

# NZ DOG WORLD

INCORPORATING "THE NEW ZEALAND KENNEL GAZETTE"

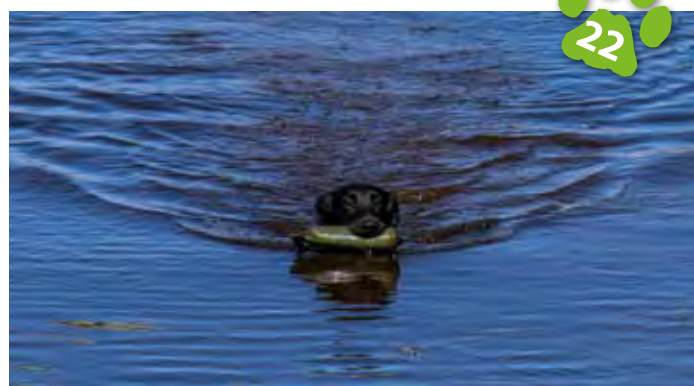
December 2024/January 2025



February & March  
Schedules



December 2024/January 2025



## Front Cover

Thanks to Mel Evans of Kirwee for sending in an appropriately-themed pic of her two dogs, Mia and Skylit Cooper. Both are involved with Obedience and Rally-O, and both are CGC Gold. The camera was wielded by Karla Flanagan [www.photographybykarla.co.nz](http://www.photographybykarla.co.nz)



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## NZ DOG WORLD

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## Dogs as tattoo subjects

The practice of tattooing goes back thousands of years with cultures including Polynesians, Nubians, Greeks, South Americans and Siberian nomads all using tattoos. In modern day New Zealand, tattoos are commonplace. Most resources I could locate state that an estimated 20% of Kiwis have at least one tattoo.

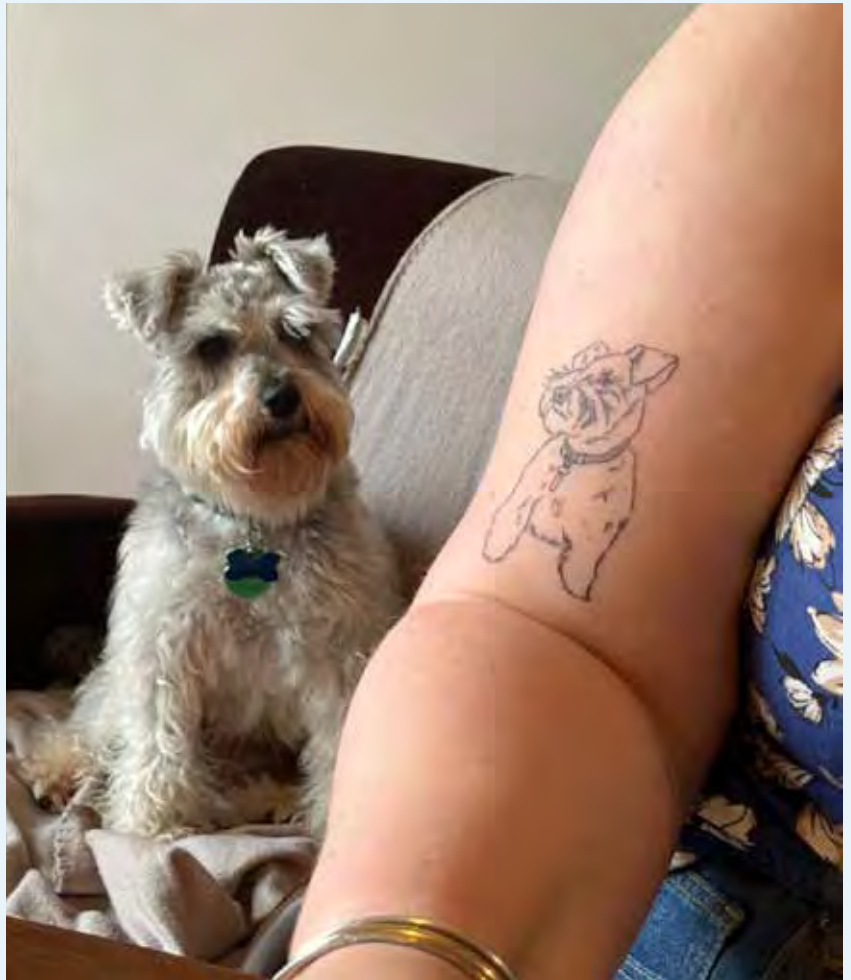
I have noticed that many of my clients sport a tattoo of at least one beloved dog. I sat down for a conversation with Christchurch-based tattoo artist Lisa Ovington to learn more about the professional practice of a tattoo artist.

"I completed an Applied Arts degree and then went on to do a tattoo apprenticeship at Steve Johnson's City of Ink. After three years working there, I became self-employed working out of my own studio," says Lisa.

In her six years of professional practice, Lisa has done at least one dog tattoo every month.

