

NZ DOG WORLD

INCORPORATING "THE NEW ZEALAND KENNEL GAZETTE"

August 2024



October
Schedules

August 2024



Front Cover

Turn to page 22 for a feature on a kennel specialising in the Black Russian Terrier, represented on our cover by Nishka (NZ CH Black Bears Mis Jingle Jangle) and her mum Archer (NZ CH Black Reign Armada). 🐾



This month

Supplementary Obedience Tests: New classes	12
2024 Annual Conference of Delegates	18
Certificate of Appreciation: Shirley Rolfe	21
Breeders' Hall of Fame 2024: Martyn Kennels	21
Black Russian Terrier	22
Per Nordahl: Visits Lure Coursing in New Zealand	32
Artificial Intelligence in Pet Health	40
Obituary: Diane Fellows	70

Regular features

From the President	3
Canine Corner: Canine inflammatory bowel disease	4
Ringside Thoughts: The essence of a breed	6
Canine Friends Pet Therapy: President's report	8
Junior Dog Training: Benefit Show 2024	14
Young Dog Showing: 2023 final qualifiers	16
Agility: Committee elections	24
Senior Judge Profiles: Jean McErlane	34

Policy & Health

5th International Partnership for Dogs Health Workshop	36
Health Testing: The future of pedigree dogs	38
Bavarian Mountain Scent Hound LRL	42
Health Results Regulation Changes	42
Agility Regulation Changes	42
Hoppers Regulation Changes	42
Canine Good Citizen Regulation Changes	42
Chihuahua (Long Coat) LRL	44
Chihuahua (Smooth Coat) LRL	44
Kleine Munsterlander LRL	45
Dachshund (Kaninchen Long Haired) LRL	45
Dachshund (Kaninchen Smooth Haired) LRL	46
Dachshund (Kaninchen Wire Haired) LRL	46
Tibetan Spaniel LRL	47
Airedale Terrier LRL	47
Dogs NZ 2023 Investment Report	48

Notices

NZDJA Judge Training	5
Take the Lead	17
New Zealand Dog Agility Championship Schedule	26
NZDAC Judges	29
Online Puppy Registration: Step-by-step	43
Dogs NZ Club Tool Kit	50
Dogs NZ Club Tool Kit Step-by-Step	52
Show Schedules	54
2024-2025 Show Dates	71
Results, Awards & Titles	72
Recent Exports	81
Litters	82
Canine Good Citizen Results	82
Kennel Names	82
Suspension of Kennel Names	82
Scale of Fees	83
Advertising Rates	84
Advertisers' Index	84

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From the President...

The 2024 Annual Conference of the New Zealand Kennel Club was held at the Sky Stadium in Wellington for the first time. The venue made for an interesting backdrop to the topics of the day.



Two members, Sarah Elliot and Susan van der Pol were welcomed to the Executive Council and received their EC badges. We got the opportunity to acknowledge the service to the two departing Executive members Jill Brooker and Catherine McManus, both of whom have given wonderful service to our club.

Elections were held for the posts of North Island Vice President and South Island Vice President. Steve Tate and Karen McIntyre were elected for North Island and South Island respectively with Karen elected to the post of Senior Vice President. Congratulations to both.

All five remits to ACOD were passed unanimously with a small amendment to remit 2 to comply with the rules of the Gundog Trials Association. There was some vigorous debate over the recommendations and as a result Executive Council will have to give some serious consideration to the outcome of the discussions.

Two presentations were made at ACOD. The first, a Certificate of Appreciation, to Shirley Rolf acknowledging many years' service to our club. The second the induction of Martyn Kennels to the Breeders Hall of Fame. Martyn Dobermann kennels joins an elite group of internationally recognized New Zealand kennels. Congratulations Martyn, Lisa and Cassidy on this wonderful achievement.

The next twelve months are going to be challenging for Executive Council and the club in general. With the departure of some of our senior staff members, the introduction of the show manager programme, the development of the results of the Governance Road show, all whilst dealing with the declining registration numbers. 🐾

Brian Harris
President

Before you get a dog, you can't quite imagine what living with one might be like; afterward, you can't imagine living any other way.

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Canine Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Chronic enteropathies are a group of non-specific gastrointestinal disorders with symptoms including diarrhoea, vomiting, weight loss, borborygmus (rumbly tummy with gas), abdominal pain, and changes in appetite. Not all dogs present with the full range of symptoms, but all will have symptoms that last for longer than three weeks, which is stressful for both the dog and owner.

I can speak from personal experience about the challenges of managing a dog with this type of condition; even the smallest ingestion of something that they cannot tolerate leads to a flare with a dog who cannot rest and needs to toilet often. Owners are often left worrying as their dog drops weight dramatically and, at times, nothing seems to help.

According to published articles on the subject, it is now thought that inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD, is a complicated interplay of factors that is the most common cause of chronic diarrhoea and vomiting in dogs. (*What is Chronic Enteropathy? Canine IBD: How to Approach Challenging Cases*, Zoetis 2023)

Chronic enteropathies have three classifications:

- Food-responsive
- Antibiotic-responsive
- Immunosuppressive-responsive

Vets follow a protocol to address the symptoms and, when a dog doesn't respond to treatments, this leads to a diagnosis of IBD. In other words, the condition is a 'diagnosis of exclusion.'

