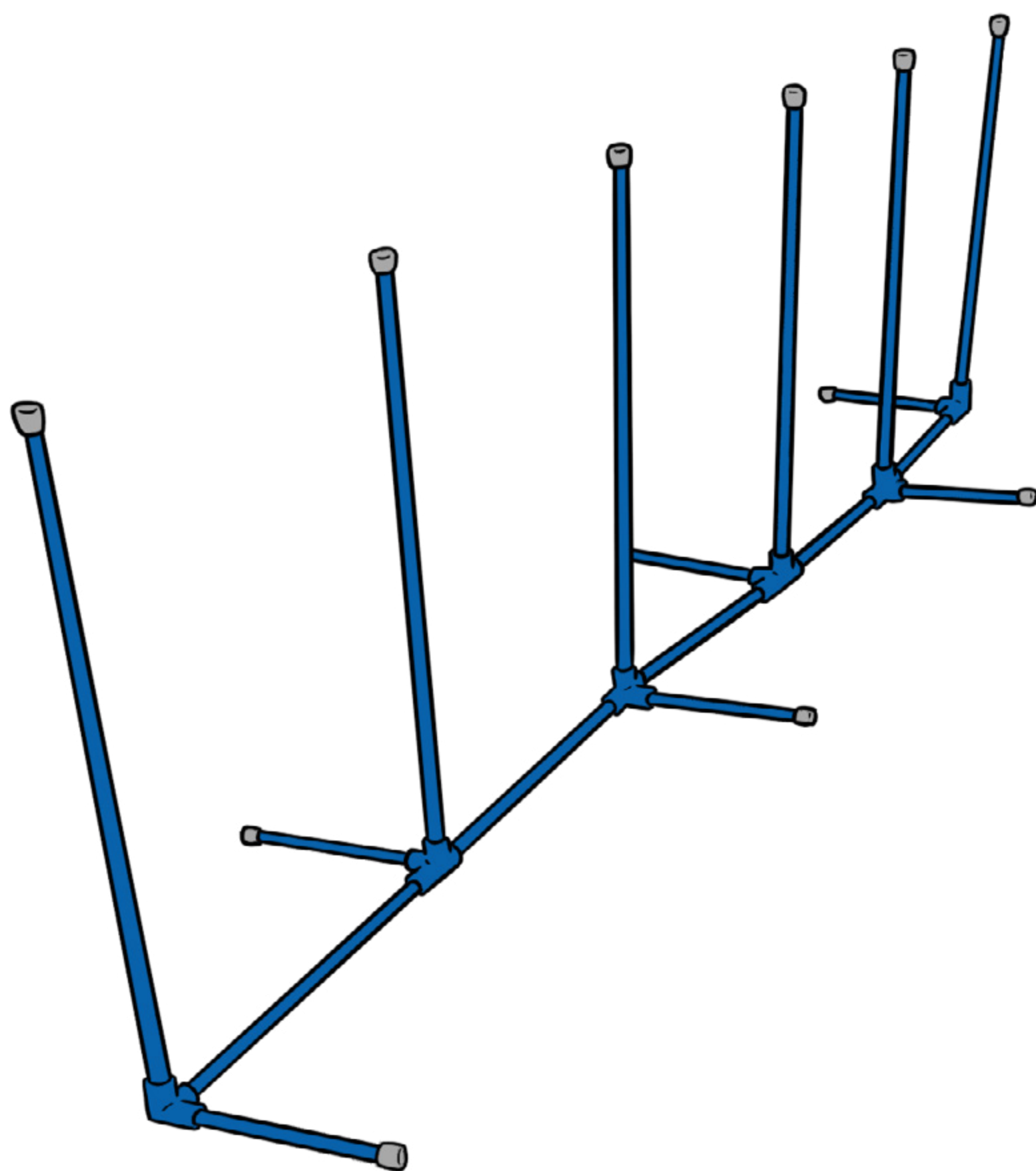
4. PLAN OF ACTION

A plan of action for training your dog to use the Pause Box could include the following steps:

- Start by introducing your dog to the Pause Box and getting them used to its presence.
- Begin teaching them the “Sit!” command and work on getting them to sit comfortably in the Pause Box.
- Progress to teaching the “Lie down!” command and alternating between the two commands.
- Once your dog is comfortable with sitting and lying down in the Pause Box, work on getting them to stay in the Pause Box even when you step back a bit.
- Guide your dog to the Pause Box using a leash, and then gradually remove the leash and guide them with treats instead.
- Remember to take regular breaks and work on training in a step-by-step process.



DOG AGILITY WEAVE POLES



1. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

The main objective of this activity is to train your dog to zig-zag through a series of poles. This obstacle, known as the slalom poles, involves guiding your dog through a straight line of poles until the end of the course. The proper technique for this obstacle is to have the dog enter through the right side of the first pole and then weave through the line of poles, following the zig-zag pattern. This exercise not only improves your dog's agility and coordination but also strengthens the bond between you and your dog as you work together to master this challenge.



2. THE SETUP

The number of poles used in a dog agility weave pole set can vary, with options ranging from 4 to 12 poles. In main competitions, you will typically find 12 poles spaced 24 inches apart.

The SparklyPets Dog Agility Weave Set includes 6 poles that are spaced 24 inches apart in a straight line.

When setting up the weave poles, it's important to find a flat surface that can accommodate the setup. Keep in mind that you'll also need space for your dog to maneuver and for you to walk alongside them, at least in the beginning stages of training.

The SparklyPets Dog Agility Weave set, when fully constructed, is 9.8 feet long and requires a minimum of 32 square feet of space for optimal use. So, it's important to ensure that you have enough space available before you begin training.

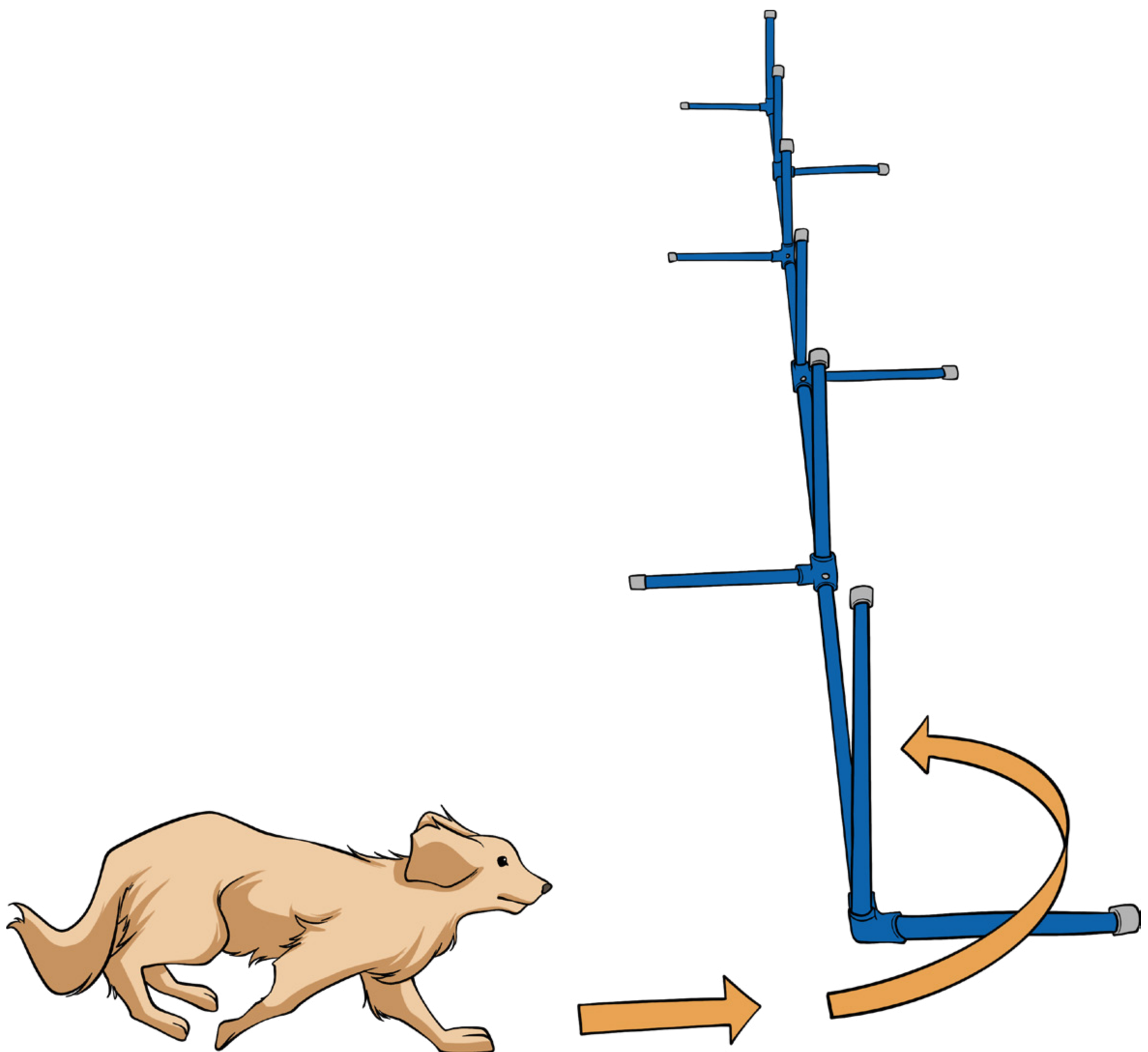


3. TRAINING POINTS

The initial point of entry for your dog during the agility course is through the right side of the first set of poles. As they progress, they will alternate between entering through the right and left of each subsequent pole.

There are three possible angles from which your dog can approach the first entry point:

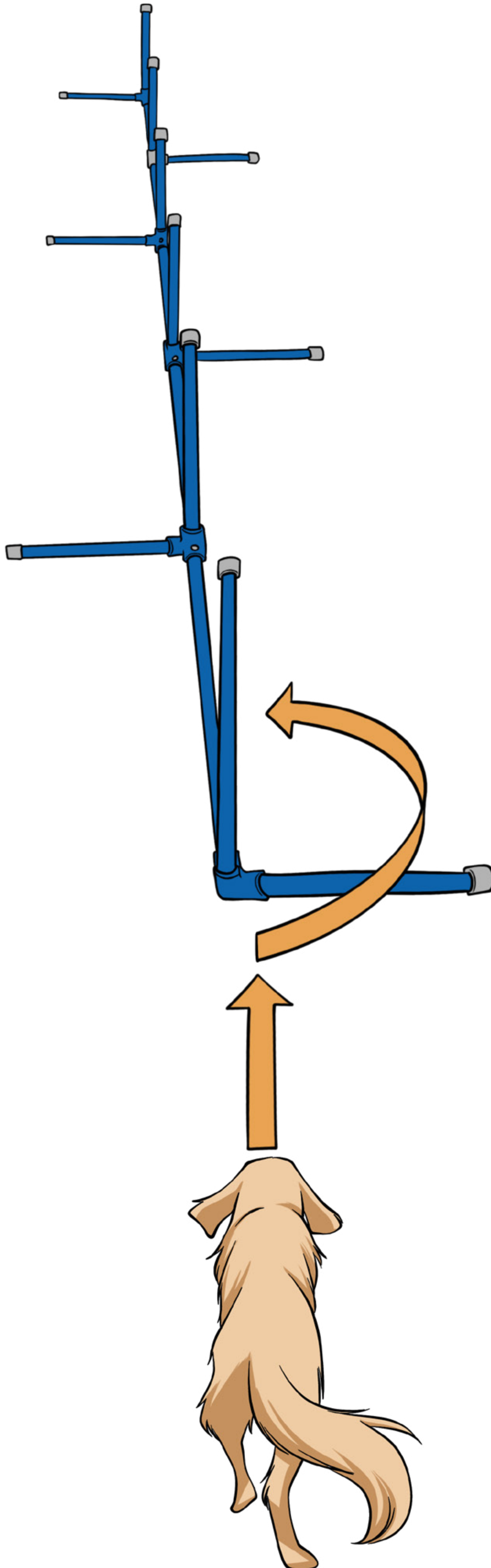
Approaching from the left and entering through the right





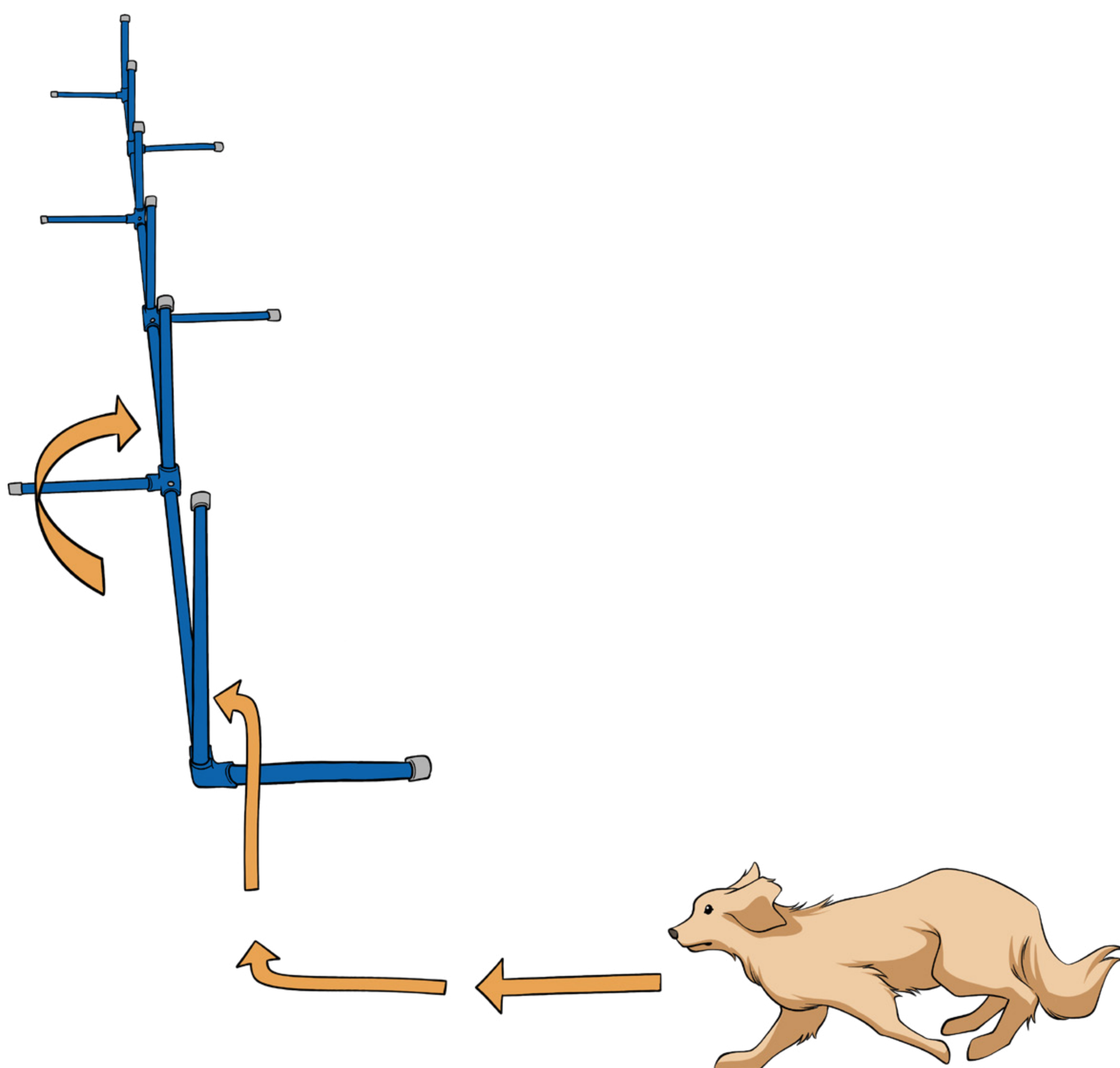
TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Approaching from the front and entering through the right





