

## LIKE A SHIP IN FULL SAIL

Clicker train your dog to travel in an extended trot to improve its performance in the ring

*The most beautiful way for a four-legged animal to travel* is in what horse trainers call an extended trot. Instead of just jogging along, the animal reaches, taking longer than normal strides with each step. An extended trot is not a *faster* trot: the cadence may not increase in the slightest. What does increase is the distance covered by every step, and the extra strength used in achieving that distance.

A dog in an extend trot seems to move powerfully, purposefully, and gracefully, almost floating over the ground. These are the dogs that catch the public's eye as soon as they enter the ring. You can hear the comments: "How proud he is!" "What a gorgeous dog!" "Look, you can tell she *knows* she's beautiful."

We get the impression of confidence, even pride, because of the function of this enhanced movement. In nature, the extended trot is what biologists call a display behavior. Display behaviors signal the message "Look at me!" You can see an extended trot

