

# APHS (Awesome Paws Handling System)

## 6 basic Cues Defined

TYPE	NATURAL OR TRAINED?	FORWARD CUE/EXTENSION	TURNING CUE	COLLECTION CUE
Motion *	Natural	Forward motion Acceleration Backward motion toward obstacle	Lateral motion Deceleration Backward motion away from obstacle	No motion
Shoulders	Natural	Facing forward Turning away from dog	Turning toward dog	Facing dog
Location	Natural	Ahead of dog Completion side of obstacle	Behind dog Approach side of obstacle	
Arm/hand signals	Trained	Inside arm	Combination	Outside arm
Verbal cues	Trained	Obstacle Name		Dog's name
Eyes **	Natural	Indirect		Direct

\* Primary direction cue

\*\* Primary side cue

### Achieving a balance:

The balance of cues given (i.e. how many turning cues vs how many forward cues) tells the dog how to move around a course. If forward motion is all that is needed, you only need to cue forward signals. If, however, you want your dog to turn after a jump, you must give a balance of forward cues (so he will take the jump) and turning cues (so he knows to turn after the jump). It is the mixing of these cues that contributes to handling your dog best through a given sequence; the balance of cues required varies for every dog and in every situation.

### Misc quotes from Linda Mecklenburg:

"Verbals and hand signals are trained skills. Trained skills are less reliable than natural ones because the dog does not have to read, *translate and interpret* them, then react vs responding innately.

Trained skills happen at a moment in time and although they may be late (common) or used inappropriately, *generally* they are not used unbeknownst to the handler as natural cues can sometimes be.

In this system I advise using verbal obstacle commands which are forward cues (to help with commitment) but not verbal directionals as a routine (right, left, out, come) because indeed they shouldn't be needed."