Styles of tattoos will vary according to the wishes of the client. "Some are just simple outlines, some are more complex portraits and some will represent the dog without being a portrait — for example, a daisy flower for a dog named Daisy."

Dog lovers of all genders and ages commission tattoos and most are commissioned after the death of a loved dog. This can make it challenging for Lisa if the client does not have a good photo of the dog.




"The best photos to work from are ones that show any special features that are unique to that pet, or ones that from a distance create a nice silhouette. Sometimes I get given a few photos which I then mash together to get the final design."

Lisa is also a dog lover who is mum to two Pugs.

"As a dog lover myself I absolutely love tattooing them for other people. I think pet tattoos warm your heart each time you see them, whether the dog is still with us or not. Dogs are such a big part of our families; it is so great to be reminded of them in a permanent way which is what a tattoo offers."

For budgeting purposes, a small custom piece starts at approximately \$200. As size and level of detail increases, so will the cost. It is best to talk to your tattoo artist in advance for a cost estimate.

For those of you who are not ready to commit to a tattoo, artists like Lisa also take on art commissions such as these plates for display. 





## From the President...

Firstly, my apologies for the lack of a report in November's *NZ Dog World*. Circumstances beyond our control meant it missed the deadline. So, I will begin with the November report and move on from there.

November was a month of considerable changes within the Dogs New Zealand head office in Porirua. The departure of Steven Thompson as Director/Secretary will lead to some significant changes to the roles of the office staff.

Steven has been Director/Secretary for six years now and in that time has made some noteworthy contributions to the success and the future of Dogs NZ. Steven's relationship with our major sponsor Purina Pro Plan has resulted in a sponsorship arrangement that has set Dogs NZ on a sound financial standing going forward. Steven was instrumental in bringing our other major sponsor PD Insurance into the Dogs NZ fold, ensuring a financial position that allowed the club to survive through the COVID-19 era without significant increases in subscriptions and fees to the members. I want on your behalf to thank Steven and extend our very best wishes for the future.

With Steven's departure it became necessary to find his successor. Executive Council, after a number of interviews, has decided to offer our Treasurer Victoria Nelson the position on a 12-month secondment. I'm sure the members will join with me in welcoming Victoria to the new role.

And of course, it would be remiss of me not to mention the retirement of Colleen Begg. Colleen has been more than a staff member of Dogs NZ: she has been involved in many roles, including Director/Secretary, over the years. But for many of us that have had the privilege of working alongside her she is much more. Colleen listened when things were not going well, she sympathised when we lost family or pets and listened to our confessions — Dogs NZ's own Mother Theresa. Colleen, words cannot do justice to our gratitude for all your efforts on

our behalf over the many years. Thank you from all of us.

By now you will have heard of the passing of former NZKC President Ray Greer. Ray was one of the most influential people in the New Zealand dog world. Held in high esteem by all who knew and worked alongside

him, Ray's contribution to our sport was immense. For me personally he was my mentor and confidant. I'm going to miss him enormously.

Moving on to other matters, American Kennel Club registrations are down significantly from the peaks they experienced during COVID-19. Individual dog registrations are down 14% from last year and litters are down 17%. In fact, 2024 litter registrations have now fallen below the levels they experienced in 2018. Beginning last year, many breeders reported having fewer puppy buyers on their waiting lists and generally finding less interest in their puppies or future litters. This perceived drop in demand made perfect sense following the extreme increases in demand for puppies during COVID-19. This mirrors our experience here in New Zealand. Since the average AKC and Dogs NZ breeder has only one or two litters every one or two years, if a high percentage of breeders have no litters in the next 12 months there will be a shortage of well-bred pedigree dogs. The good news is that some breeders with puppies on the way are beginning to find renewed interest from puppy buyers.

Let's make sure that it's well-bred pedigree dogs that fill the demand and not the backyard 'oodle' breeders. 🐾

Brian Harris  
President



*People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.*

## Club Notices

### Ruahine Kennel Association

The above club wishes to change its show dates. The proposed new dates will be 22-23 March 2025. Any objections must be in writing to the Director Secretary, [secretary@dogsnz.org.nz](mailto:secretary@dogsnz.org.nz), no later than 10 January 2025.



### The Plains Kennel Association

This club wishes to change its show date for 2025 only, due to the date of the 2025 National Dog Show. The proposed dates will be 21-22 September 2025. Any objections must be in writing to the Director Secretary, [secretary@dogsnz.org.nz](mailto:secretary@dogsnz.org.nz), by 10 January 2025.

## Dogs New Zealand

*wishes all its members a safe and happy holiday.*

**Friday 20 December 2024 will be our last day of business before Christmas and the office will re-open in the new year on Monday 6 January 2025.**





# Ringside Thoughts

## Pay it forward

As I am writing this, Christmas is looming fast, and the dog show season is in full swing. It is the time of the year when it seems to get crazy busy. Every year I feel that Christmas seems to come earlier, I think in part due to retailers trying to get the jump on the others. Some are advertising in early November! And then, before we know it, the New Year has arrived and no doubt many will have made New Year resolutions which, more often than not, last into the first week of January and then quickly become forgotten.