Approaching from the right and entering through the right



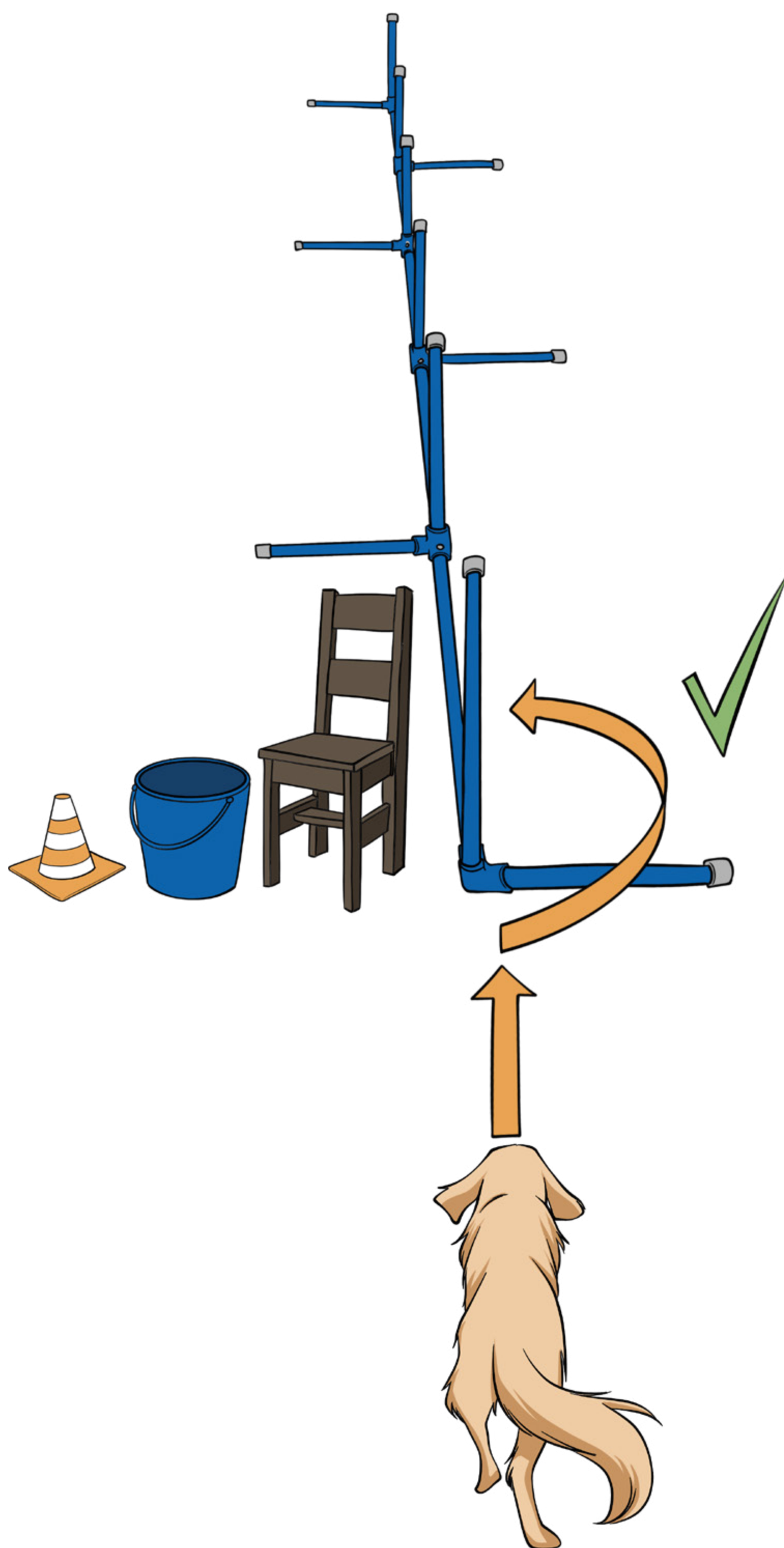
For those new to training with agility poles, we suggest starting with the front approach and entering through the right side of the first set of poles. This will help to establish a clear understanding of the proper entry point for your dog.

To ensure that your dog understands that they need to pass through the right side of the first pair of poles, consider blocking the left entrance with a large obstacle such as a chair. This will help them understand that they should always enter through the right. Before starting the training, make sure that your dog understands the purpose of the obstacle and avoid any potential accidents by not forcing them and introducing the training slowly and with caution.



When training your dog to navigate a slalom course, it is important to start with larger obstacles and gradually reduce their size. A good starting point is to block the first left entrance with a large obstacle, such as a chair. This will help your dog understand that the correct entrance is through the right.

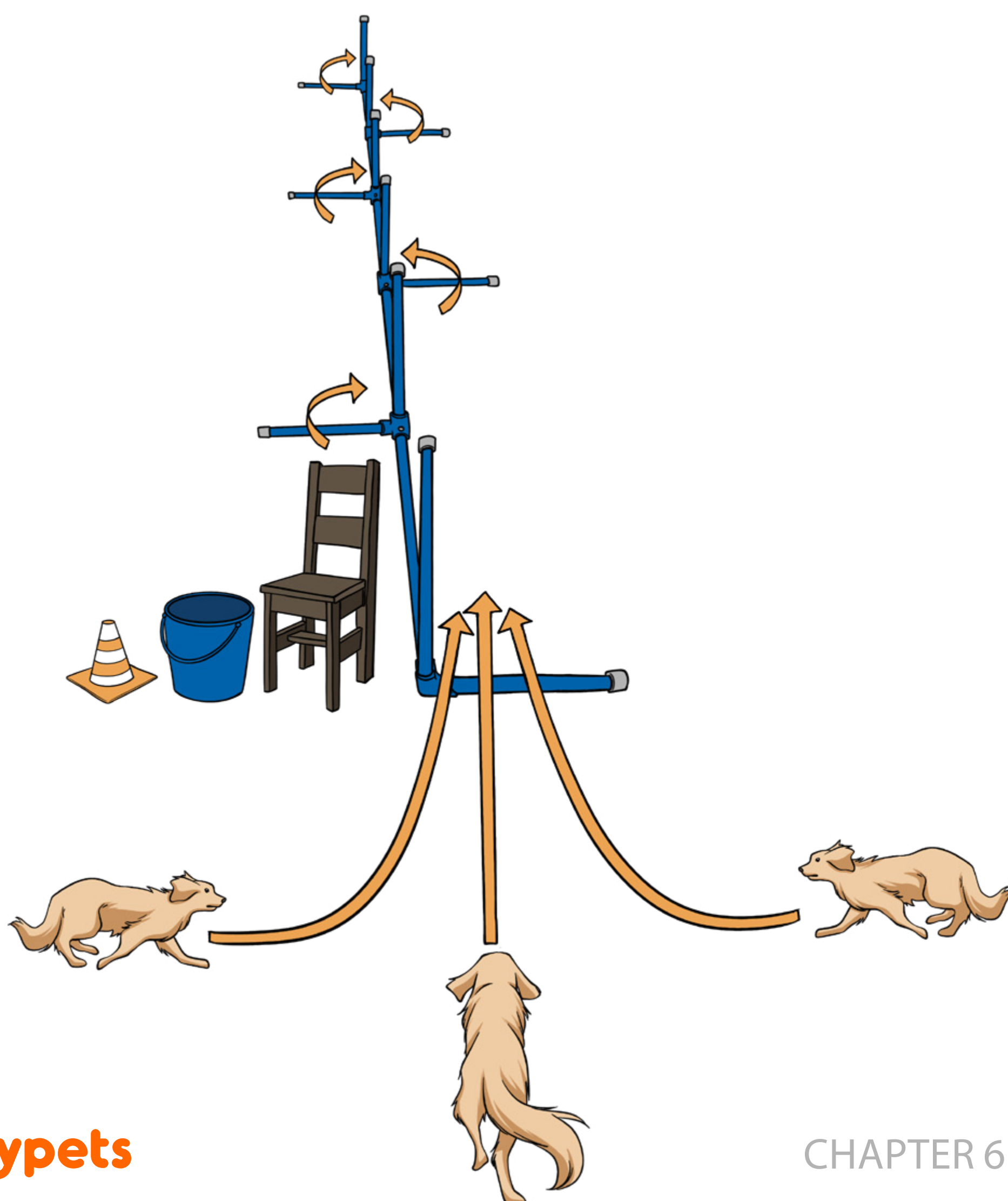
As your dog becomes more familiar with the course, begin to reduce the size of the obstacle. For example, you can replace the chair with a smaller obstacle like a bucket, and then continue to reduce the obstacle's size until there are no obstacles in the course.





It is crucial to remember to start from the beginning each time you reduce the obstacle's size. This will help your dog become familiar with the new obstacle and understand the correct entrance. Additionally, make sure that your dog understands that the obstacle is there with a reason, to guide him, not to force him. Be patient and teach the slalom poles with caution, taking baby steps as you go.

Once your dog understands the correct entrance point, you can guide them to move through the poles in a zig-zag pattern. Start by guiding your dog to the left of the next pole, then to the right, and so on. If you have enough room, you can block the next pole on the right and the next pole on the left to continue the training. If you don't have enough room to block the poles, you can lure your dog with treats and repeat the process as much as possible. Remember to be patient and work with your dog at their pace to ensure they are comfortable and confident with the obstacle course.





4. PLAN OF ACTION

Training your dog to navigate the wave pole agility obstacle requires a positive attitude, patience, and a willingness to take the process one step at a time. It's important to remember that there is no set timeframe for when your dog will become a pro at this obstacle, so don't put pressure on yourself or your pet to achieve a certain level too quickly.

If your dog needs guidance, don't hesitate to show him the correct way to navigate the obstacle. Additionally, it's important to reward your dog with treats, affection, and positive reinforcement throughout the training process. This will not only make training more enjoyable for both you and your dog, but it will also help to build trust and a strong bond between the two of you.

To begin, set up a single pair of poles and work on having your dog enter the wave from the front and through the right-hand entry point. This is often the easiest and most straightforward starting point for beginners. To avoid confusion, you may also want to block the left-hand path by using an obstacle such as a chair or bucket.

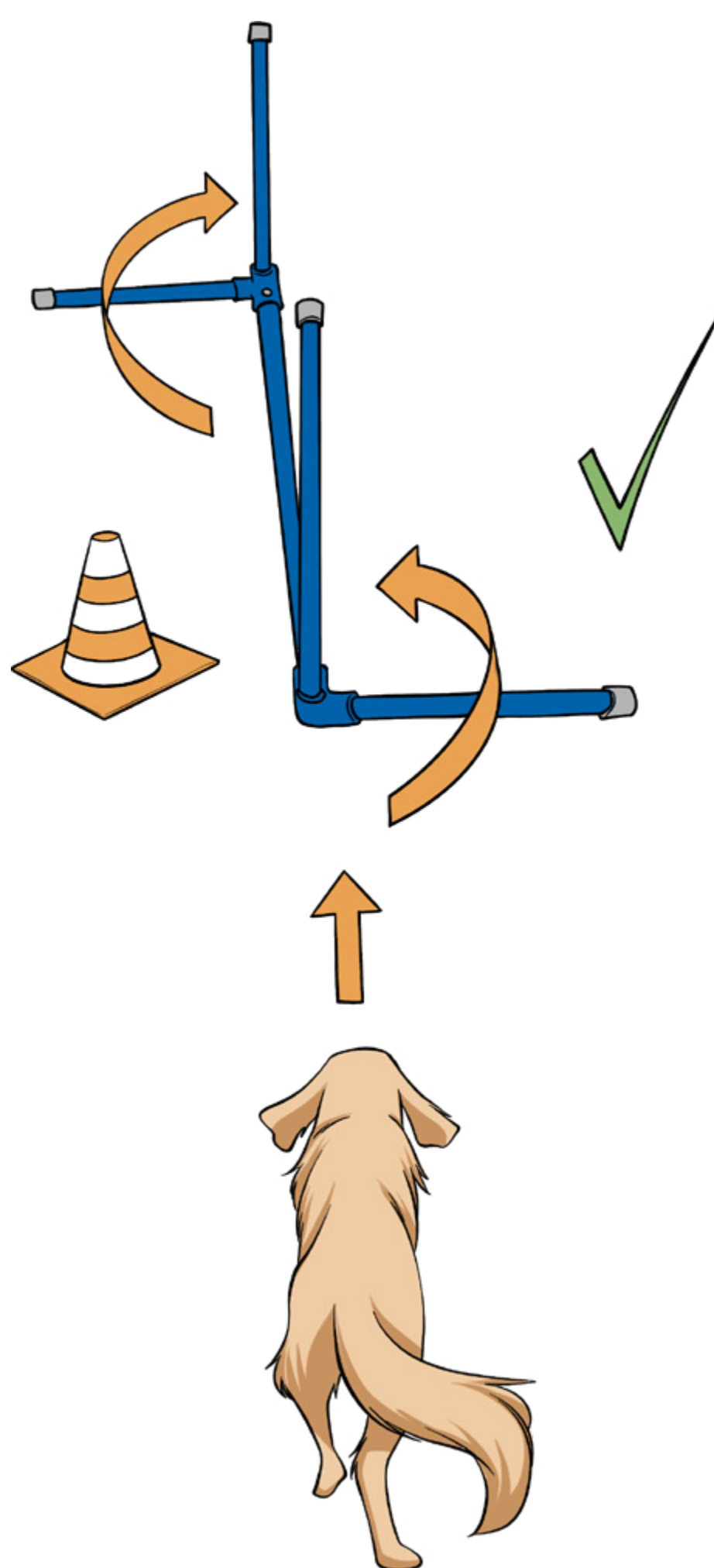
To help your dog get familiar with the wave pole obstacle, you can use treats as a lure to encourage movement and engagement. This will help to build your dog's confidence and help him understand what is expected of him. Remember to train in baby steps, and always keep the process fun and enjoyable for both you and your dog.