Since adopting him in early 2022, my Greyhound Sox and I have been on a journey to diagnose and manage his IBD. In Sox's case, he failed to respond to antibiotics. A full course of worming was undertaken to be doubly sure that he did not have a deeply-seeded parasitic infection; racing Greyhounds have been known to carry high parasitic loads resulting from intense dog populations in the kennels and exercise yards. A faecal sample was also submitted for testing.

An ultrasound confirmed thickening of his bowel which is indication of chronic inflammation and disturbance; we ultimately repeated his ultrasound to be doubly sure that his intestines weren't folding in on themselves, a condition known as intussusception.

Blood tests showed depleted Vitamin B levels, which is not surprising when a dog is not digesting food or taking food in consistently. The blood and faecal tests also ruled out conditions such as exocrine pancreatic insufficiency and hypoadrenocorticism.



It was time for a food elimination trial. I meet so many owners who have struggled with these trials because you literally must ensure the dog only eats a specific food for at least six weeks — no

Faecal transplant introduces the prepared faecal matter of a donor dog into the patient.




treats, no sharing another dog's food, and no 'street food.' Most vets recommend a commercial hypoallergenic food such as those produced by Hill's or Royal Canin for a trial. I was diligent in feeding only the recommended dry and canned versions and, if anything, Sox's diarrhoea was more persistent, proving once again that each dog is different and that diets are not fool-proof.

I decided to move Sox to a novel protein diet, feeding a protein he was unlikely to have been fed before, along with a different gastrointestinal dog food which he seemed to tolerate better. Our vet recommended that we continue with Vitamin B supplementation orally after a course of weekly injections of Vitamin B. We also added prebiotics and probiotics to the diet.

Although we saw some improvement, Sox's stool quality was still variable and regularly soft and runny. After a paid consultation with a specialist at VSA (see my column in the May edition of *NZ Dog World* about veterinary specialists), my vet, Sara Hodgson, and I opted for faecal microbiota transplantation. Sara's Labrador met all the criteria as a donor: he had never been dosed with either steroids or antibiotics. Transplants were undertaken twice approximately six weeks apart.

The faecal transplants resulted in a marked improvement in faecal quality, but Sox was still having regular gut flares. Our next step was to introduce prednisone for immunosuppressant therapy. At time of writing, Sox is responding well and we are gradually reducing the dosage of the medication.

Managing IBD is a lifelong mission. If your dog has been struggling with this condition, I am considering setting up a support group for NZ dog owners where they can share what works for their dog and support each other in finding solutions, particularly since NZ does not have the access to products that are often mentioned in overseas support groups. Of course, such a group would be complementary to the care provided by your veterinarian. If interested, please contact me at kathleen@balanceddog.co.nz 

To retain the faecal matter as long as possible, the patient needs to be kept quiet; light sedation helps with the transfer of the dog from clinic to home.



NZ Dog Judges Association Inc

NZDJA Judge Training

The board of the New Zealand Dog Judges Association would like to enhance the training of conformation judges by creating more focus on the training of potential candidates for each Group (Toys, Terriers, Gundogs, Hounds, Working Dogs, Utility and Non-Sporting).

While NZDJA is discussing how this change will work, it would like to appoint co-ordinators/facilitators for each Group. The co-ordinators/facilitators will initially be appointed for 12 months and organise the training of the Group they are assigned to and work with people who are looking to progress to judging at Championship level.

Therefore, NZDJA is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from anyone who would like to be considered for the seven roles covering the seven Groups.

Email your EOI, along with a cover letter detailing your experience with your chosen Group, to secretarynzdja@gmail.com.

The closing date for applications is **8 September 2024**. 🐾

Dogs New Zealand

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Ringside Thoughts

The essence of a breed

Dog shows have always been an event where we have the opportunity to showcase our pure-bred dogs. This is where we can evaluate what others are breeding, discuss all things canine and share information and learn from each other. In the early days breeders took their breeding Stock to be evaluated against the breed standard and assessed to find those who possessed the best breed characteristics. From there, breeding Stock was selected. Fast forward 100 or so years and our dog shows have changed. It is less about selecting breeding Stock and more about winning. Less about discussion and learning and more about competition and ribbons. And, in some cases, less about breed type and more about presentation and handling. Sadly, the loser in this is the essence of a breed.

What do we mean when we talk about 'the essence' of a breed? To quote the Collins Dictionary: "The essence of something is its basic and most important characteristic which give it its individual identity." When we apply this to our pure-bred dogs it refers to breed type, those hallmarks of a breed which make that breed unique. It is the very things that make each breed its own and distinguishes it from other breeds. The American Kennel Club website instructs judges that "they must understand the breed's essence and origins. No matter how attractive the dog, if he does not exude the correct breed type he must not be rewarded".

If judges stop rewarding correct breed type and only reward soundness, presentation and handling, we run the very real risk of losing the essence of our breeds. This is where our judges have a great responsibility for the future of our breeds. While judges can only judge what the breeders breed, we know that breeds can be altered by judges' decisions, the German Shepherd Dog being the most well-known example of this.