I think we can all agree the last few years have been tough. COVID-19 and its effects still linger, the effects of the economic downturn are still biting, and we have lost some good people in the dog world which has left a huge hole in knowledge, wisdom, leadership and friendship. For me personally, the loss of my mentor, Barbara Donnelly, hit me particularly hard. It is two years since she left us, but I still want to phone her after every judging assignment and every show. Barbara was the reason I started showing dogs and without her, I would never be where I am today in the dog world.

In the beginning, she was the one who used to ring me to tell me there was a Ribbon Parade being held and help me with everything to do with showing my dog from completing an entry to advising what lead to use. She was the one who taught me how to groom and inspired me to take the leap into the world of judging. She taught me more about dogs than I could have ever hoped to learn from books. Barbara's wealth of knowledge was gained from many years of showing, breeding and grooming and she generously shared it with me. I am sometimes asked what inspires me to help others with judges training and give so much of my time. My reason is simple, it is now my turn to help others on their journey and pay it forward.

Some of you may have seen the 2000 movie *Pay It Forward*. It was based on a book of the same name and essentially to 'pay it forward' is that when someone does something for you, instead of paying that person back directly, you pass it on to another person instead.

It has been proven that acts of kindness build exponentially in a community because people believe that one good deed deserves another. Paying it forward can make the community a better place. There is no doubt the dog world is a community — just see how everyone rallies and supports one of our own when life delivers them a curve ball.

Sometimes, when we have been showing or judging for many years, it is easy to forget that we were once new and inexperienced. And to be honest, the dog world is a different place from when I first started showing. But that doesn't mean that the spirit to help others no longer exists. Some are very good at it, but imagine if everyone gave something, no matter how small, to another exhibitor or a fellow judge. Imagine if the new exhibitor was phoned or messaged asking them if they wanted some help completing entries or reminding them of a show. Imagine if a fellow exhibitor gave some handling or grooming tips, or some show equipment with no expectation of it being returned. Imagine if every breeder mentored a young enthusiast, if every experienced exhibitor took a newbie under their wing, if every judge took some time to pass on their knowledge to our trainees. Every day, at every show, we all have an opportunity to do something for someone else. It may be just a few minutes of our time sharing your experience or knowledge or it may be supporting a fellow exhibitor with their showing or breeding. In the words of the late Diana, Princess of Wales "Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectations of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you".

They say Christmas is a time for giving, but actually the whole year is a time for giving. Why not make it your New Years Resolution to pay it forward?

Merry Christmas and happy showing. 🐾

**Lavina Diamanti**





## Around the regions

As part of our ongoing series focussing on Liaison Officers and Support Teams around the regions, this month we feature Hannah Li from Whanganui and Vicky Graham in Taupo. 🐾

### Hannah Li: Whanganui



Growing up, dogs were a constant presence in my life, filling my childhood with joy and companionship. As an adult I returned to dog ownership, initially embracing larger breeds like German Shepherd Dogs and Bull Terriers while I trained to become a qualified dog trainer and groomer in Auckland. However, finding a suitable rental

that allowed larger dogs proved challenging, so I transitioned to smaller breeds, including my beloved Chihuahuas.

In 2019 I discovered Canine Friends Pet Therapy through a Chihuahua Facebook group. My five-year-old daughter had just started school, giving me more time to engage with our dog Moremore. At nearly 11 years old, Moremore was a natural at pet therapy, effortlessly connecting with people. His keen sense of who needed a little extra love in a crowd made our visits incredibly rewarding and he truly fulfilled his purpose of bringing joy to others.

As Moremore approaches his 15th birthday in December, we have brought his energetic little sister Moonpie into the mix to assist with visits. At just four years old, she has grown up alongside my daughter and their daily reading time together make her an excellent reading buddy for children in our local libraries program.

Being part of Canine Friends has provided me with incredible opportunities to engage with the community. In 2021 I was honoured to be appointed Liaison Officer for Whanganui, which I consider to be the best 'job' I have ever had. This allows me to connect with a wider audience, sharing the love and joy that our dogs bring to others.

I also joined the committee and was Applications and Supplies Manager for 18 months. This vital role enabled me to support our organisation while working with an amazing team and to forge friendships with fellow members across the country.

As I continue my Canine Friends journey, I am excited to foster more connections in Whanganui. Together we can create a ripple effect of kindness and companionship, one paw at a time.

### Vicky Graham: Taupo



My involvement with Canine Friends began in Wellington soon after meeting our founder, Eileen Curry, in 1988 and buying a Golden Retriever puppy from her. I joined the committee and began visiting a rest home in Karori once my dog was old enough to be considered suitable. This all seemed a natural step for me, having visited my grandmother in a rest home during my teenage years.