When training your dog with the SparklyPets Wave Poles, it's important to approach the challenge in a step-by-step manner to make it easy for both you and your dog to learn and achieve positive results from the start.



This will motivate you to continue with the training.

Repeat the process with a single set of 2 poles and work your way up, gradually adding another set of 2 poles as you and your dog become more comfortable. As you progress, you can increase the difficulty of the training by adding more poles, until you reach the full set of SparklyPets Wave Poles. It's important to be patient and consistent in your training and to always reward your dog with treats and positive reinforcement throughout the process.

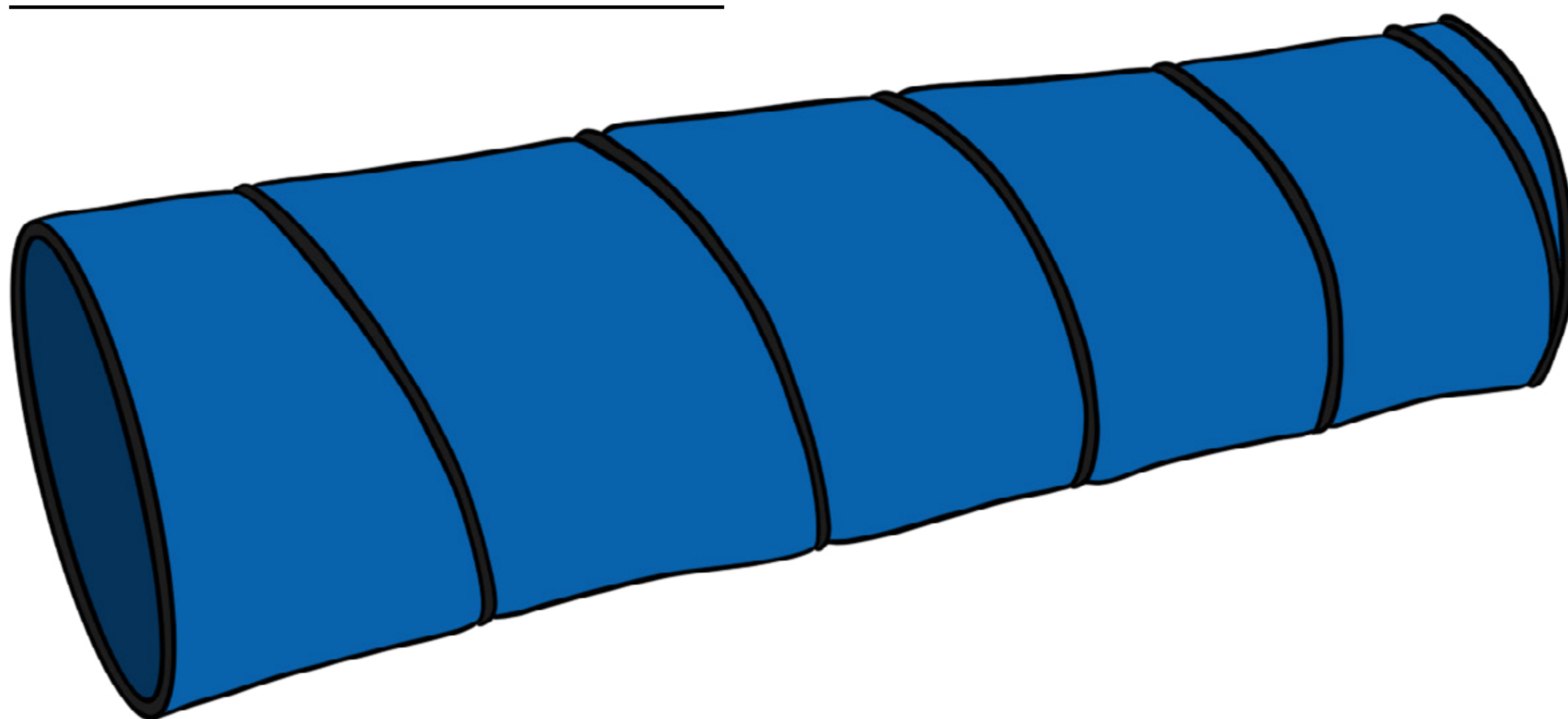


It's important to be patient and consistent in your training and to always reward your dog with treats and positive reinforcement throughout the process.

Remember to have fun and enjoy the journey with your furry companion!



THE DOG AGILITY TUNNEL



1. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

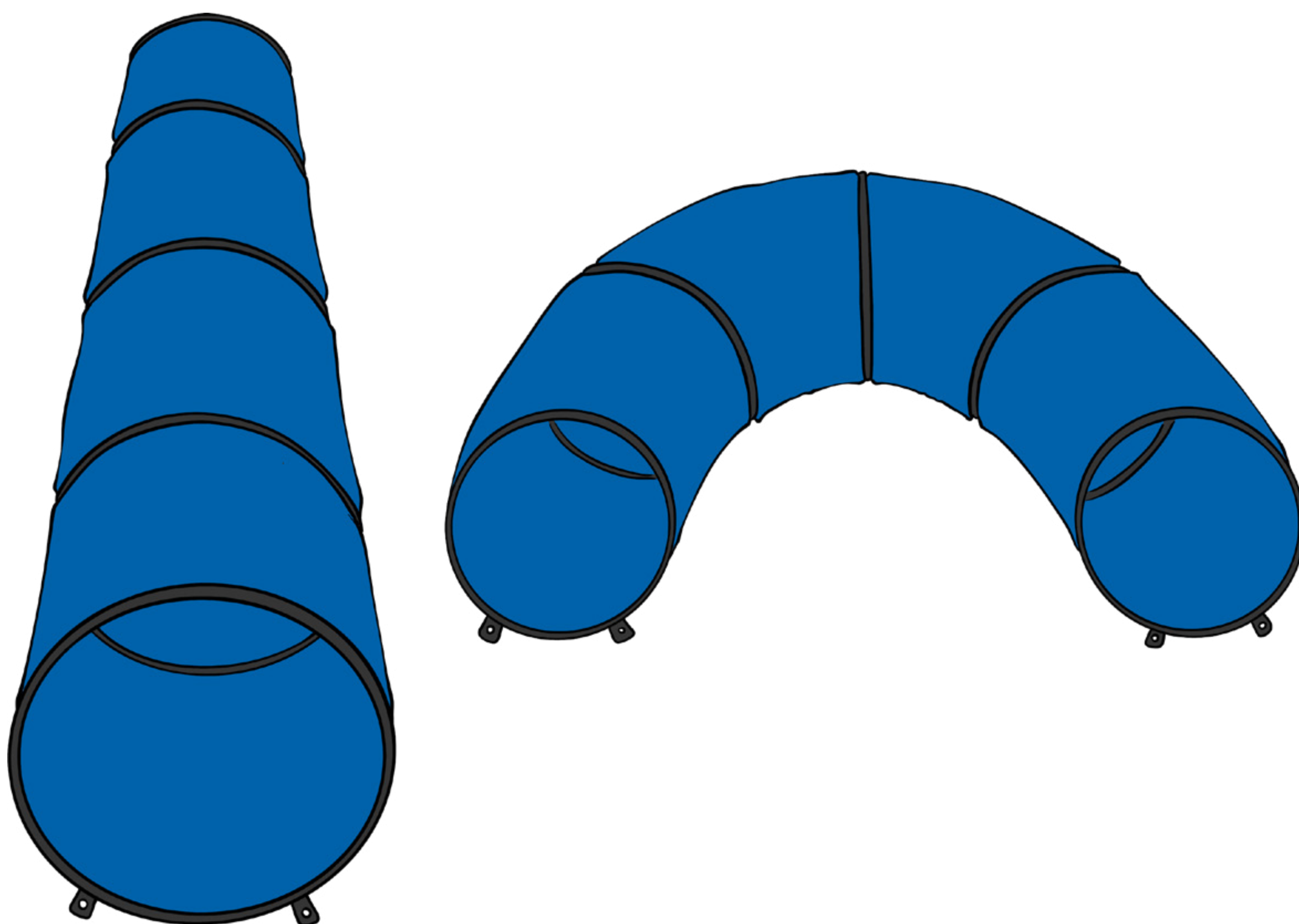
The Dog Agility Tunnel, also known as a pipe, is one of the most enjoyable obstacles on the agility course for your dog to play with.

Tunnels are typically circular, can range from 4ft to 20ft in length, and are usually 24 inches in diameter. The objective is to teach your dog to enter the tunnel through one opening and exit at the end of the tunnel to go to the next obstacle on the agility course.

2. THE SETUP

The Tunnel is an obstacle meant for outdoor use. To ensure it stays securely in place, be sure to anchor it with its designated prongs or sandbags (if you have them). Also, make sure your dog has ample space for movement when entering and exiting the tunnel.

For beginners, it's recommended to set up the tunnel in a short, straight line to make it easy for your dog to see the other end. Once your dog is comfortable going through the tunnel, you can experiment with a curved, horseshoe configuration.

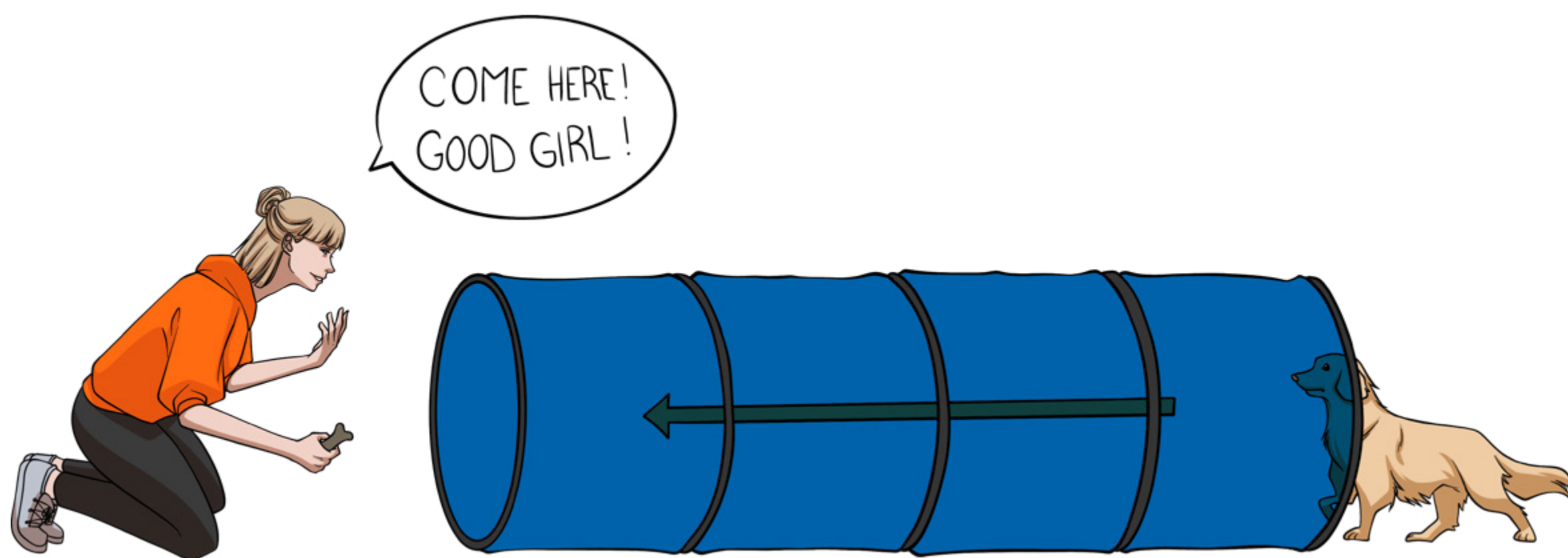


3. TRAINING POINTS

After the Tunnel is installed, prepare the treats that your dog will receive once they reach the other end of the tunnel.

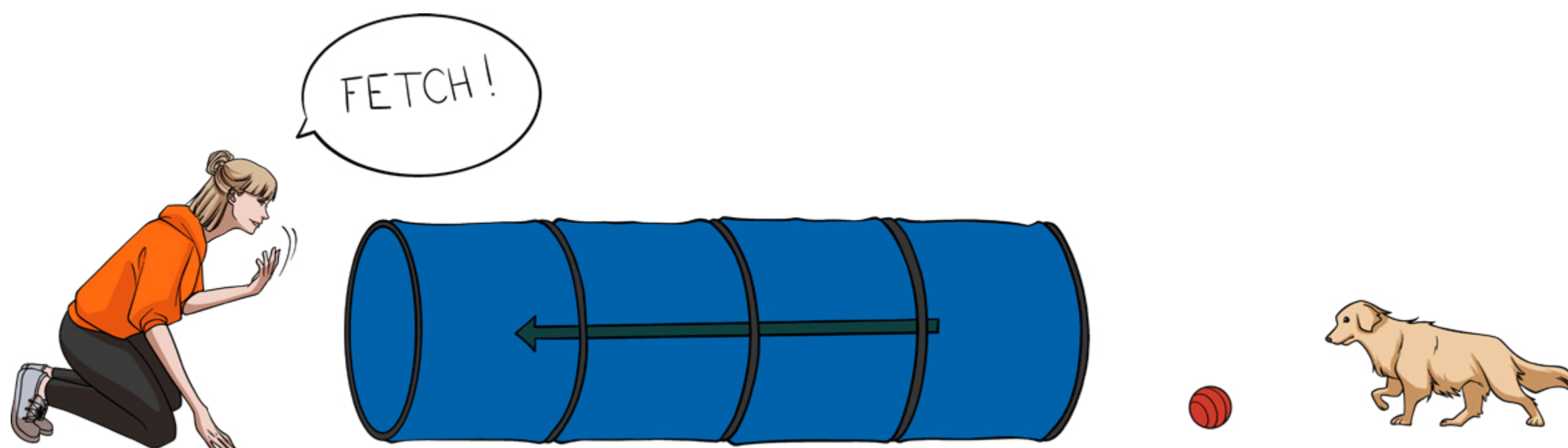
Help your dog become comfortable with the tunnel before starting the training. It may cause feelings of claustrophobia for your dog at first, so allow them to explore and play with the tunnel before beginning the training. Don't rush into the training, instead be patient and friendly with your dog.

