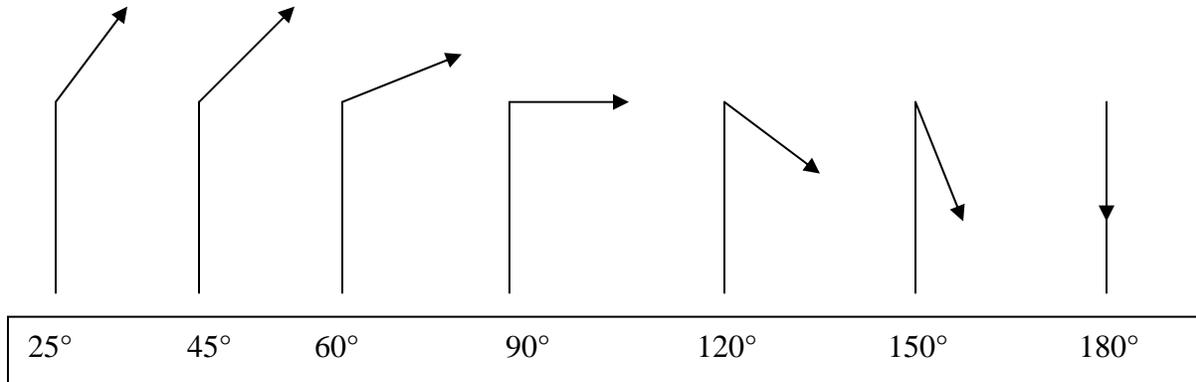


ANGLES

Dogs, like rabbits, can't turn on a dime and any turn greater than 90° can end in an injury for the dog. If you're running Greyhounds or Whippets, this is *especially* true so keep your angles open. You want most, if not all, of your angles to be less than 90° - such as between 25° and 90° (see the angles below). The object of the game is to have the dogs chase the lure while running smoothly, not to get hurt.



The only exception to this rule is when you're using a complete 180° turnaround. Including a 180° turn in a course can actually show a good dog's talent to his or her best advantage. In the wild, rabbits sometimes successfully use this tactic during pursuit. This maneuver causes the dogs to run past the turn and none of them can cut the field, allowing the faster dogs to maintain their lead. This type of turn should only be attempted by an experienced lure operator.

The worst case scenario of including greater than 90° angles in a course is to follow them with a short straightaway and then another turn. This setup is what you'll see in track races – you'll also see hind leg stress fractures. Putting a 100 yard straightaway between turns will eliminate this hazard by giving the dogs sufficient time to recover. When running Greyhounds, because of their high muscle-to-bone ratio, once committed to the turn the upper leg rotates while the foot is anchored for traction. The resulting torsion will result in the long bones of the leg breaking, sometimes in a spiral fashion, almost always severely. Such injuries can also occur to the front legs, depending on which way s/he's running and what surface s/he's running on.