In 1999 I made a huge career change from the insurance industry to pet boarding, buying a large facility in Tauranga. Unfortunately, this curtailed much of my Canine Friends activities but on the plus side, I was still able to visit my father in a rest home in Te Puke with my two Golden Retrievers. To this day, a very special few moments remain with me when I was asked to take my dogs into a room near Dad's to visit a woman with advanced Alzheimer's who was almost completely non-responsive. When I placed her hand on my dog's ear, she began stroking him and smiled. Her two daughters at her bedside became emotional and told me she hadn't smiled for almost five years.

A move to Taupo in 2008 meant more time for voluntary work so I established Canine Friends in the area and am very proud of the 18 dedicated members and their commitment to visiting the five rest homes, hospital and hospice. Border Collie Cohen is my sixth Canine Friend dog.

I was privileged to receive honorary membership in 2015 and have held the position of President for the last five years, and also Funding and Sponsorship Coordinator for six years.

I am very proud to have seen the amazing growth of our organisation from a small group of like-minded people in Wellington (mostly Golden Retriever owners!) to a nationwide recognised and respected charity with strong values and commitment to sharing their dogs to give joy and happiness to those in need.





# 4 Paws Marathon 2024

More than 650 participants and 430 dogs participated in the sixth annual 4 Paws Marathon, proudly sponsored by Black Hawk, in Bottle Lake Forest, Christchurch on 6 October 2024. This event continues to grow from strength to strength with this year seeing a record number of runners and walkers participating with their loyal companions. The event has multiple distances to cater for all levels of fitness. Children can participate in the 2.5km Rascal's Run while adults can choose from 5km, 10km, 16km, 21km, 32km, and even 42 kilometres, for those wishing to have the accolade of completing an official marathon with their dog. The courses are all off road and consist of a mixture of pine forest trails, dirt/gravel tracks, sand trails, and even running along the beach for those participating in the 21km, 32km, and 42km distances. All dogs receive a finisher's medal, doggy ice cream, and there is even a dedicated 'couples massage' where owners and their dogs can have a post-race massage side by side. Every participant also receives an amazing goodie bag full of great items including Black Hawk food, Yours Droolly treats and other great Black Hawk merchandise.

"This year we had beautiful weather and the event was really successful," says event co-organiser, Dr John Molloy, who is a local sport and exercise physician. The event is all about promoting 'exercise is medicine' while celebrating and saluting our loyal

exercise companion who helps keep us physically active — the humble dog. "We're becoming increasingly sedentary in our modern-day lives and people who have dogs have been shown to be more physically active than people without dogs (or cat owners, for instance)," John quips. In its sixth year now, the event is building a reputation as a unique, well-organised event with a fun and relaxed atmosphere. "It has to be one of the best start line experiences anybody can experience," say co-organiser, Courtney Molloy. "Not only do you have nervous human energy, but the dogs too can sense something is building and there's lots of playful barking. When the race begins, all that excited energy is released and you can't help but smile as all the dogs rush ahead while some of their owners struggle to keep up!" Courtney exclaims.

Though the event organisers use the word 'race', both emphasise that it's not a race in the truest sense. "Yes, we are a timed event and there will always be people who want to get a good time or do better than last year," says John. "We have a ton of spot prizes from our sponsors but we have no prizes for winning. We want to encourage participation over winning. We'll continue to review this in the future but ultimately, we want to be a safe event for humans and dogs. Look what prize money has done to the horse (and even human race) industry. We love our dogs. We want them to be safe. If you want to go win a race or place in your age category, then there are hundreds of races out there for you. However, if you want to run with your dog, there's nothing out there that compares to the 4 Paws Marathon!" John concludes. And he's absolutely right. The start/finish area is packed with humans and their dogs chilling out. Dogs are being hugged. Dogs are eating ice cream while wearing their human and dog medals around their necks. Meanwhile, a Border Collie named Winston is getting a well-deserved massage from a dog masseur (thank you *NZ Dog World* Canine Corner columnist Kathleen from *The Balanced Dog*) while a Labrador, Dachshund, and Spoodle wait patiently in line.

The 4 Paws Marathon is held on the first Sunday of October each year and we encourage anyone keen to just give it a go. Honestly, you and your dog will have the best fun and bonding time together. Next year it will be held on Sunday 5 October. For more information see [4pawsmarathon.co.nz](https://4pawsmarathon.co.nz) 🐾

*John Molloy & Nicole Harrison*





# Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club

## CGC assessment 13 October 2024

We had a slightly lop-sided assessment this year at TBCOC, with only one Foundation dog (we usually have around 15-20) then four Bronze dogs, six Silver and seven Gold dogs. In addition, our assessment was the first to include cafe exercises for both Silver and Gold, which only came into play on 1 July this year.

So, the organisation of our assessment had to be done with a different structure in mind, to make sure we got the logistics right for the club and assessors as well as creating a good experience for the handlers and their dogs.