So, when the Labrador starts to look like a smooth-Coated Golden Retriever, the Chow Chow no longer moves with the characteristic stilted gait, or the Fox Terrier no longer has a 'terrier front' then potentially the breeds are starting to move in the direction of the more generic type and lose those hallmarks which define the essence of the breed. The problem with this is that if these dogs are rewarded in the show ring, then it starts to become the norm and then the cycle begins. If the judges are rewarding the more

'generic' style of dog the inexperienced breeders and exhibitors start to believe that is what is correct and breed to that style.

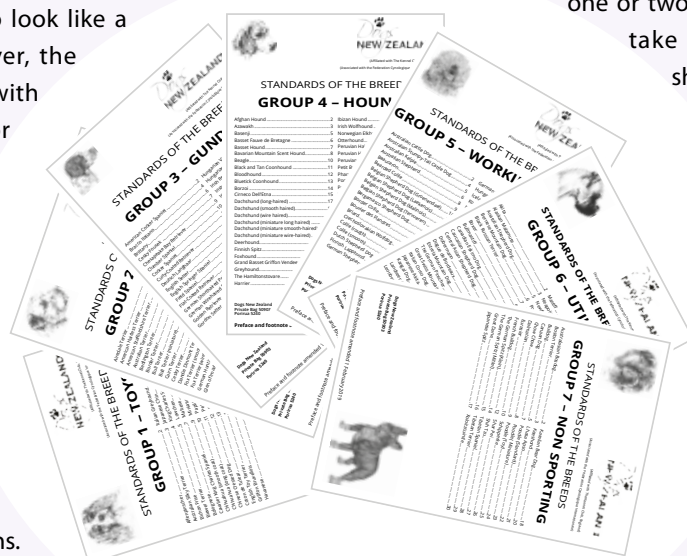
Unfortunately, for many breeds, there are insufficient numbers for our judges to gain the necessary experience that allows them to truly understand the essence of a breed and reward a good one when presented to them. In New Zealand and Australia, we are licenced by group rather than by breed at Championship Show level and there simply aren't enough dogs being exhibited to do it any other way. This makes us all-rounders rather than breed specialists. All-rounders are often less familiar with the finer points of a breed and are more inclined to reward the dogs that are sound, generally fit the breed standard, are well-presented and well-handled. How many times have we seen an outstanding example of a minority breed in a group lineup be overlooked for one of the 'safe' breeds? Safe because the entry was numerically strong and there were a good number to choose from and safe because that breed is regularly in the winner's circle. And how many times have we seen the standout for breed type be overlooked in the breed judging line up because it was different from the others?

And this isn't all the fault of these judges, it is also a reflection of our shows, the judges' training and examination system. Gone are the days when a judge would have 40 or 50 entrants in a breed at most Championship Shows. Some breeds have almost disappeared from our shows completely, so how can our judges gain the required experience? Many exhibitors expect our judges to be very knowledgeable on all the breeds they are licenced to judge but I know from experience that the learning really begins once you have passed a group licence exam and have the opportunity to judge that group on a reasonably regular basis. Even then, an appointment

once a year just isn't enough if you are only licenced for one or two groups. But the breeders need to take responsibility too. Our breeders should know more about their breed than the majority of our judges and be committed to preserving breed type, not just winning ribbons. Our breeders also need to support our trainee judges with breed lectures, kennel visits and support of our judges' exams. Only by working together to preserve breed type can we retain the essence of our breeds.

Happy showing. 🐾

Lavina Diamanti





AGM: President's report

Vicki Graham, President

I was pleased and privileged to present my report, at Canine Friends Pet Therapy's annual general meeting on 13 June 2024, to provide an overview of events and initiatives for the last financial year.

We have all heard the saying "numbers speak for themselves" and this rings true for us. We have almost reached the level of membership enjoyed during the 2020/21 period, and I believe an increased knowledge of the benefits of pet-facilitated therapy alongside a heightened awareness of mental and physical well-being have contributed to our growth.

Pivotal to our positive results are good communication and engagement with our members and I am also thrilled that we have the highest level of member satisfaction recorded in our latest survey.

Strategic Highlights

Last August, three committee members and their dogs held a workshop at the NZ Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists' annual conference in Wellington. This resulted in a greater understanding and appreciation of our work and, on our part, how we can improve our service and support to the therapists and the importance of our printed newsletter to those they care for.

Our teams are now visiting three correction centres and find the time spent with the inmates and staff is much appreciated. We have also added three new hospitals to our programmes and are receiving regular requests to visit additional wards and clinics. These environments carry an additional level of responsibility and so have developed specific policies and guidelines to support our visiting teams.

Our reading programmes have increased nationwide with 28 now being conducted in school and council libraries, weekly or during school holidays.

District Health Boards, aged care facilities and schools require criminal record checks which we carry out through the Ministry of Justice.

Partnerships

Our five-year partnership with Ziwi ceased in April 2023. We were fortunate to form an agreement on 1 September 2023 with NexGard Spectra (www.nexgard.co.nz) produced by Boehringer Ingelheim, a global leader in animal health products. Boehringer's values closely align to our own and the NexGard Spectra team provide financial support across various aspects of our operations.