During the training routine, stay connected with your dog by moving next to them as they enter the tunnel. Even though your dog may not be able to see you in the middle of the tunnel, it will be able to hear your steps and feel your presence. Wait for him at the end of the tunnel, and guide him with your voice, using kind words to let him know where you are and where he should be when he exits.

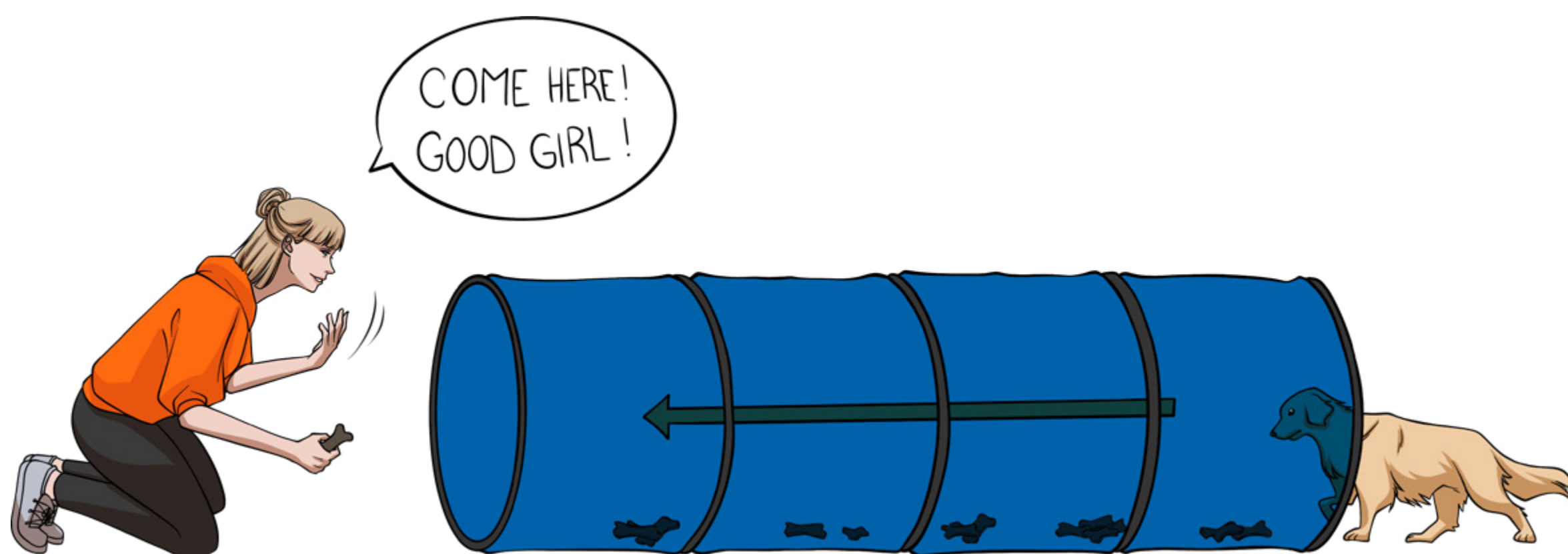


4. PLAN OF ACTION

To begin training your dog on the Tunnel obstacle, use a straight-line configuration. Use a calm, reassuring tone of voice to guide your dog through the Tunnel. Utilize one of their favorite toys as a motivator. Start by placing the toy at the entrance of the tunnel and calling your dog from the other end. Once they bring the toy to you, throw the toy and encourage them to go back through the Tunnel to retrieve it. You can use the verbal command "Fetch!" for this exercise.

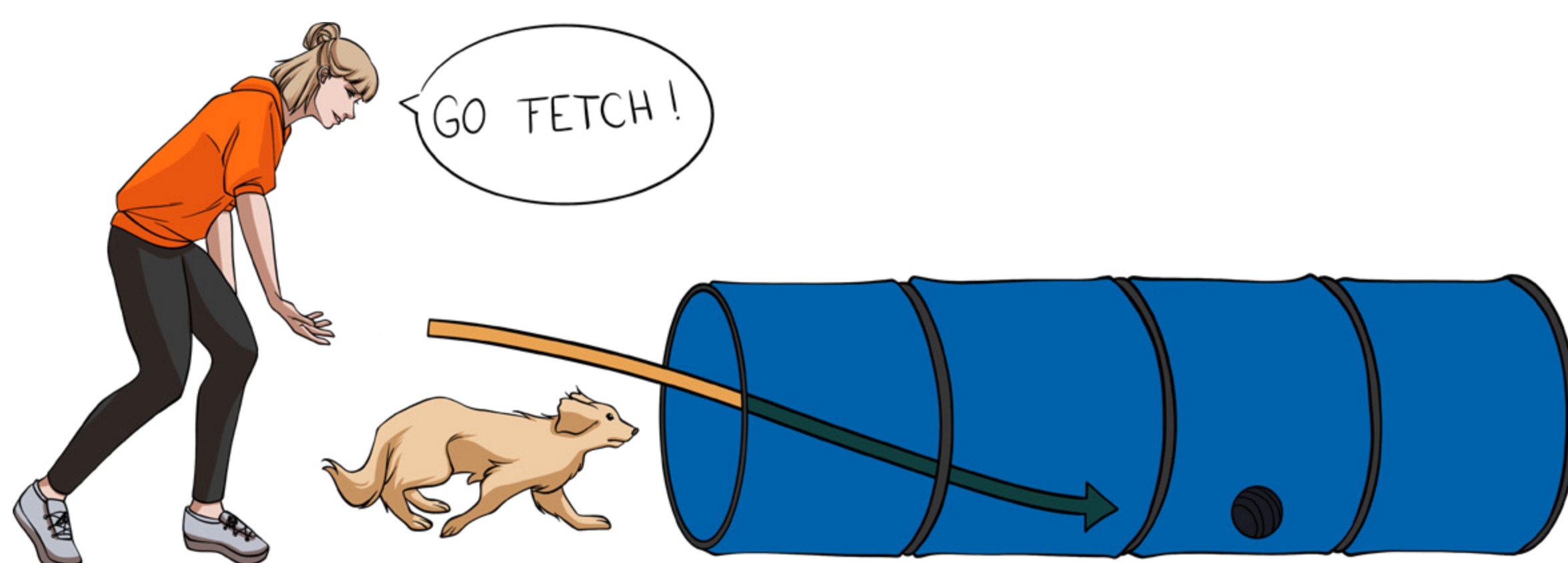


Use special treats to motivate your dog to go through the tunnel. Place them inside the tunnel and encourage your dog to sniff and get the treats while going through the tunnel.





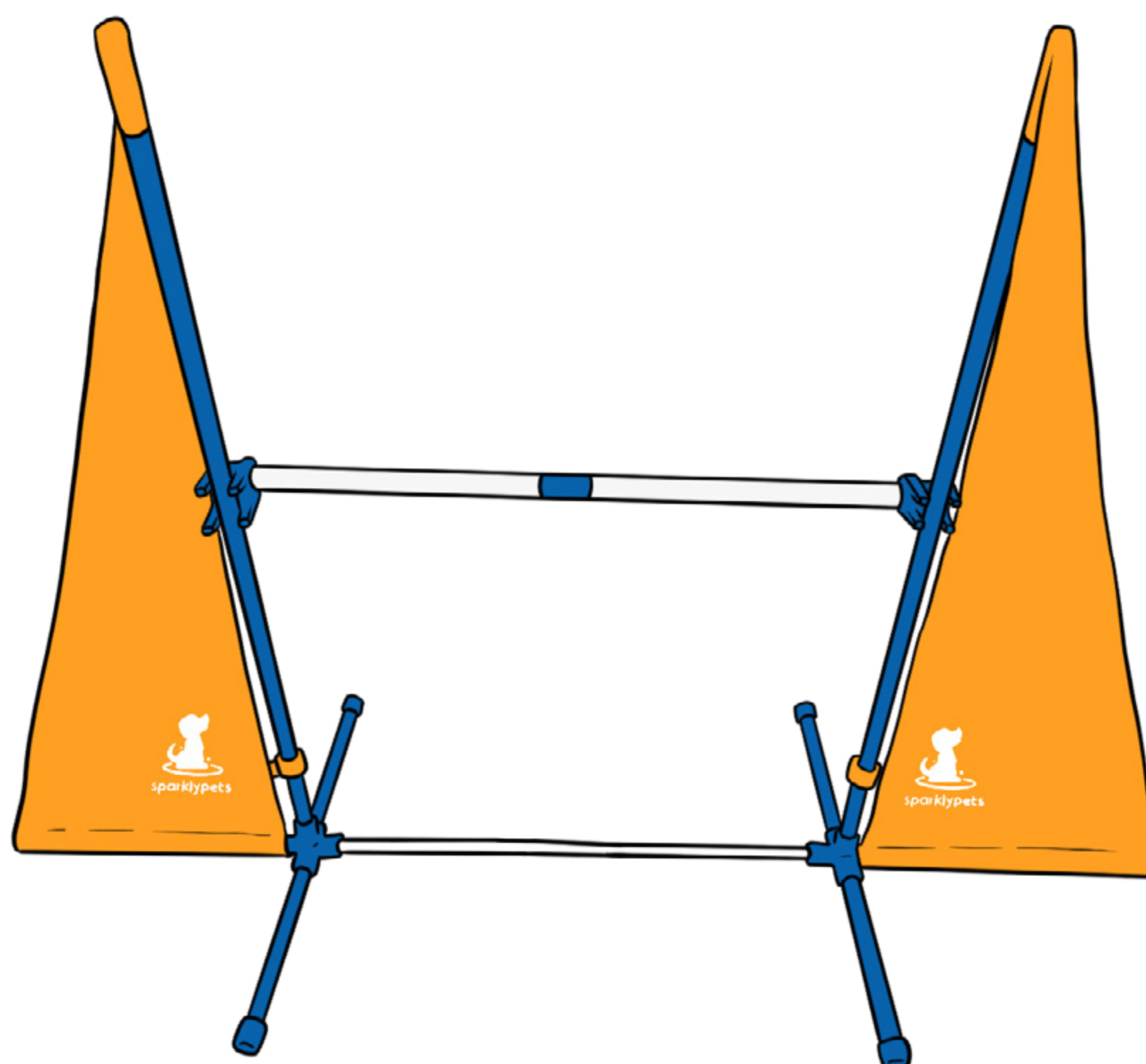
Stand beside your dog now and throw his favorite toy through the tunnel. This will encourage him to retrieve it by going through the tunnel.



Always guide him with your voice throughout the process and make sure that he is not afraid to enter the tunnel. Some dogs may prefer to just sit inside the tunnel for some shade, so let him become comfortable with the tunnel before beginning the training.



DOG HURDLE JUMP BAR



1. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

The role of a Dog Hurdle Bar is to train your dog to jump over a bar. The hurdle bar is used to prepare your dog for jumping obstacles, such as the tire jump, by helping the dog to develop the necessary skills and confidence. To use it, simply place the hurdle bar element in an area with enough space for your dog to run and jump and guide your dog to jump over it using verbal commands and/or treats.

2. THE SETUP

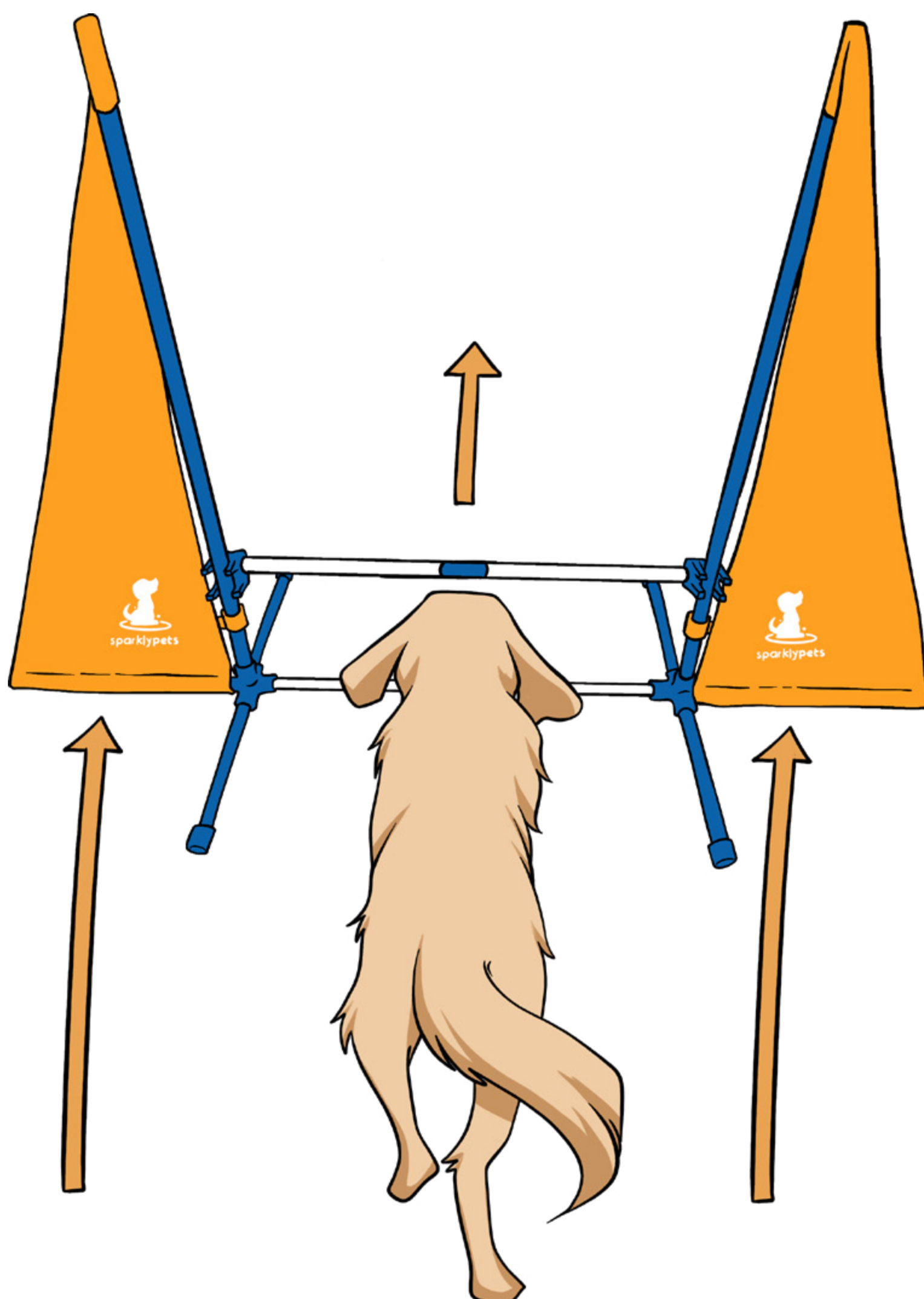
For beginners, we recommend starting with a lower jump hurdle bar, placing it below your dog's elbow height, so they aren't overwhelmed by the process.



TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

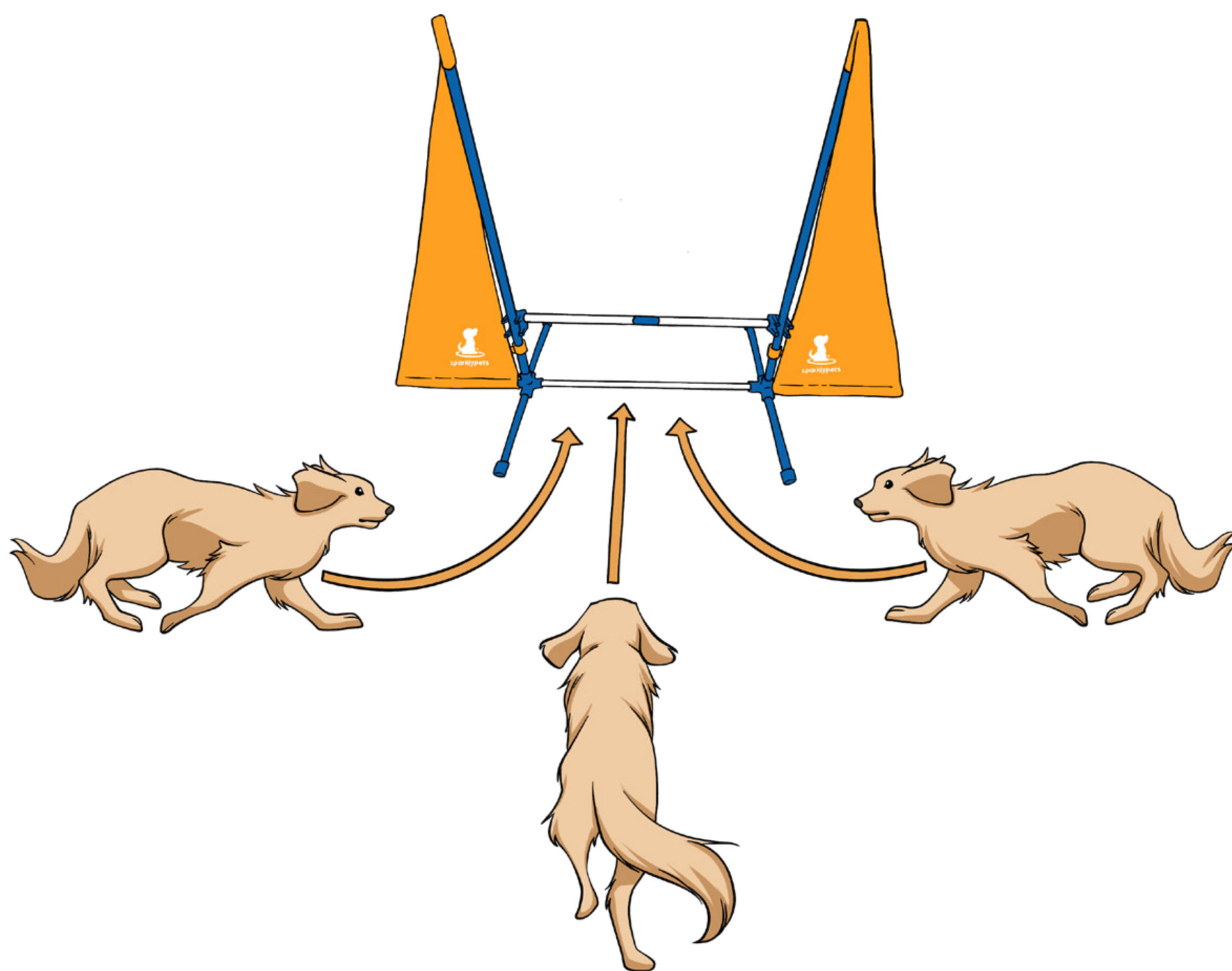


Start with a low jump hurdle bar set up in a straight line. Gradually increase the height of the hurdle bar as your dog becomes more comfortable and confident, keeping in mind his capabilities.





To improve your dog's jump bar skills, gradually change the position from which he approaches the jump bar. Start with a straight-line setup (6 o'clock), then progress to positioning him at 9 o'clock or 3 o'clock. This exercise will be beneficial when adding more agility elements to your course, as it will help him adapt to shifting to left or right positions to reach the next obstacle.



3. TRAINING POINTS

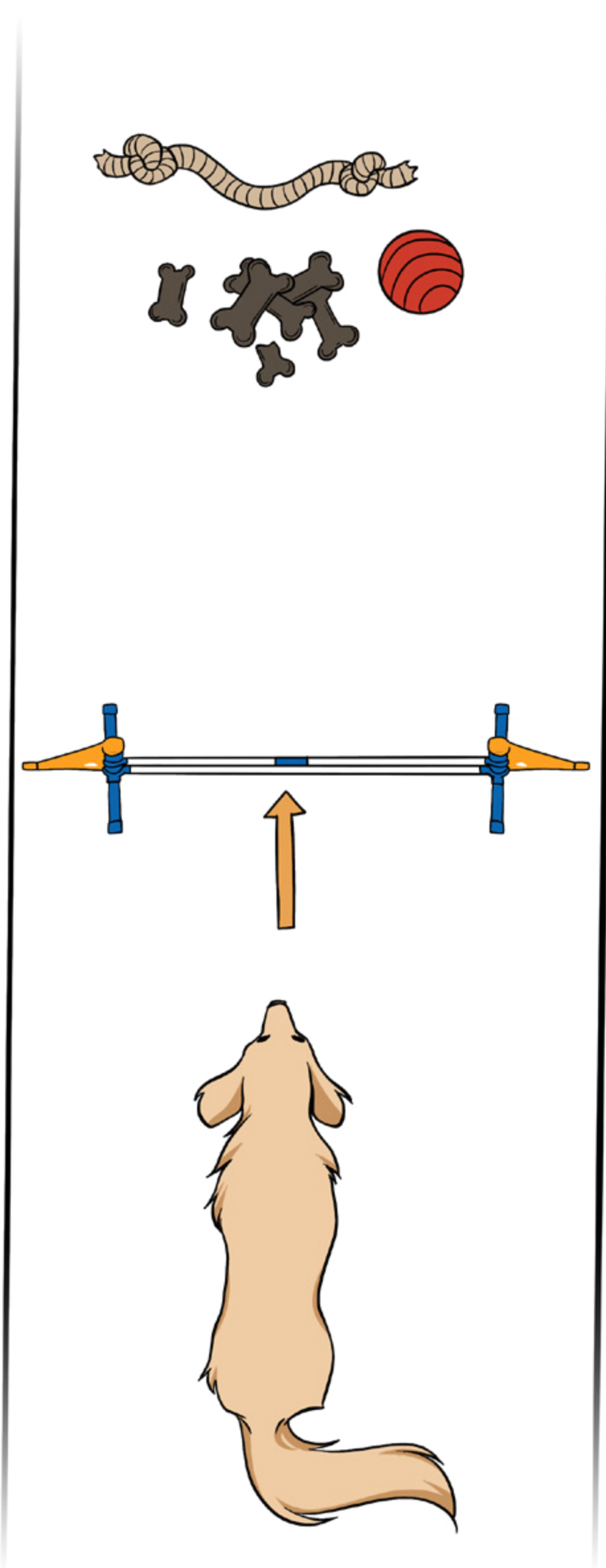
Dog Agility Hurdles are suitable for all breeds of dogs, from small to large. The main thing to keep in mind when using these hurdles is to set the height of the hurdle bar at an appropriate level based on your dog's jumping experience.

Use rewards such as treats or toys to motivate your dog to jump over the hurdle bar to reach the reward. To help your dog understand that he needs to jump over the bar, block off the option for him to go around the sides of the obstacle.



Also, use verbal commands like the word “Jump!” so that your dog will associate the command with the action in the future, even without the use of treats.

A good practice when training your dog with agility hurdles is to use an indoor hallway as it limits your dog’s options and encourages him to jump over the bar.



Make sure to clearly communicate to your dog that he needs to jump over the bar. It can be helpful to demonstrate the jump yourself a few times to help him become more comfortable. Use the verbal command “Jump!” as you show him how to do it.



Start with the bar set at a very low level, even lower than your dog's elbow, so that he can become accustomed to the idea of jumping and prevent him from stepping on the bar.

Practice in indoor or narrow spaces and gradually raise the bar. Once your dog enjoys the activity and is able to jump without the use of extra treats, you can move the training outdoors.

Start with the same low-level bar and gradually increase the height at his own pace. Since he is already familiar with the process, things should progress more quickly.

4. PLAN OF ACTION

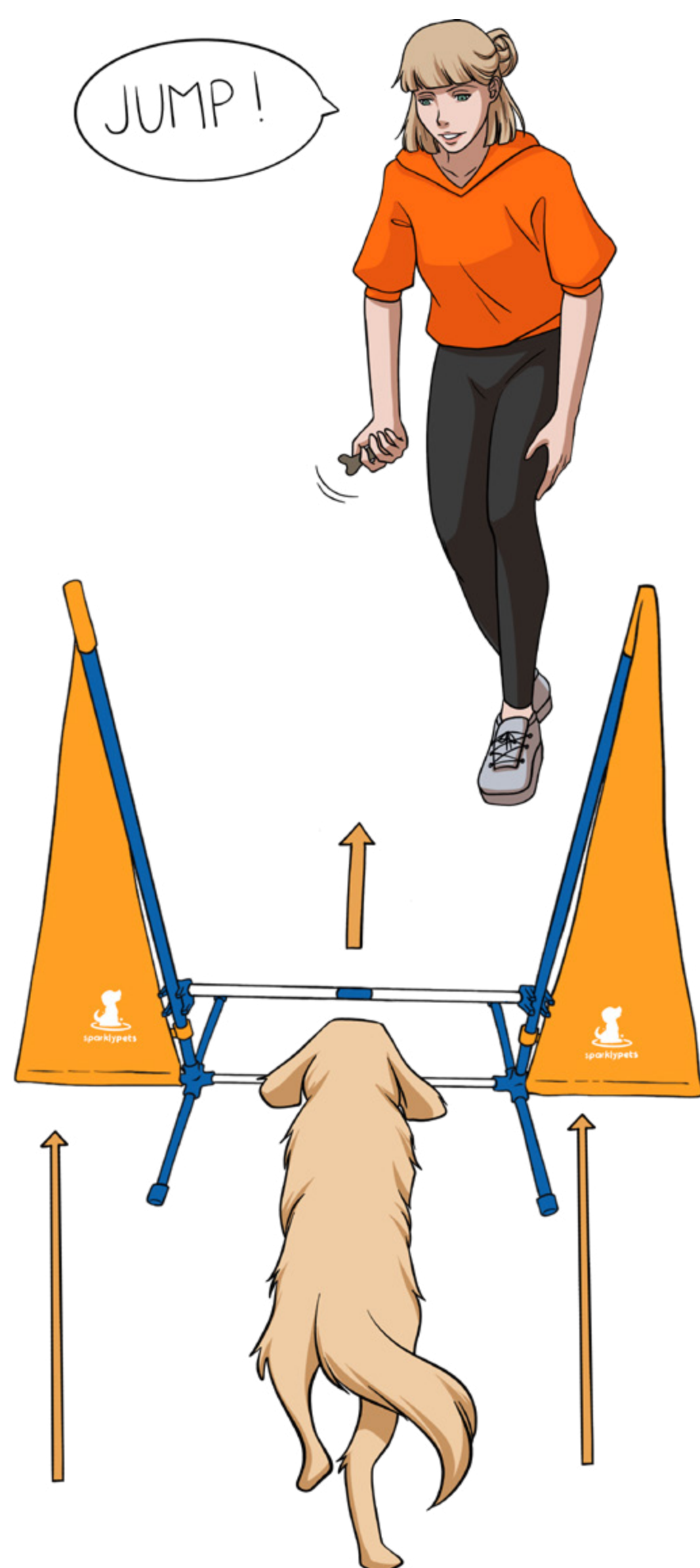
After setting up the hurdle bar, prepare rewards for your dog when they successfully jump over it. To motivate them, give them a taste of the reward before they begin training.

Start with a low bar and gradually increase the height as your dog becomes comfortable with the task.

If necessary, demonstrate how to jump over the bar by jumping over it yourself and avoiding stepping on it.

Stand in front of your dog, not behind them, as they will feel more comfortable jumping towards you.

Guide them by showing them their reward and encouraging them to jump with the command word "Jump!"



Stay calm and positive as you guide your dog through the training process. Allow him to take his time as he jumps over the hurdle and reaches his rewards. When he successfully completes the jump, give him positive reinforcement by letting him enjoy his rewards and using encouraging words to motivate him to continue.



Remember to give your dog enough space to jump and adjust your stance accordingly to the height of the hurdle. Training outside can provide more room for the maneuver, and prevent injury to both of you. In the beginning, your dog may tend to step over the hurdle, which is normal as they are still getting used to the obstacle. However, with practice, they will learn to jump over it.