To share the workload more evenly, Irma and Stephen Harris took on the Foundation/Bronze (Irma) and Silver (Stephen) assessments and then Patricia Sauermann-Wehde took the Gold after lunch. It worked out quite well: we started at 9:30am and finished at 3:00pm, just as we had planned.

The cafe exercises add at least an hour and half to the total assessment time, but they are quite fun and illustrate what a good Canine Citizen is, so is a very useful exercise. We are lucky at TBCOC in that we have two very dog-friendly eateries with large outdoor areas and they're happy for us to use these. On this day, we went to The Supply Room, who cheerfully served up yummy slices to assessed handlers, and were really impressed with their dogs.

As for the results, Jan Voss with Ngaio nailed their Foundation assessment easily — well done Jan. She's worked with this dog for

well over a year to get it to this point!

In Bronze, Claire Walker (Fizz) and Sarah Searancke (Merlo) from TBCOC both passed Bronze as did the other two handlers, from CADTS, who both passed Foundation the previous weekend.

In the Silver group we had three handlers from TBCOC, Ian Smith (Ellie), Steven Thompson (Stella), and Irene Kilford (Macy) but only Irene passed. Two other handlers, from Whanganui and Wairarapa, also passed and they all continued to the Gold assessment.

It is very difficult to do the Gold assessment immediately after doing Silver, as both handler and dog usually are more tired than they think they are. This showed again today, as Irene was the only handler from the Silver group who also passed Gold. The other successful Gold handler was Karen Carlie, with Brie, from ODTG.

We had a large group of very helpful volunteers, and volunteer dogs. They included instructors and handlers from our club, with various family members, as well as people accompanying handlers from other clubs. All of them were essential to the day being so successful! They clapped and cheered, rode scooters and waved umbrellas, and happily spent quite a lot of time at cafe tables conversing with nervous handlers. Lianne ran the kitchen with the usual efficiency, Ian marked all the exam papers, and Craig assisted assessors with aplomb. 🐾

*Kat Thorstrand Mitchell*



# Handling Tips

## Success for you & your dog in the show ring



Here are some of the best basic handling tips to help you and your dog succeed in the show ring. First and foremost — and I cannot stress this enough — make sure you have read and understand your breed standard! Know what it means, what your dog's form and function are, and what your dog's strengths are.

### 1. Develop a Strong Bond with Your Dog

- Building trust and rapport with your dog is the foundation of successful handling. A dog that feels comfortable and connected with its handler will be more confident in the ring.
- Spend time bonding outside the show environment with positive reinforcement, play, and regular training sessions. It is so important to have fun with your dog and make show training a fun and rewarding experience for you both. There is nothing more eye-catching than a dog and handler working as one.

### 2. Practice Proper Gaiting

- The way your dog moves — its gait — is crucial in the ring. Practice moving your dog at the correct pace to show off its natural movement. I always suggest people understand what the standard says about how their dog should move, and that is how you should move. For example, an Afghan runs with a style of high order with a light smooth gait, so as the handler you wouldn't run flat-footed like you have a book on your head. You too should run in a light-footed gait.
- Ensure you can guide your dog in a straight line and at the correct speed that best highlights its conformation. Keep a relaxed, steady pace to avoid rushing.
- Do not practice in circles; do all your movement patterns as triangles or out and backs to stop your dog anticipating and cutting corners.

### 3. Stack Your Dog Perfectly

- Stacking — positioning your dog in a way that shows off its conformation — is essential for catching the judge's attention. Hence why it is important to understand how your dog fares against the breed standard.
- Practice hand-stacking or free-stacking (depending on your breed), ensuring your dog stays balanced and symmetrical with its weight distributed properly.

### 4. Use Positive Reinforcement

- Reward your dog for performing well with treats, praise, or toys during practice sessions. Keeping things positive builds enthusiasm and helps your dog associate the show ring with fun. Never hand feed it — make getting the bait a fun game as much as the training itself.
- Avoid getting frustrated. Keep sessions short and engaging to maintain your dog's focus.

### 5. Keep Your Dog Calm in the Ring

- Calmness is key to presenting your dog in its best light. Help your dog get comfortable with the sights, sounds, and distractions of a show ring by socialising it in busy environments and not doing your show training at home — always off your property.
- Stay calm yourself. Your dog can pick up on your energy, so maintaining your composure will help your dog remain focussed.

### 6. Pay Attention to the Judge

- Be mindful of where the judge is at all times and position yourself so they can always get a clear view of your dog. I always tell people they have three eyes when showing: one on the dog, one on the judge, and one where you are going — at all times!
- Keep your dog between you and the judge during stacking and gaiting, ensuring they can see your dog's best angles.

### 7. Present with Confidence

- Confidence in the ring reflects on your dog. Even if you're nervous, try to stay relaxed and smile. A positive attitude goes a long way and can help your dog perform better. Everything you feel does go down the lead.
- Handle with smooth, subtle movements to avoid startling or distracting your dog. Talk to it all the time.