We are very grateful to have continued support from Dogs New Zealand which enables our liaison officers, assessors and support members to come together and be involved in discussions around



our operations. Last September our Liaison Officer Appreciation Day was well attended and I believe everyone felt the day was very worthwhile.

We appreciate being part of Dogs New Zealand's monthly magazine *NZ Dog World* which connects us to the wide community of dog owners. A huge thank you to Director Secretary Steven Thompson and his team for recognising and supporting our work.

Operating Highlights

Once again, we received a grant from NZ Lotteries which has funded our membership management cloud platform, video conferencing, our Xero subscription and our email system. These are integral to our operations and effective communication with the facilities we visit, our liaison officers, members and supporters. An increase in applications from younger dog-owners makes digital contact important to maintain engagement with our members.

In February many of our liaison officers and support members attended an online workshop run by our patron, animal behaviourist Mark Vette. Mark covered many aspects of dog behaviour relative to the environments and settings we visit. We hope to arrange more workshops in the year ahead.

Last July, a team featured on TV One's *Seven Sharp*, visiting Christchurch Hospital's Children's Ward. This wonderful and touching item generated many new applications.

Another highlight has been a new initiative offering dog jackets as an alternative or in addition to our scarves. These proved popular and will continue to be offered twice yearly.

Several Founder's Day events were held around the country to celebrate Eileen Curry and to enable members to connect with one another. The dogs enjoy these outings too: it was always Eileen's wish that the dogs should have fun. We ran our Regional Member of the Year Award again, the first since 2020, with eight members being nominated by their liaison officers.

Acknowledgements

Our members' contribution is valued beyond words. You are not 'just visiting' but, with your dog, helping someone feel re-connected to the outside world and enriching their day, and yours. After each visit I hope you feel fulfilled and proud of your dog.

This organisation could not function without our liaison officers, assessors and support members, who play a significant part in the success of Canine Friends. I am proud to be part of a hardworking committee, a cohesive and committed team of people who give so much of their time.

And our dogs: "Because of a dog's joyfulness, our own is increased. It is no small gift." (Mary Oliver) 🐾

Junior Dog Training

Supplied by Gracie Cormack

Junior Dog Training Chair: Nicole Wilkinson

JDT Benefit Show 2024

The JDT Benefit Show was held in Cambridge on Matariki weekend, to raise money for the Junior Dog Training Camp in January next year. We asked some of the people involved in running the show about their experiences. JDT Camp is an awesome opportunity for young people who love dogs, Agility and/or Obedience. Kids learn new things, make new friends, challenge themselves and, most importantly, have a lot of fun! Next year's camp will be held at **Highland Homes Christian Camp near Ashurst, on 13-17 January 2025**. Forms will come out later in the year, so keep an eye out on Facebook.

Sheryl Mitchinson (Show Manager): The JDT Benefit Show was a large undertaking and I am so pleased so many JDT members stepped up to help. The weekend went really well and was a fantastic fundraiser, making over \$10,000 for JDT.

Special mention goes to Jess Tuppen, Caitlin Williams, Briana Edwards who sourced some fantastic sponsor and raffle prizes.

Those four along with Paige Yearbury, Isabella Humphrey, Lachlan Dassler and Stephanie Butler were the ring managers, although Steph was missed when she ended up sick for the weekend! Thank you to everyone who supported the show, both through ribbon sponsorship and attending.

Kim, my co-show manager, Deana and your kitchen crew, Catherine my co-secretary, and prize giving tent parents Catherine Davies and Jesse Chartersall did a fantastic job.

JDT you all should be so proud. It was a big event which will greatly benefit the national JDT community.

Kim Edwards (Co-Show Manager): As an organiser and supporter, it was an incredibly rewarding experience to be part of this event, creating a positive and encouraging environment for everyone involved. The collaborative effort behind the scenes, from co-ordinating the show, highlighted the collective spirit that makes our JDT community so special.

Moreover, the success of the event in terms of fundraising exceeded our expectations, thanks to the generous contributions from attendees and supporters. These funds will play a crucial role in enhancing the camp experience for all participants.

Some JDT members were also the Ring Managers!

Kade Cuff (JDT Member): I had the pleasure of running the JDT ring at our Benefit Show and it was a really cool experience.

I got to watch some awesome teams compete and try out the awesome courses set by Nicola and Heather.

My highlight was definitely watching some of the younger kids have a go and how respectful and resilient they were.

Jess Tuppen (JDT Member): This JDT show I definitely pushed myself with ring managing. It was definitely daunting, especially when you do the Jumpers C ring (which is one of the biggest rings) as well as my fellow ring manager getting sick and being unable to make it to the weekend.

But with the help of some awesome Cambridge members, Sophie and Jodie, and the amazing JDT kids, the ring ran nice and smoothly. It was super cool being able to be a part of the show, and raising money for camp.

Isabella Humphrey (JDT Member): I loved co-ring managing the Jumpers B ring at the JDT Benefit Show. I think it's so cool I was given the opportunity to.

It was quite daunting but Paige and I had so much help and guidance along the way.