If your dog hits the bar when jumping or touches it, it's normal. Don't blame him for it, it can happen if he jumped too low or didn't have enough room to jump, or simply got distracted in the air. To avoid bar hits, try to lower the bar and observe your dog's current level, gradually increasing it. Never punish your dog if he hits the bar, as this situation just shows that adjustments need to be made to the set-up.



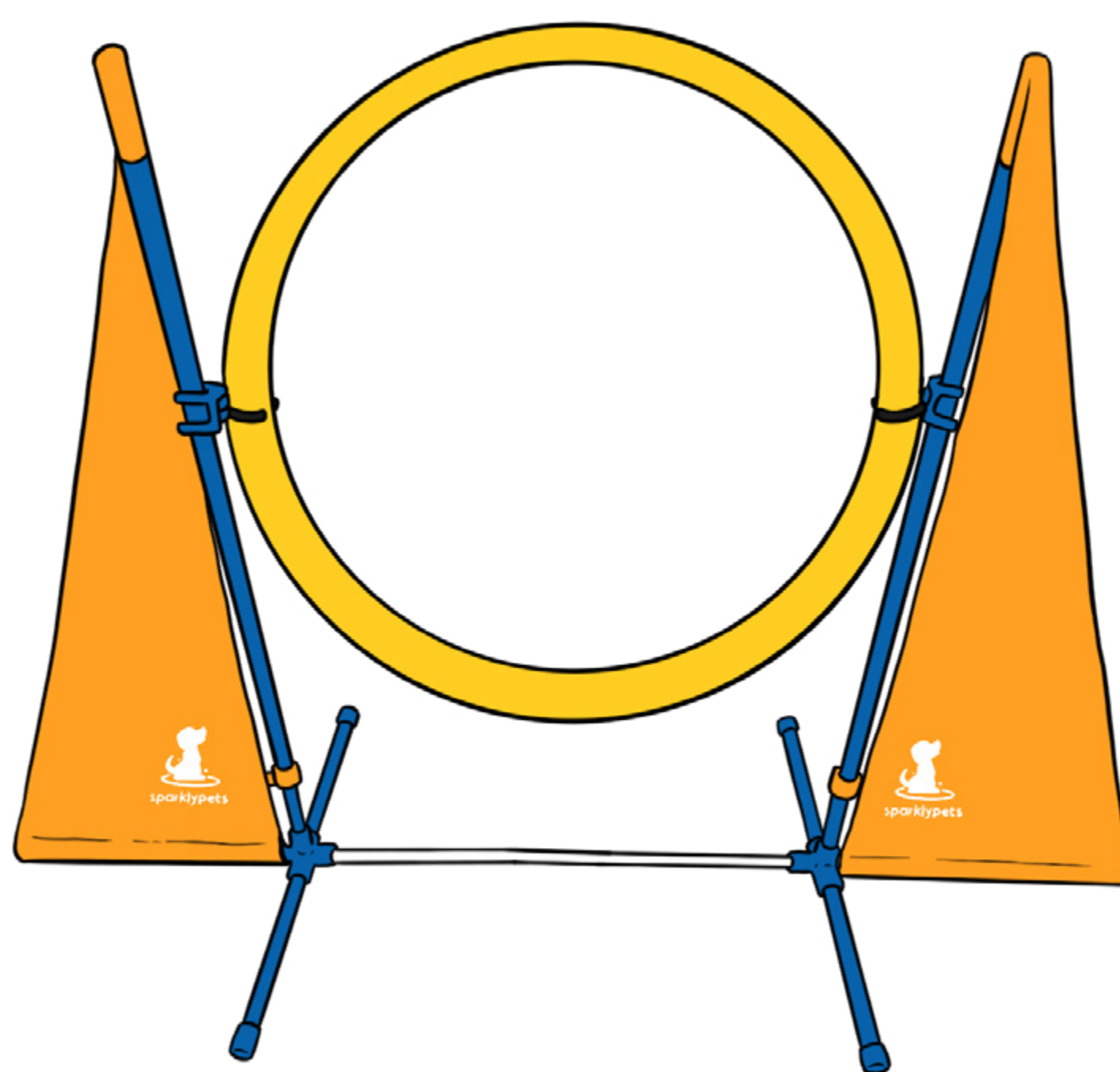
- i** Our SparklyPets Dog Agility Elements are designed to collapse upon impact to ensure the safety of your dog. When your dog accidentally hits the jump bar, the bar will collapse, reducing the risk of injury. This feature eliminates resistance and helps prevent accidental hits that could harm your dog.

After he becomes familiar with this obstacle, introduce new elements to your setup to help him understand the objective of combining agility elements.

Have fun and be patient, even though the obstacle may seem easy, he will eventually get it!



DOG TIRE JUMP



1. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

The tire jump, also known as an agility ring, is an advanced obstacle on a dog agility course that requires a higher level of precision from the dog. The objective is for the dog to jump through the hole in the tire while also adjusting the jump to avoid touching the edges of the tire.

2. THE SETUP

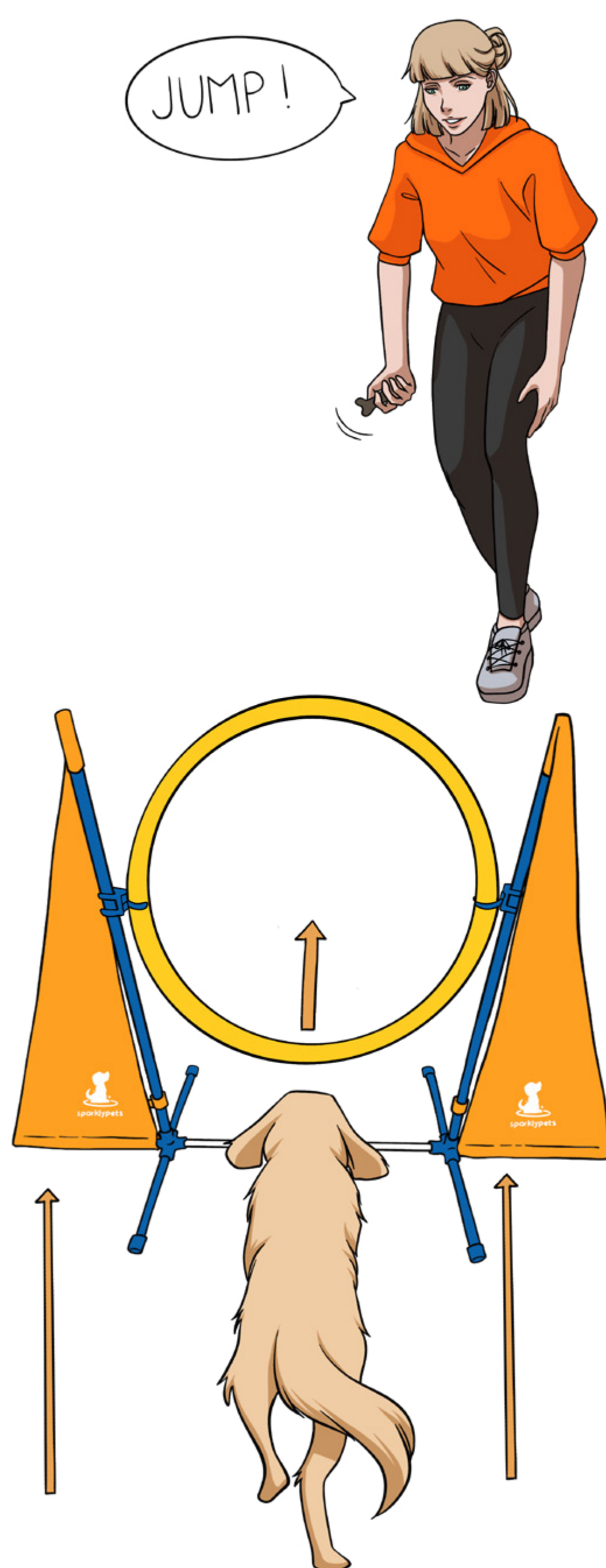
The Dog Agility Tire Jump is suitable for all dog breeds, from small to large, just like the hurdle jump. When setting up the Tire Jump, it is important to keep in mind your dog's jumping experience and position it accordingly.

For beginners, set the Tire Jump as low as possible to resemble a tunnel obstacle. This will ensure that your dog understands that he needs to enter through a specific route and exit on the other side.



Use rewards such as favorite treats or toys to motivate your dog to go through the center of the Tire to his reward.

Also, try to block the option to go through the left or right side of the obstacle, so your dog understands that he needs to go through the tire hole. In addition, use the verbal command “Jump!” to remind your dog that he needs to jump through the tire hole instead of over a hurdle bar.



A good practice is to use an indoor hallway or a narrow space, as this way your dog won't have any other options than to go through the Tire.



Make sure to communicate to your dog that he needs to go through the Tire, it can help to lure him by holding a treat and passing it through the obstacle so that he gets more comfortable.

Continue practicing indoors or in a narrow space, and gradually raise the height of the Tire. When you notice that your dog is having fun and is doing the jump without incentives, you can move the training outdoors.

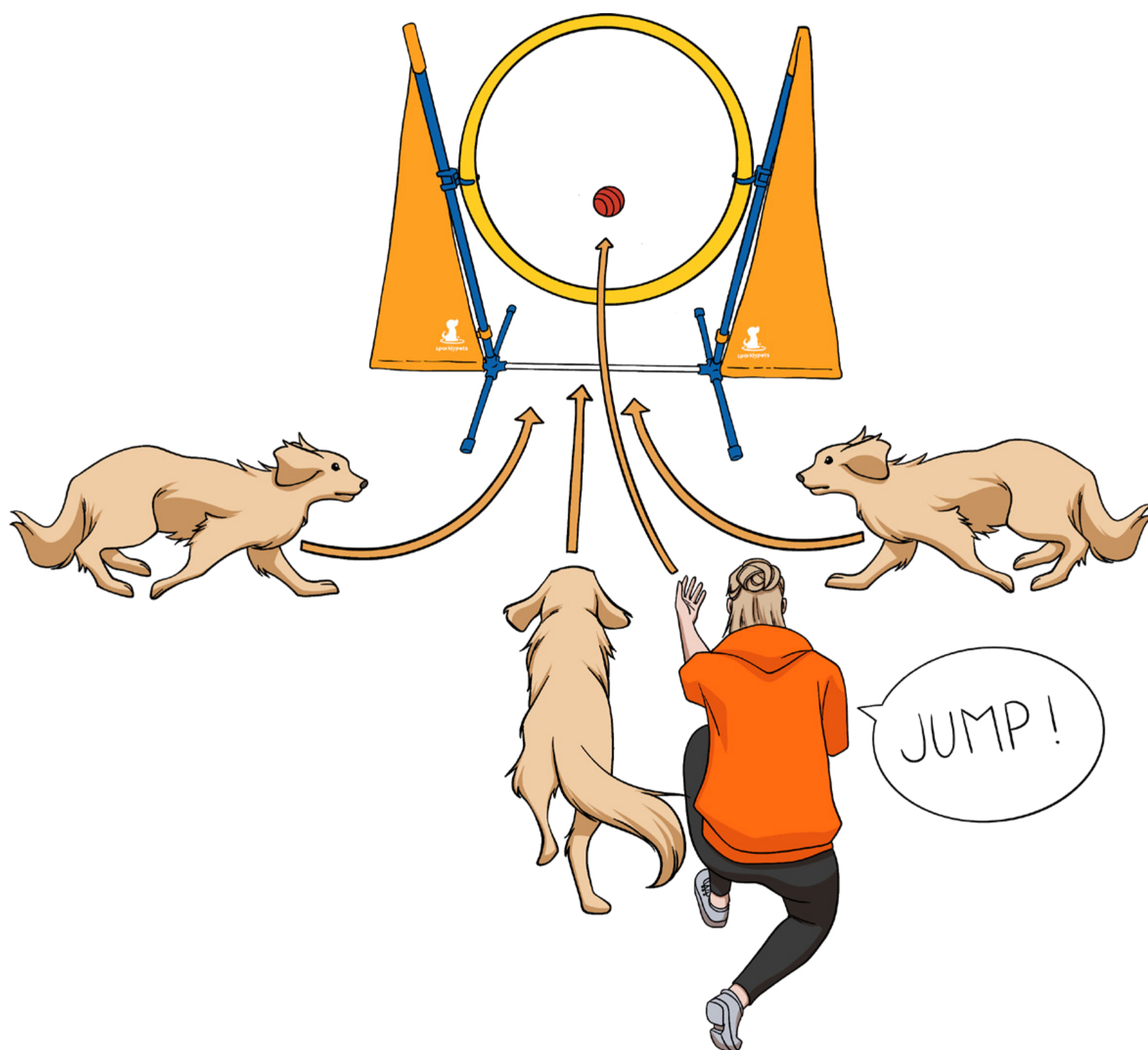
Start training outdoors at the same lower height as before, and gradually increase the height of the Tire as your dog becomes more confident.

3. TRAINING POINTS

After the setup is complete, prepare rewards for your dog when he successfully jumps through the tire. To motivate him, give him a taste of the rewards so that he will be even more determined to exercise. You can even place some tasty treats on the tire and let him go for it. Always use the verbal command “Jump!” to relate it to the jumping trick.

Start with the Tire at a low level and gradually increase the height at his own pace. Continue to show and guide him through the process. In comparison with the hurdle jump, the tire jump requires some precision training, so practicing will help him calibrate his jumps.

Stay next to your dog when teaching him the tire jump, rather than behind him. He will feel more comfortable jumping next to you than toward you. Place your dog in front of the tire jump to be approached from a straight angle, to make the process easier. As he becomes more accustomed to it, you can change the angle.



Sometimes dogs step on the bottom of the Tire when it's placed on the ground, just to feel it, instead of jumping through it. To prevent this, raise the tire slightly off the ground and increase the speed at which you present it so that your dog will naturally jump through it.

Remember to remain calm and let your dog set the pace. Once he successfully jumps through the Tire Jump, let him enjoy his rewards and use positive reinforcement and kind words to motivate him to continue.



Don't forget to give your dog enough room for the jump and adjust your stance based on the level of the jump. If he needs more room, train outside to ensure that there is enough space for the maneuver and to prevent injury.