### 8. Know Your Breed Standard

- As already eluded to, ensure you familiarise yourself with your breed's standard and what judges look for in your dog's conformation and behaviour. This knowledge will help you tailor your handling to emphasise your dog's strengths. Do not waste time fussing with and trying to hide the faults. Accentuate the positive.

### 9. Have a Backup Plan for Distractions

- Prepare for the unexpected, such as other dogs barking or sudden noises. Have a way to regain your dog's focus, whether it's a favourite treat, a familiar word, or a calming gesture.

### 10. Condition Your Dog to Be Touched

- Judges will examine your dog physically, checking its bite, coat, and structure. Practice gentle touching and examination at home so your dog gets used to being handled by strangers without fuss.

By combining these tips with regular practice, you'll help your dog stay confident and composed in the ring while showcasing its best qualities to the judge. 🐾

Nicole Harrison

Devine & Rosdhu Boston Terriers



# A New Handler's Experience

## of the North Island Championship Gundog Trials 2024



Photo by Lauren Boone

The weekend of 19-21 October 2024 offered perfect spring weather and beautiful grounds at the Pukemarama farm in Tangimoana, Manawatu. In other words, the ideal setting for a brand new gundog handler like myself. And thanks to the hosting club, The Working Retriever Club, the North Island Championships were a resounding success, with challenging courses, great judging, clever dogs and enthusiastic, skilled handlers.

Ever since I picked up my new Flatcoated Retriever puppy (Annaglyn Magnificent Merlin) in late January, I had my ambitions set on Gundog Trials, so this was a chance to see and experience for ourselves whether this was indeed something for us.

I haven't done gundog training since the 1980s, so had to pretty much pick up from scratch, as most dog training, including gundog training, has changed much since then.

The Horowhenua Gundog Club have been extremely welcoming and supportive, and when I brought my barely four-month-old puppy to one of their training days, his first such experience, they were very encouraging.

Diligently studying my go-to handbook '*Retrieving For All Occasions*' over the next six months, through trial and error, my Merlin began to get the idea that there was more to retrieving than simply fetching the dummy. This he showed an early aptitude for, which makes training him a real pleasure.

Still, practising at home, in the garden and out about the river (Waikanae) is very different from trialling, so I was a bit hesitant to

enter him into real trials. However, when I learnt that Puppy class only has one retrieve over land and one over water, I decided to give it a go. If nothing else, we would learn an awful lot from just being there and participating!

To give us the best chance of getting things right, I took Merlin with me on the Saturday to see for myself what is involved in Gundog Trials, and how the dogs are handled and worked on the day. On arrival I was warmly welcomed, and Warren (my club's President) showed me where I could stand with Merlin to watch the water retrieves. It was close enough that Merlin could hear the shots and the fake duck squawking and see where the birds dropped and the dogs going into the water. He was mesmerised and very chilled! This was good, I thought to myself, and at the same time I realised we had not practised 'steadiness' (to shot and to 'interesting things dropping from the sky') nearly enough...

On coming home that afternoon I enlisted my husband's help with steadiness practice in the garden, very focussed we were, with some promising results. I felt a little more hopeful for the following day.

On the Sunday husband Wayne, myself, Merlin and our other dog, Pointer Opal, all drove to Tangimoana and settled in for the day. I was enlisted to 'pencil' for the judge of the Retriever class trials straight away so had no time to feel nervous about anything. Plus it was a great opportunity to observe champion-level dogs and handlers in action! I was blown away by the skills showed — both handler and dogs — the levels of obedience, agility and stamina of the dogs. Amazing!

When that class finished I was told that we would do Puppy as soon as the Novice dogs had finished. Having not spent any time with my own puppy since arriving I was pleased to see him happy and enthusiastic when Wayne handed him over, keen to 'do stuff'.

It was nerve-racking walking up to the first post, taking the leash off him and then walking him on to the next post, from which he was to run. To my surprise, he was very attentive, and quite calm about the whole thing. Then, the duck squawked, BANG, went the pipe-gun, Merlin was poised but remained quite steady, and then on 'Go', off he went. He didn't pinpoint the landing of the dummy so well, he stopped and looked back at me, I raised a hand and waved, asking him to 'Find it'. A few seconds later he did, and came straight back at speed, dropping the dummy in my hand. What a star puppy!

I heard some of the judge's scoring of our efforts and later learned we scored 89/100, not bad for a first outing.

After lunch we moved to another part of the farm, where there were big ponds, for the water retrieves. Again, I was doing 'pencil' for the Retriever class judge, and again I had the opportunity to watch gundog champions in action, picking up four birds each over a very challenging water course.

When all the top dogs and Novice dogs had done their runs, it was time to finish the day with Puppies. Merlin and I had been sitting on a nearby hill together with the Novice dogs, watching their proceedings with interest. Seeing the Novice dogs in the water, picking up two dummies each I realised that this we could do. As we only had to pick up one, I felt quite confident when it was our turn.