Caitlin Williams & Briana Edwards (JDT Members): At the JDT Benefit Show we had the privilege of co-managing the Jumpers A ring and we had a great time organising the ring to run smoothly. We're so proud of our ring crew and want to give them a massive thank you. And the JDT committee, especially Catherine, Kim and Sheryl for working overtime to get the show on the road, deserve a huge thank you! Can't wait to see you all again next year. 🐾



Young Dog Showing

Supplied by Margaret Wilson, YDS Chairperson

Congratulations to our qualifiers for this year's final at the Purina Pro Plan National Dog Show at Manfeild Parl.

There are two more heats before the big event. The YDS final will be held on Saturday 7 of September. Please note that all contestant in the YDS finals must be junior members of Dogs New Zealand. Make sure you pay you annual membership fee or join online at Dogs New Zealand - Dogs NZ Join Online. Junior members are not required to join an affiliated club before joining Dogs New Zealand. Any queries please contact me at jetsunlabs@gmail.com or 027 468 2228. 🐾

YDS Final Qualifiers 2023

5-7 year olds

Kezia Goddard
Riahn Tipene Williams
Hunter Meyer
Kyle Austin
Wyatt Bray-O'Neill
Lockie Marden
Jonathon Machin
Ella May Bush
Karter Davies
Tobiasz Goddard
Zachary Bevins
Harper Marden
Lily Myburgh
Vida Coutts
Jacob Lynch

8-11 year olds

Beau Price
Arvia Caldwell-Limmer
Miley-Skye Brandt
Sophie McCarrison
Lottie Ryan
Cassandra McQueen
Joshua Machin
Angeline Kraan Dodd
Kayla Jordan
Carter Lang
Ashton Ottley
Paris MacFarlane
Charlie Cubley
Aaliyah Goddard
Isobelle Jefferies

Archie Hyde
Penelope Baker Trebilco
Evelyn Machin
Rhiarn Tipene Williams
Bianca Bond
Avah Vivian

12-15 year olds

Sophie Black
Anya Coombs
Elay Brandt
Georgia Calman
Eilish Kempthorne
Ruby Hogg
Paige Ashwell
Sophie Monson
Lila Hammond
Kyin Crawford
Emily Swan
Jessica Langridge
Tilly Limmer Caldwell

Gabby Pim
Kaylin Tebbutt
Toby Maulder
Karli Watson
Jade Williams
Bayley Hill
Maggie Peron
Victoria Stevens
Lexie Grennell
Millie Watson

16-20 year olds

Mackenzie Stevens
Danielle King
Paige Judson
Alexis Maulder
Reegan Tock
Jessica Langridge
Ashely Patterson Murtagh
Karli Watson

Meet the Team

Elza Maulder is our YDS Central North Island Co-ordinator, based in Otane, Central Hawkes Bay. She started in the dog show world as a child and has bred and owned English Setters and Great Danes. Elza breeds under the 'Sylish' prefix and her family's current menagerie also includes a Lakeland Terrier, an American Cocker Spaniel and a Pointer. Both her children are junior members and compete in Young Dog Showing competitions.

Elza has been lower North Island co-ordinator for seven years and holds regular fundraising YDS stalls at local shows. She became involved in YDS because of her children's interests but feels strongly that it is a great way to give back to a sport which has given her so much over the years: friendships, mentorship, a sense of belonging and a family beyond her own.

Elza has her own grooming and daycare business, is currently president of Central Hawkes Bay Kennel Society, and vice president of Ruahine Kennel Association.



Why the... Black Russian Terrier?

When we decided we wanted a dog we thought very carefully about what that dog would be expected to fulfill for us. We knew we wanted a big dog, and we also knew that dog needed to be low allergen, calm, level-headed and stable. After researching thoroughly, we realised there was a huge lack of this dog type in New Zealand so I set myself the task of finding a breed that fit my requirements outside of the country.

Eventually I stumbled across the Black Russian Terrier and fell immediately in love with the breed and the potential they had to fulfill all of the requirements we had. After further research into the breed and its common health conditions, I also needed to find a breeder whose breeding standard met with my own.

Because Black Russians are relatively rare in NZ I knew I wanted to have breed and show rights, so I could re-introduce the breed back to the NZ show world as well as just increase the number of healthy lines here. After an exhaustive search, I finally found Black Rheign in Australia and the health-conscious breeder I needed to start my lines. Black Rheign Armada (Archer) arrived in March 2018 and slotted perfectly into our lives as if she was designed specifically for us. For us, the Black Russian Terrier provides a big, calm and sensitive dog that was level-headed and stable around young kids, suitable for use within a therapy role in the local hospital and, most importantly for our family, low-shedding and low-allergen.

Our original plan was to breed with lines that Black Rheign had imported and work with them to improve the lines available in NZ.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 laid waste to that plan by delaying Archer's first year of breeding and then by taking the life of the owner of Black Rheign in Australia. So we are late starters but plan to have available for sale breeding and show prospects for other kennels.

Colour or colours?

This seems like an odd subject, and could cause some controversy, but actually something I see as important to the breed. Because the breed is still considered relatively new in terms of the year it was established, it is still not uncommon to see 'throwback' Rottweiler, Airedale and Schnauzer colours if DNA is not being checked for colour markers.