After your dog becomes familiar with the Tire Jump, introduce new obstacles in your setup to help him understand the objective of combining agility elements.

Remember to have fun and be patient. The Tire Jump may appear easy, but it requires precision. Make sure to enjoy the process!



4. PLAN OF ACTION

After the setup is complete, and you have prepared the rewards that you will use for the training, it's time to motivate your dog! To motivate him, give him a taste of the rewards, this way he will be even more determined to jump through the Tire.

Start from the ground level and gradually increase the height at his own pace, guiding him in the process with his rewards and using the 'Jump!' verbal command as well. If your dog avoids jumping or starts going around the obstacle, it may be a sign that the level is too high. Reduce the height of the Tire to his comfort zone, and don't pressure him if you want him to succeed.

Stay next to your dog when training, not behind him, as this, will make him feel more comfortable and it will be easier for you to guide him.

Keep calm and allow your dog to take his time as he approaches and guides him to his rewards. Once he successfully jumps over the Tire, allow him to enjoy his rewards and use positive reinforcement such as kind words to motivate him to continue.

Remember to provide enough space for the jump and adjust your stance based on the level of the jump. If more space is needed, always train outside to prevent injury.

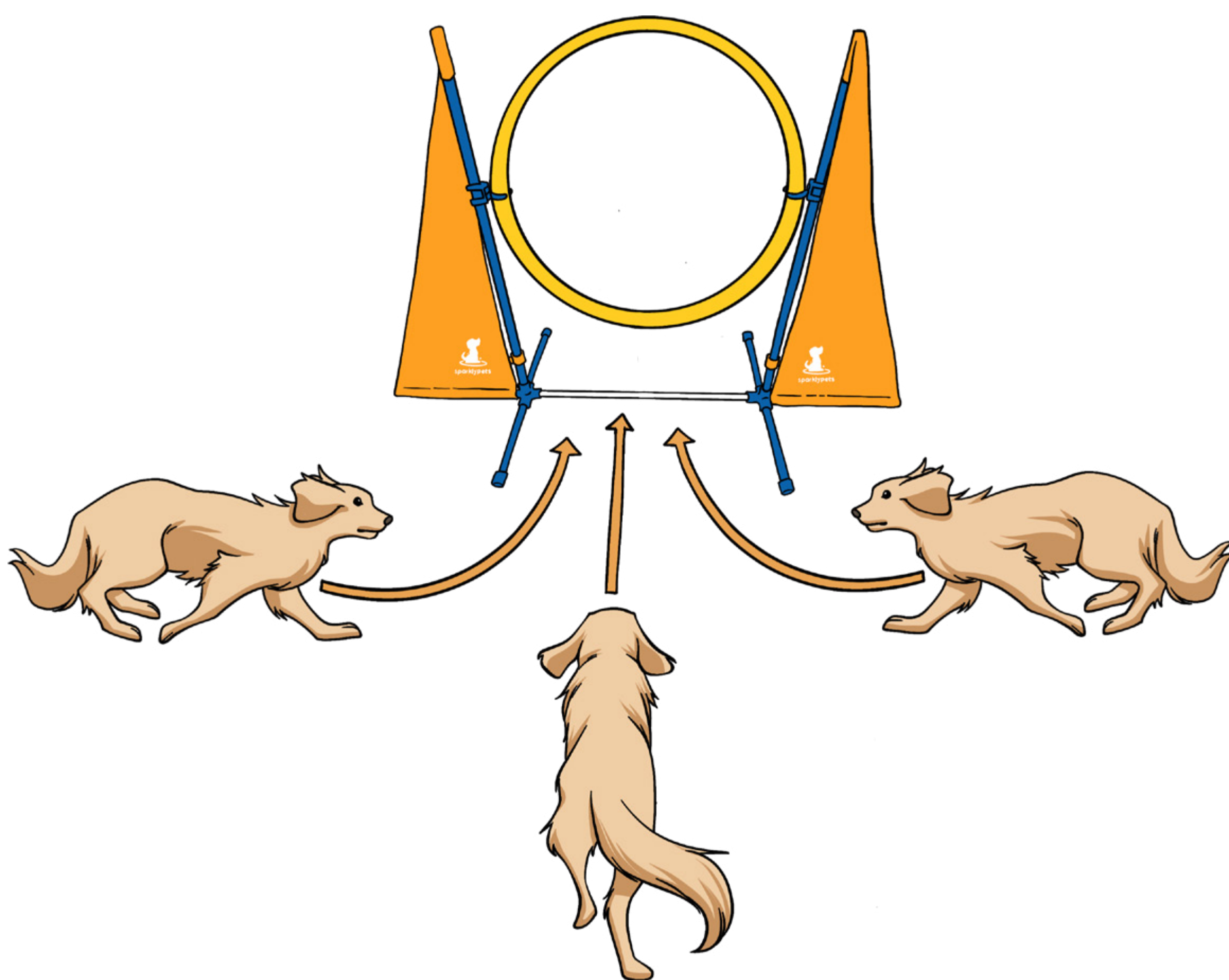
If your dog hits the tire when jumping, or touches it, it's normal. Don't blame him, it can happen if he jumped too low or too high, didn't have enough room to jump, or got distracted in the air.

Never punish your dog if he hits the tire. This situation just shows that there are some adjustments to be made. For example, check if the diameter of the tire is big enough for your dog to fit through it or if the current level of height is appropriate for your dog. Adjust the elements and start over from the same point, cycling around the Tire Jump obstacle and starting from the same place.



- i** Our SparklyPets Dog Agility Elements are designed to collapse when hit by dogs to ensure that they do not create resistance that could potentially injure the dog. Therefore, it is normal for the Tire construction hose to collapse or detach from the system when hit.

After your dog becomes familiar with the Tire Jump obstacle, start approaching it from different angles. Initially, the circle may be a bit oval, but with time and practice, he will become comfortable with this approach as well.



As soon as your dog masters the Tire Jump, begin incorporating other agility obstacles into his training routine.

Gradually combine the obstacles he has already learned with new ones. Remember to keep practicing and having fun!



CHAPTER 7

Getting Started with Simple Dog Agility Course Layouts

Now that you've reviewed the previous chapters, you should have a basic understanding of how to train your dog to perform the obstacles included in your SparklyPets Dog Agility Elements Set. It's not necessary to master them perfectly before starting agility routines but keep in mind that repetition in each training session will help solidify the information in your dog's mind.

In this chapter, we'll put all the commands together and provide you with a solid foundation in the field of dog agility. With this foundation, you'll be able to create your own course layout based on your dog's level.

Remember, the goal is to have fun with your dog and strengthen your relationship.

THE STRAIGHT LAYOUT COURSE

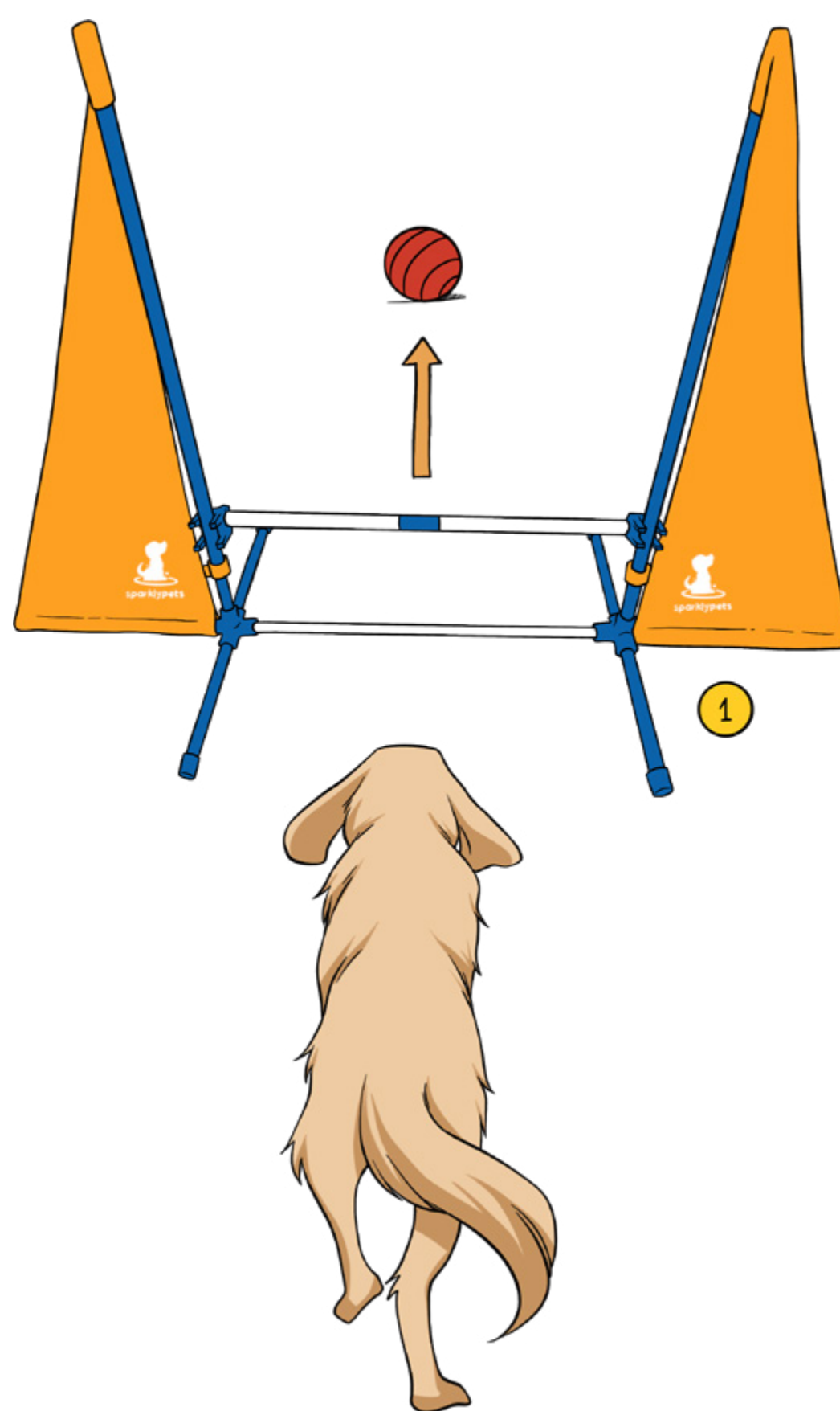
Before going into more maneuvers, a useful tip is to use a straight-line layout. This way, it will be easier to connect obstacles and for your dog to understand that he has to go from one obstacle to another.

You can start by using the "Stay!" command from a designated position then proceed forward to the next obstacle and so on with the 'Come!' command to start following you.

As you know, you will stand by your dog on his right side if possible and move as he moves to the first obstacle routine. After that, move forward to the next one.



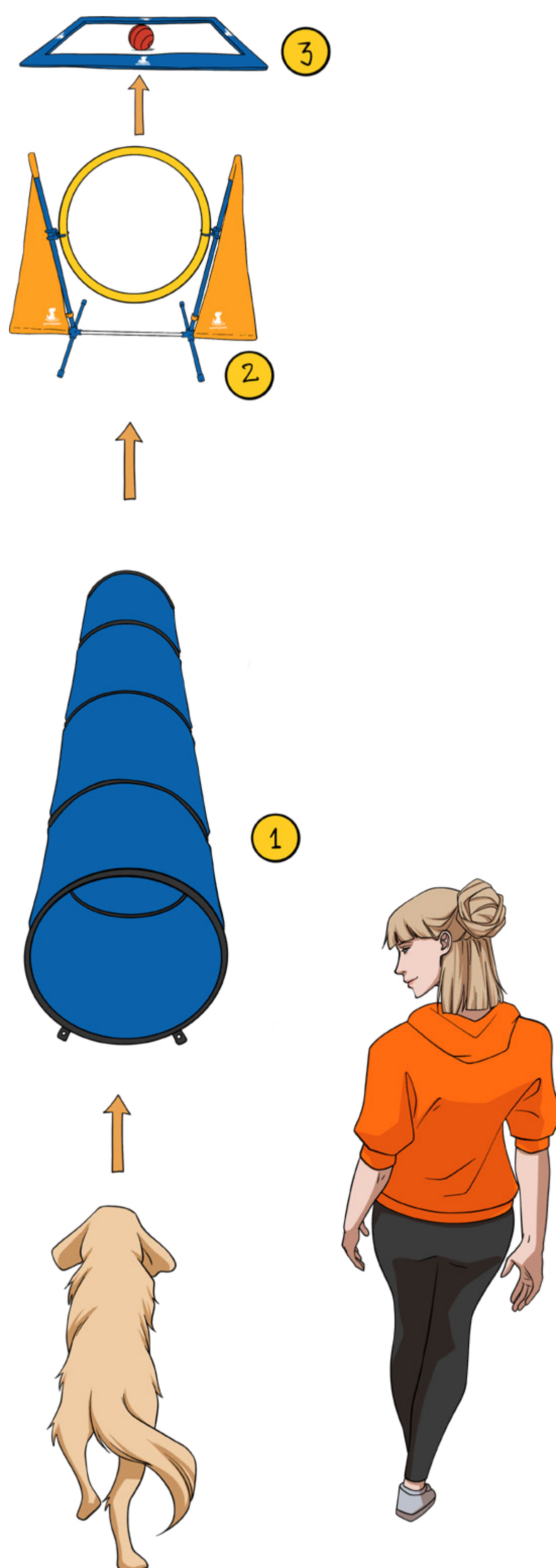
Use one of his toys to create an objective, and offer him a reward if he gets over the first obstacle. For example, if he reaches the toy by completing the obstacle, like the Jump hurdle bar, let him enjoy his achievement for a bit.



Now move on to adding a second obstacle in a straight line. Show your dog the toy or treat and place it at the end of the second obstacle. Use the verbal command 'Sit!' to make your dog wait and then the release command 'Come!' to make your dog jump first over the Jump Hurdle and then move through the dog Tunnel. Assist him by standing by his side, if necessary. You can use treats to guide him at the beginning as he jumps and goes through the obstacle.



Finally, you can add the Pause Box at the end and place the toy or treat that you want to use as a marker of achievement in it. Repeat the drill multiple times and try to combine the elements, starting with the ones that are most comfortable for your dog, and gradually increasing the speed and difficulty, such as raising the jump bar. Afterward, try different combinations, starting with the tunnel, then moving on to the Jump Hurdle or Tire, and so on.