And Merlin did not disappoint! Walking steadily with me to the post, he once again heard the BANG, observing the dummy falling from quite a height with a big splash in to the water some 40 meters away. On 'Go' he was off like a rocket, threw himself into the pond, swam



# 2024

# NATIONAL DOG TRAINING ASSEMBLY

CHRISTCHURCH | 23-28 OCTOBER | RDA, CANTERBURY AGRICULTURAL PARK

# 2024 NDTA Results



## ***'It's a Kind of magic. A Southern kind of magic...'***

*For this year's National Dog Training Assembly, we decided to ramp up the fun side by having the Harry Potter theme with Dogwartz School of Magic running through the whole weekend. And what a great weekend it was. There was top competition, a great social event and the meeting of friends, old and new. Champion of Champions and Best Dressed Competitor were also featured in the weekend.*

*A huge thank you to our sponsors Purina Pro Plan for the very generous product, and to PD Insurance for providing the registration bags. Southern clubs were amazing with their sponsorship of the beautiful sashes and all the raffles. Thanks also goes to our organising committee, judges, stewards, our MC Stephen Harris, the many other helpers, and Martin Hewitt from Dogs New Zealand for his support. 🐾*

*Bernadette Thompson*



**Champion of Champions** Judge: Rob Claman

Krystene Luyten & Ob GR CH Cascabel's Zephyr Mark Three CDXG





# 2024 NEW ZEALAND DOG AGILITY CHAMPS

UPPER HUTT | 25 — 28 OCTOBER | TRENTHAM MEMORIAL PARK

## NZDAC 2024

With NZDAC 2024 a wrap it is a great opportunity to reflect on a memorable event. One question that comes to mind is “Why did the members of NZDAC 2024 organising committee put their hand up in the first place?”

We had a focus on achieving a number of key goals to ensure the event was unforgettable — and it was for all the wrong reasons!

We wanted to:

- Deliver a world-class competitive event by inviting highly respected judges, delivering innovative and exciting courses.
- Create a strong sense of community by fostering a spirit of camaraderie and inclusion among competitors, volunteers and sponsors.
- Support dog welfare by prioritising the health and well-being of the dogs throughout the event.
- Encourage youth involvement in dog Agility, helping to build the next generation of competitors.
- Ensure that the event runs smoothly from start to finish.
- Make sure that NZDAC remained the pinnacle event in the Agility calendar.
- Ensure that the event was welcoming and inclusive of all competitors, regardless of age, background, or ability.
- Provide a venue second to none.

In many ways we delivered most of our goals, but not always in the way we intended.

‘No plan survives contact with the enemy’ is a classic quote from Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, and it perfectly sums up the challenges the event organisers faced when unforeseen obstacles —

such as heavy, constant rain and high winds. While it’s frustrating to have to adapt to the weather, the key was being flexible and prepared.

When faced with unexpected challenges our committee made smart, dynamic decisions in the moment. This was the absolute key to keeping things moving forward and ensuring the success of the event. What a team we had. The organising committee was able to adapt quickly and efficiently, prioritising the most important aspects of the event without losing momentum.

We had a large number of people and dogs on site, with 385 competitors and 677 dogs entered.

We had a wonderful MC, Jude Taylor, keeping people informed throughout, and a fantastic range of stall holders and food vendors to meet people’s retail and food needs.

Our judges were fabulous — standing out in the weather and mud, judging competitors for hours at a time, all with smiles on their faces. And our Zone 3 clubs worked incredibly hard in tough conditions, showing their flexibility when classes needed to be moved.

And the venue? Would have been exceptional in better weather with amazing off lead walks accessible directly from the grounds.

So why did we volunteer? Ultimately, the intrinsic rewards of volunteering, such as fulfilment, connection, and the joy of contributing to something meaningful, outweighed the negative aspects.

As we hand over to the Zone 5 organising committee, we wish them the best for the coming year, and look forward to NZDAC in Cromwell in 2025. 🐾

*Wayne Turner*

*Zone 3 2024 Chair*



### Agility Champion of Champions:

Toni Joll & Onyz

Runner up: Roselle Bremmers & Teaz



### Jumpers Champion of Champions:

Caitlin Frater & Enzyme

Runner up: Lisa Duff & App

# Junior Dog Training

Email: juniordogtrainingnz@gmail.com



## JDT at NZDAC 2024

It was a wet 'n' wild NZDAC to say the least!

With tons of competition, JDT showed lots of talent once again. Jess Wilkinson took home Advanced Junior Handler of the Year with Stephanie Butler as runner-up, and Isabella Humphries secured the Novice Handler of the Year award, with Kade Cuff as runner-up. Kade Cuff also earned the title of Top JDT Dog and was also the top 500 dog overall against all competitors. A big congratulations to our top junior handlers!

There was not only success in the Agility ring but also in Fly-Agility. Jayden Duff and Sprollie Murphy, part of The Rangeview Posse, achieved second place at the nationals, which was an amazing achievement.