The acceptable colour is in the name: black. Some white (single) hair flecks are acceptable but absolutely no other colour blocks are approved under breed standards.

As with every breed, people like to have something a little different, a little special, a little unique, and sometimes deliberately select dogs that carry colour genes to increase the likelihood of coloured pups. In my eyes, Black Russian Terriers are unique enough in the standard they are supposed to be.

Our personal dog selections

When I decided that the Black Russian Terrier was the breed that would fit best into our family, I quickly realised I wanted the opportunity to breed so others could also benefit from these incredible dogs. But I wanted to do my absolute best for the breed and take every step to give my lines the best chances in life. This



Lure Coursing New Zealand

Per Nordahl down under



For a number of years now, within the pages of the *NZ Dog World*, we have explored the intricacies of this most entertaining of dog sports: Lure Coursing. I have tried to explain how it all works, with the articles accompanied by numerous photographs of different breeds showing one thing they have in common: having a ball! I'm sure you will agree that seeing the delight on all their faces puts a smile on our own and encourages the enthusiasm to say 'thank you' to our charges for basically putting up with our various demands by holding, as often as possible, more meets for them to have fun at.

You will recall that the Sighthound Field Coursing Club in the North Island proved to be very active in setting up this discipline for our dogs, firstly establishing the rules (based on ASFA — American Sighthound Field Association — rules) and registering them with Dogs New Zealand and then learning how to 'officially' run a Lure Coursing Meet with the ultimate aim of, on occasions, judging such a meet in order to aspire to the title of Coursing Champion.

We were assisted in this by Lure Coursing judges who visited us from abroad. Our first was Linda Scanlon (USA) who judged a meet at Taupo. She also held a workshop/seminar which made it a full weekend of information. We were then privileged to welcome Jack Helder (USA) who was at the time president of ASFA. He also held a weekend of priceless information on all aspects of the officials overseeing the meet – the lure operator, the course chairman, the secretary, setting the course, everything that we had to know. He also judged a meet and at the same time explained to would-be judges gathered around him how the runs were scored. It was fascinating. Our next helpers were Monica Stoner and Cathy Chapman (USA) who helped us run a meet and provided valuable advice on, again, all the various officials and their duties, designed

to ensure the day was run in safety and was a success!

Finally, with the assistance of an Afghan breeder in Christchurch, the club was able to invite Per Nordahl from Sweden to come and oversee a weekend of two meets as well as evenings when he instructed us all on everything to do with Lure Coursing. The



Profiling Our Senior Judges:

Jean McErlane

Compiled by Lavina Diamanti

We are lucky in New Zealand to have some world-class judges on our panel, judges who have represented our country across the globe. They have achieved this status through years of hard work and dedication to their art. Mostly these judges are humble and grateful for the opportunities presented to them. I wanted to be able to share some of their stories with you and the first of these is from Jean McErlane. Jean has been an All Breeds judge for over 30 years and has been fortunate to have completed many wonderful international assignments. Here is her story. Enjoy.

Dog judging began for me after I had been the secretary of Rotorua Kennel Association for a couple of years. The president said "we haven't got any judges here, so I will put your name forward to the Kennel Club". I judged Ribbon Parades all over the North Island. If there was a judge I admired, I applied to the club for the stewarding appointment. Rotorua KA engaged judges (mostly Australian) who had breed reputations, so I engaged another committee member to do the secretary's job so that I could steward for that judge and learn from them.

We had a strong committee in those days and annual meetings were competitive. After several years stewarding and judging Ribbon Parades, I sat the Gundog theory exam under the watchful eye of Barry Catton, President of Hamilton Kennel Association. Barry

was a university lecturer, so the venue was Waikato University in Hamilton. The practical exams were held at Avondale Racecourse in conjunction with Auckland Kennel Council show. Maree McKenzie and I sat the Gundog exam. Breeds were brought out of the show ring, and we judged them under the watch of Ernie Schache, Eddie Croad plus a senior judge from Christchurch. Maree and I were both criticised by the examiners, but we both passed!

My first Championship Show was Hauraki Canine Association. Jean Gillies was the first exhibitor in the ring, and I refused her bitch the challenge. She told me it was the correct thing to do, and she had entered the bitch to test my ability! Jean had given me an afternoon of education at her kennels several months earlier.

Brisbane was my first Australian appointment. I travelled with Dawn Clark, ('mother' to many of us). The only problem with Dawn was that the minute she finished judging, she was off to the airport to get home. Judging in Australia dozens of times gave me the experience for further appointments overseas: Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Canada, Hawaii, USA, South America, England, Ireland, Taiwan, South Africa, Chile, Philippines and Malaysia.

I stewarded for Ann Ingram when she judged in Auckland, and I was invited to Ireland, the first of nine visits over the years. The first trip to India was with fellow judge John Rowles from Australia. We were in India for two weeks, first in New Delhi. During our stay in New Delhi, we were lucky to go on a bus trip to the Taj Mahal, a wonderful experience. We then travelled by train north to Jalandhar. This was a fascinating appointment with armed guards surrounding the show venue. The chief of police showed Labradors and sadly was assassinated some weeks later. We travelled by car with a driver, first to the royal estate of Mysore, where we stayed a night and had dinner at the palace of Mysore with the prince. It was an interesting drive through India, with occasionally having to stop for elephants crossing the road. We judged in Coimbatore, then back to Madrid and home via Singapore.