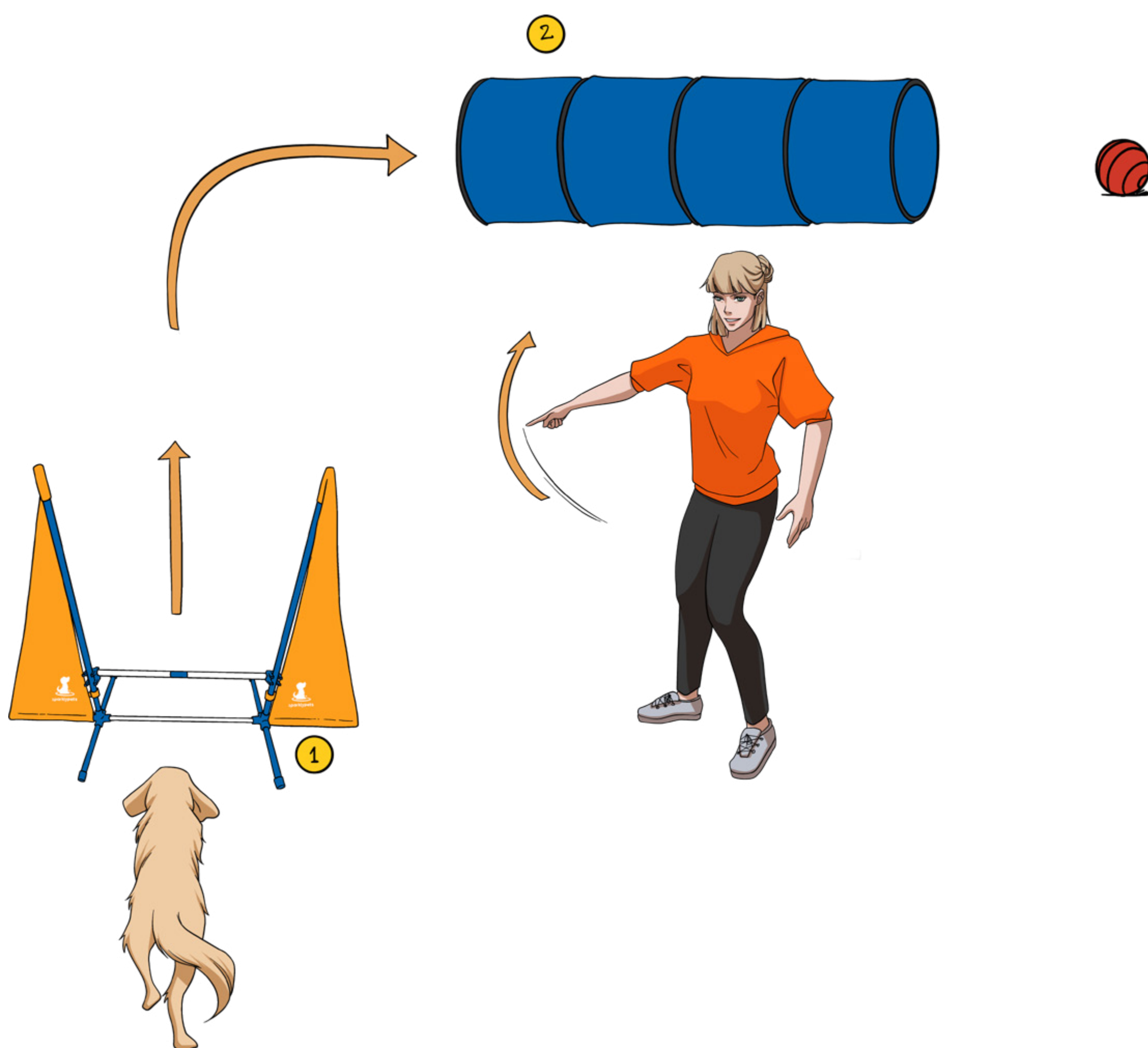


Don't forget to take breaks! They are necessary to solidify the new information and to reduce tension during the new workout. This way, agility course training will remain fun for both you and your dog.

THE TURNING LAYOUT COURSE

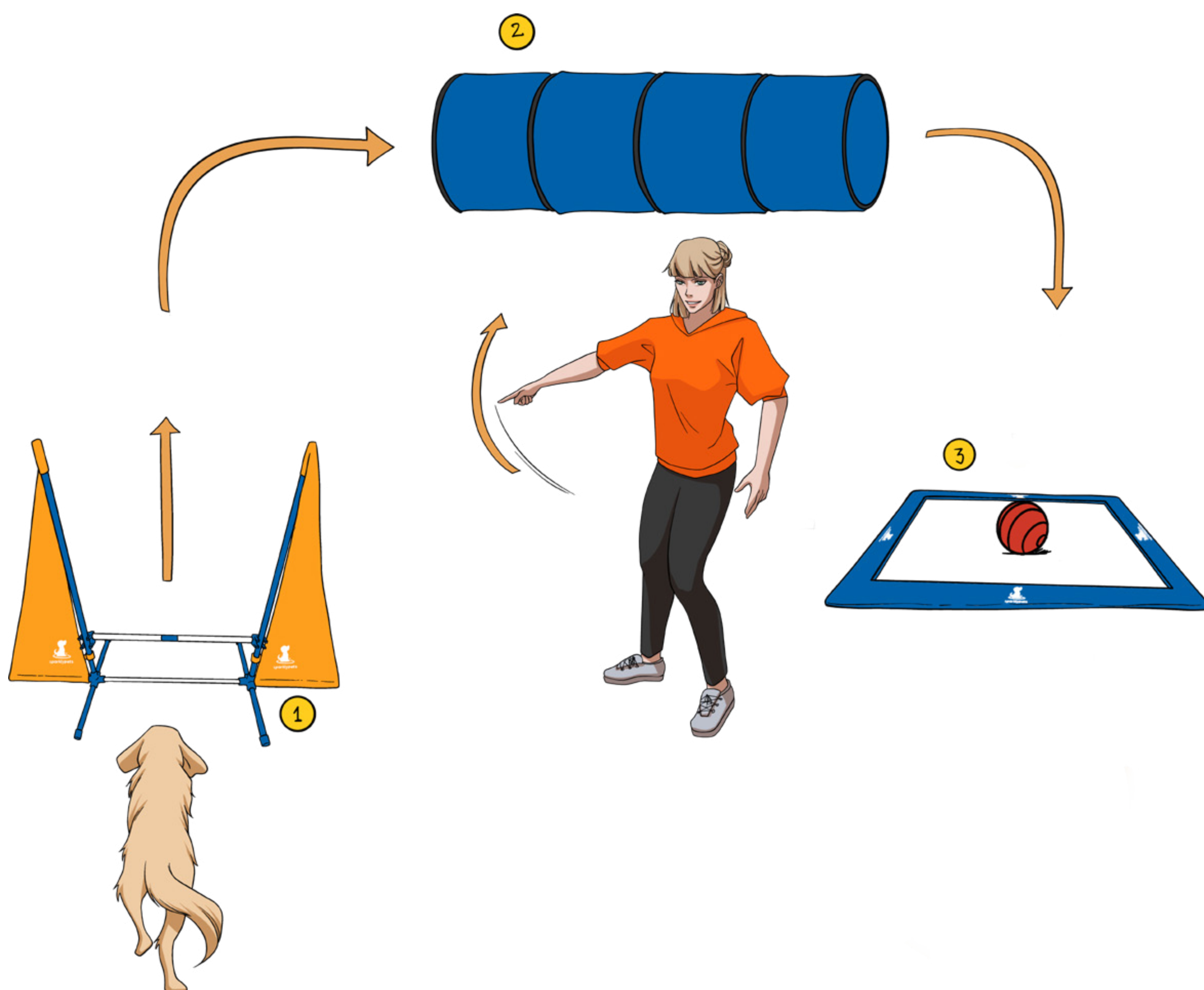
Basically, in this scenario, we are discussing the same principles as in the straight-line layout, but this time we are turning to the next obstacle, either to the right or left, depending on your preference and the layout of your outdoor space.

Use the same 'Stay' command to indicate the starting point, then use the 'Come!' command to lure your dog to the first obstacle. Use the same treats or toys as in the previous example and stay next to your dog. This time, you will need to signal your dog by moving to the right or left and cue him using your hands to indicate the new direction in which he needs to go.





Add the Pause Box as the final, third ending point, and place the toy or treat that you want to use to mark the achievement inside of it. This time, change the position by moving it to the right. The setup should resemble a flipped U letter or a horseshoe.



Repeat the drill multiple times, starting with the obstacles that are most comfortable for your dog. Gradually increase the speed and difficulty, such as raising the jump bar. Mix things up by switching the order of obstacles, starting with the tunnel, then moving on to the Jump Hurdle or Tire, and so on.

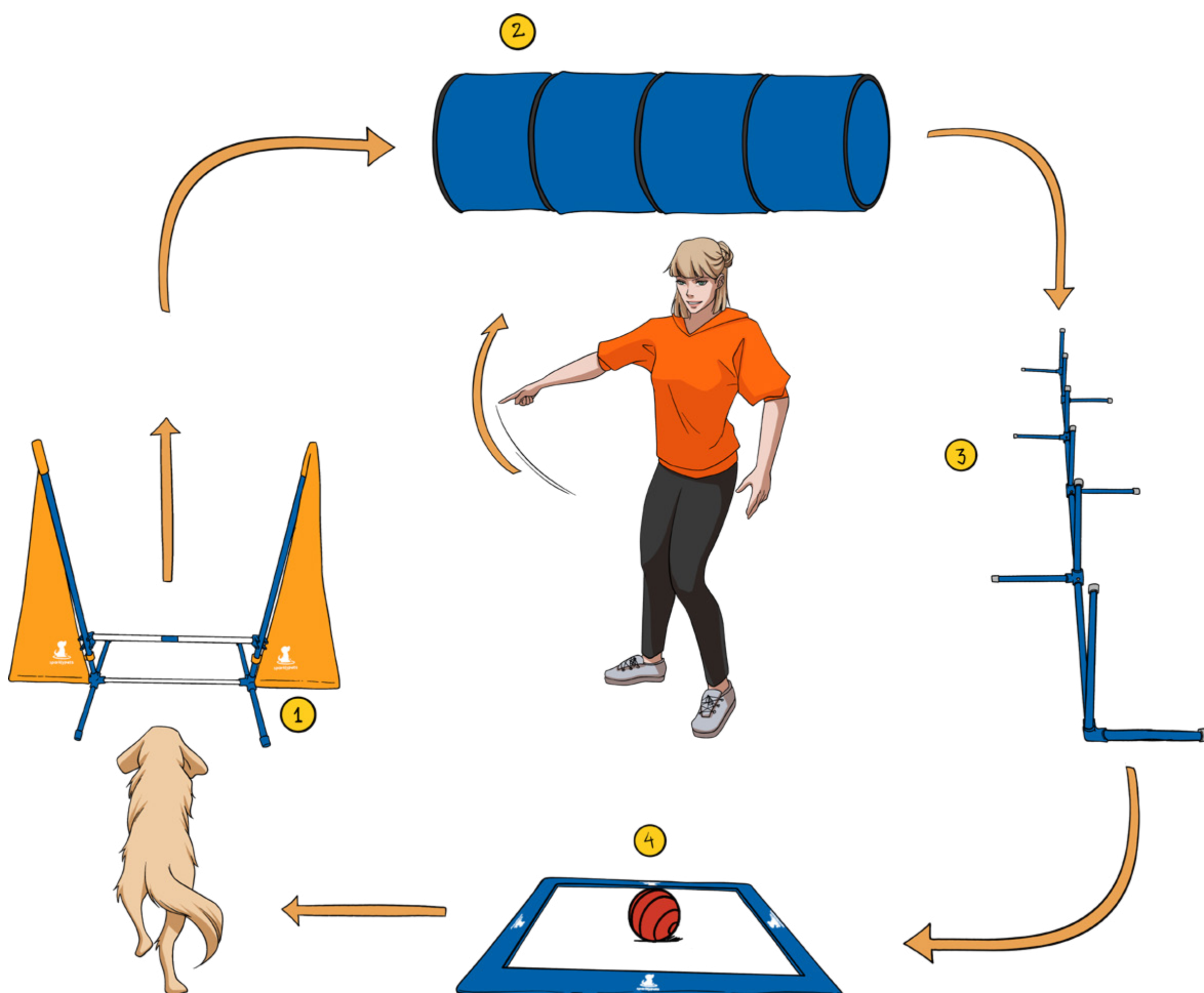
Remember to take breaks. They are necessary to solidify the newly learned information and reduce tension during the workout. This way, the agility course training will remain enjoyable for both you and your dog.



THE CLOCKWISE LAYOUT COURSE

This layout will solidify all of the information learned thus far, and you and your dog will have created your very own agility drill that you can proudly showcase to your friends. Congratulations!

To complete this drill, you will simply continue from the 3rd obstacle to the final fourth obstacle and then proceed in a clockwise manner to the first obstacle. By repeating the circuit in this way, your dog will understand the sequence of actions required to complete the course, starting from the beginning and progressing through each obstacle.



As a good practice, pause and take a break on the Pause Box. This is the designated place that you should use in order to signal to your dog that he has completed the obstacle course successfully.



It's important not to stop the drill in between obstacles as it can be confusing for your dog. If your dog becomes distracted during the training, it may be a sign that he needs a rest, so don't forget to take breaks.

Remember, the ultimate goal of the training is not only to improve your dog's agility but also to bond with your pet. By following these guidelines, you should be able to understand how to start your SparklyPets Dog Agility drills and have fun with your furry companion.

GOOD LUCK!





TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Get involved in our **SPARKLYPETS PAWESOME COMMUNITY** by sharing your training experience with us!

Your unique journey will not only help improve this guidebook, but you'll also have the opportunity to receive a complimentary **SPARKLYPETS WALKING SET**.

All you have to do is send us an email at info@sparklypets.com with an update on your training session and a few pictures of your setup.

We can't wait to see your progress and reward you with a **SPARKLYPETS WALKING SET**, which includes a dog leash and a dog collar, at no cost to you!

Join the **SPARKLYPETS PAWESOME COMMUNITY** and let us celebrate your dog's agility success together.

Don't miss this chance to receive a special treat for your furry friend!



TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS



WRITE YOUR NOTES BELOW



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TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS



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TAP FOR THE
TABLE OF CONTENTS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS



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