I was fortunate to have several more judging appointments in India. In





5th International Partnership for Dogs Dog Health Workshop, Helsinki

Dr Becky Murphy BVSc BSc
TCI Veterinary Services

On 13-15 June 2023, I was fortunate to be able to attend the 5th International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) Dog Health Workshop in Helsinki, and thanks go to the Dogs New Zealand membership for some sponsorship received toward this. A series of articles will follow this introduction and I encourage readers to get in touch if they have specific questions or comments.



IPFD (www.dogwellnet.com) is a global non-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing the health and welfare of dogs worldwide. By fostering collaboration among national kennel clubs, veterinary organisations, researchers, and dog enthusiasts, IPFD aims to address critical issues in dog breeding and care. The organisation focuses on promoting the responsible breeding and management of dogs, supporting research and education initiatives, and facilitating the sharing of knowledge and resources among its partners. Through initiatives such as the International Dog Health Workshops, IPFD plays a pivotal role in uniting the global dog community to tackle challenges and drive progress in canine health and welfare.

The 1st International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) took place in Stockholm in June 2012 and was hosted by the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK). Since then, there have been an additional four workshops co-hosted by the IPFD and German (Dortmund, 2015), French (Paris, 2017), UK (Windsor, 2019) and the most recent, Finnish (Helsinki, 2024) Kennel Clubs. IPFD is primarily responsible for the IDHWs, collaborating with various organisations that handle the logistical aspects of the meetings.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Hereditary Disease Committee (HDC)

Prior to the start of the IPFD workshop I attended the WSAVA HDC meeting, of which I have been a committee member for almost three years. WSAVA HDC is dedicated to addressing hereditary health issues in small animals, particularly dogs and cats. The committee's primary focus is on identifying, understanding, and mitigating

genetic diseases through research, education, and advocacy.

Via international collaboration with veterinarians, the committee works to develop and promote best practice for genetic testing, responsible breeding, and the management of hereditary conditions. Our efforts aim to improve the health and welfare of companion animals by ensuring that genetic disease information is accurately interpreted and appropriately applied in clinical and breeding settings.

Our next meeting will be held in Suzhou, China at the WSAVA 2024 Congress. I am excited to be presenting a lecture at this Congress as well as attending the WSAVA responsible breeding committee meeting as an HDC representative.

IPFD Workshop: Opening and Attendance

The IPFD workshop commenced with an opening address by Dr Kirsi Sainio, Chair of the scientific committee and a member of the Board of the Suomen Kennelliitto (Finnish Kennel Club, FKC), as well as a member of the Board of the IPFD. Dr Sainio, a Skye Terrier breeder since 1974, welcomed a diverse group of attendees, including representatives from the American, UK, Canadian, Finnish, Swedish, Belgian, Irish, Spanish, Danish, and German Kennel Clubs. The workshop also attracted prominent academics specialising in genomics and ethics, as well as many breeders, predominantly from Finland. This gathering of experts included 106 leaders and decision makers from the global dog community representing more than 50 organisations and 17 countries.

Health Testing...

The future of pedigree dogs

Dogs and humans have lived together in partnership since before the dawn of recorded history. From the earliest times, we have manipulated our canine companions through artificial selection to be fit for a purpose in the partnership and not agonised about the process as long as the outcomes served our needs.

It is only in recent times that dog owners have treated their canine companions as members of the family rather than tools with a range of functions. From the latter part of the 20th century onwards we have seen increasing legislation regarding animal welfare, appreciation of dogs in popular media, and a burgeoning pet products and services industry.

Along with the shift from viewing dogs as property to seeing them as family members, has come increased focus on dog breeding. From the beginning of the 21st century, problems of dog overpopulation, puppy mill exploitation and abuse have been publicised increasingly. Dog breeding's social licence to operate was brought into sharp focus by *Pedigree Dogs Exposed*, a BBC investigative documentary, produced by Jemima Harrison, which looked into health and welfare issues facing pedigree dogs in the United Kingdom.

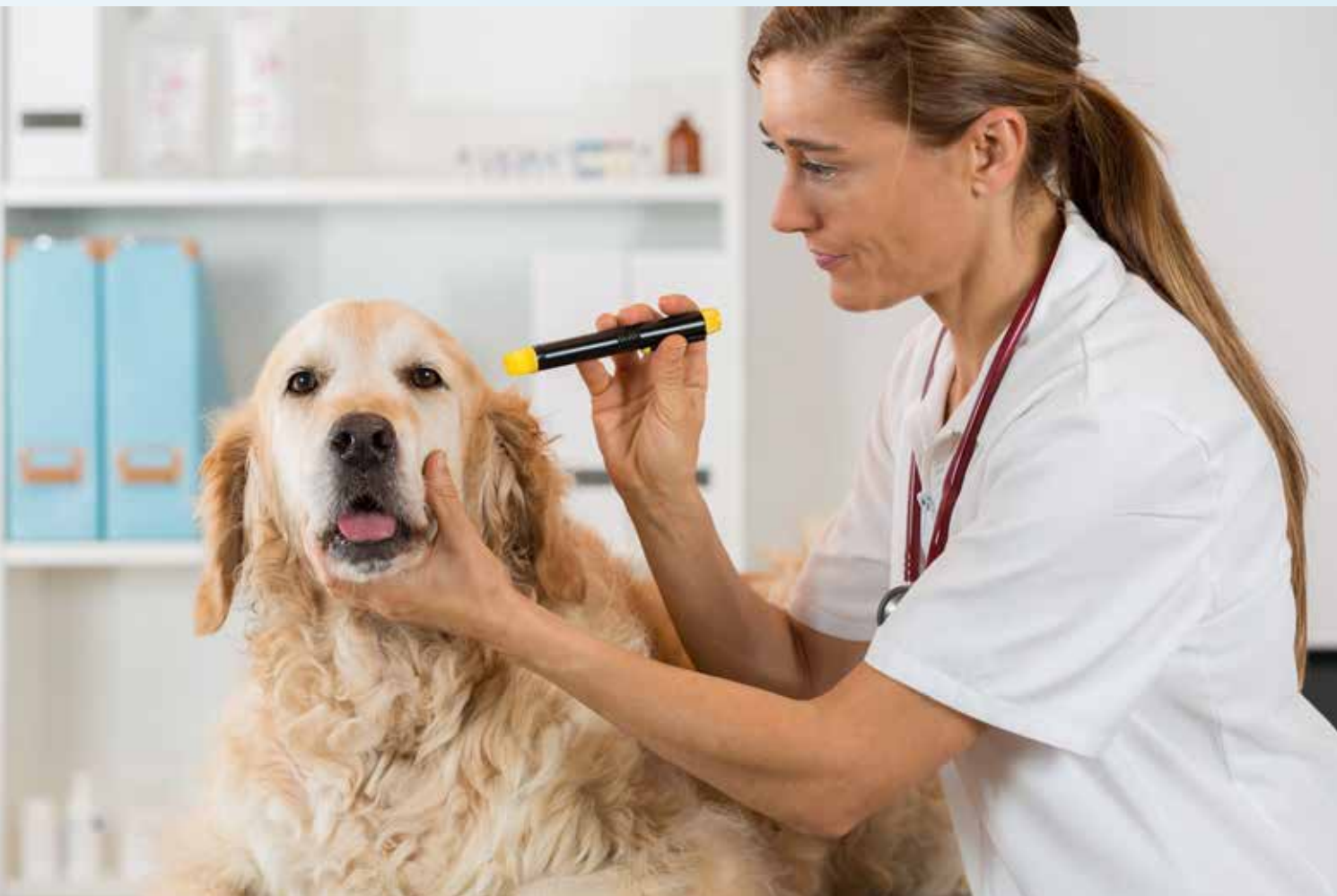
Originally broadcast on 19 August 2008 the documentary acted as a clarion call for a movement against dog breeding and a push to

support rescues and shelters. As long as dog ownership remains popular and socially acceptable, dog breeding will continue in some form, as it's clear the future of dogs can't just depend on shelters or rescues.

Dog breeders will undoubtedly face greater controls and restrictions but the future of pedigree dogs is in their hands. Each generation of dogs is shaped by a multitude of individual breeding decisions, which are in turn influenced by the current dog breeding system. This system is significantly influenced by dog registries such as the one curated by Dogs New Zealand.

The primary aim of all dog registries and, one hopes, all pedigree dog breed clubs, is to to preserve and improve purebred dogs. Dogs NZ exists to encourage every breeder of registered dogs to create a better generation of dogs through improved appearance and conformation to a standard, or through increased mental and physical capabilities to perform in dog sports. We hope that breed clubs and dog breeders will also strive to maintain their breeds and protect their history, heritage, form and function.

But dog registries and breeders are working to breed standards which were created in the 1800s. Just as public attitudes towards animal welfare have changed since then, so too must dog breeders'





Dogs NZ Insurance
by pd.co.nz



PD Insurance Speaks to Sarah Brittain

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PET HEALTH

PD Insurance recently sat down with Companion Animals NZ Vice Chair, Sarah Brittain to discuss the role of artificial intelligence in companion animal health. Technology continues to shape the way we care for pets and other domestic animals. Whether that's DNA tests used in healthy breeding or 24/7 access to digital pet insurance, the tools available are always being added to.

The question of how, why and when to use artificial intelligence is one that's currently being explored in most (if not all) industries. Naturally, this extends to the arena of pet health care.

The question remains to be fully answered because whether we explore human health care or pet health care, new answers continue to surface. Artificial intelligence has recently reached new heights. It's now smarter and the more data and training it receives the better it gets.

Artificial Intelligence Could Help Pets Live Longer






The idea that artificial intelligence can help pets live longer may sound like sci-fi. However, it's not so much about extending their lifespan than preventing health conditions from shortening them.

“AI is sensitive to things we can't pick up with the naked eye. It can monitor pet data in real-time and provide predictive health outcomes. This helps the animal get treated sooner. Often, health conditions don't develop further if they're nipped in the bud. Sometimes they can be averted altogether if signs are available in advance.”

- Sarah Brittain, Companion Animals NZ Vice Chair



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