We were ecstatic to have Jess Tansey, a former JDT member herself, as the JDT judge this year. Here's a few words from her:

"The JDT handlers this year were absolutely amazing, even before they got in the ring for the Handler of the Year finals. The weather was, less than ideal, let us say — in other words, it was bucketing down with rain! But all of them were still out there setting up the courses, picking up rails, helping out, all the way down to members

who were not even running. It was a real shame about the weather, as I felt the courses could not be run to their full potential.

"Nonetheless, there were still some amazing runs! The Novice class was full of amazing new teams coming up the ranks. There were many junior handlers who cleaned up at NZDAC in the main classes as well, against all handlers. The skills shown in the Advanced class were crazy! I really threw everything at them and they took it like champs.

"Congratulations to every single team who qualified to be there this year. I'm sorry that we couldn't showcase your amazing runs to the rest of the show due to the weather, but just know the people who saw the runs were amazed!

"I'm looking forward to watching and cheering from the sidelines next year, and one day maybe throwing down some more HOY courses. The sport has some amazing up-and-coming handlers. See you all at Camp 2025!" 🐾

Thanks to Brya Ingram for the stunning photos.

*Gala Emmerton*



# Keeping Your Dogs Safe

## In adverse weather conditions at dog events

New Zealand's weather is notoriously fickle and as many of our conformation shows and events take place outdoors, our dogs may be exposed to unpredictable and sometimes extreme weather conditions. Keeping your dog comfortable, healthy, and safe in adverse weather, such as extreme heat, cold, wind, and rain, requires thoughtful preparation and vigilance. While experienced handlers will be well prepared for most eventualities, here's an end of year reminder on how to protect your dog from adverse weather conditions at dog shows.

### Protection from Hot Weather

Hot weather is one of the most challenging conditions for dogs at outdoor events, particularly because they lack the ability to cool down effectively. Dogs primarily regulate their body temperature through panting. If the temperature is too high, panting alone may not be enough to prevent heat stress or even heatstroke. Hot ground surfaces (pavements, stones, pathways) are also high risk for dogs. Not only due to the actual effect of heat on their pads, but also radiant heat from these surfaces. It is important to remember that although not a major mechanism, the sweat glands in their paws do provide some cooling.

#### a. Provide Shade and Ventilation

If the dog show is outdoors, ensure you have a shaded area for your dog to rest in. Gazebos are useful for creating shaded spaces but position yours to allow maximum airflow, avoiding enclosed spaces that may trap heat. If possible, set up near trees or structures that offer natural shade. Use mesh sidewalls to allow airflow while keeping your dog cool.

#### b. Use Cooling Mats and Fans

Cooling mats are designed to help regulate your dog's body temperature, providing a comfortable surface for them to lie on.

Portable battery-operated fans or misting fans can further aid in cooling, especially if the heat is intense. Some fans are designed to clip onto crates, providing directed airflow, which can make a significant difference in keeping your dog cool.

#### c. Provide Fresh Water

Ensure a constant supply of fresh, cool water. Dogs can easily become dehydrated in hot weather, especially when they are excited and active at a dog show. Portable water bowls and collapsible water bottles are convenient options. Consider adding ice cubes to the water if possible, as this can keep the water cooler for longer.

#### d. Schedule Breaks

Give your dog regular breaks and don't force them to stay in the heat longer than necessary. If the event allows, take short walks to cooler, shaded areas to allow your dog to cool down. Avoid intensive activities during the hottest parts of the day, and watch for signs of overheating, such as excessive panting, drooling, and lethargy.

#### e. Watch for Signs of Heatstroke

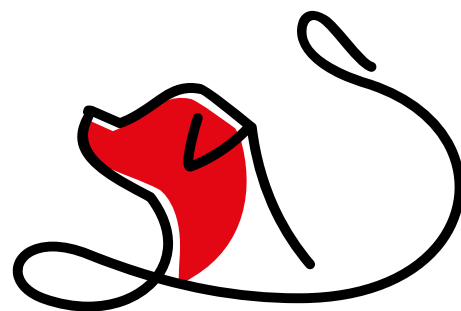
Heatstroke can be life-threatening and requires immediate action. Warning signs include excessive panting, drooling, red or pale gums, confusion, weakness, vomiting, and collapse. If your dog shows these symptoms, move them to a cool area immediately, offer water, and use cool (not cold) water on their body to lower their temperature. Contact a veterinarian right away if symptoms persist.

#### f. Crate and crate set-up

Consider the crate you are using. Many soft-crates offer little in the way of ventilation and are not compatible with fans. Covered crates again may limit airflow and allow heat to build.



# TAKE THE LEAD



## Adopt Take the Lead for your club and sport

Pioneered by Agility Committee the Take the Lead programme is now available to be adopted by ALL Dogs NZ Clubs including those who participate in breed/conformation and dog training sports.

Take the Lead is a campaign to drive a conscious change of behaviour in dog sports by creating a safe and supportive culture for both dogs and their owners.

Encourage your club to adopt the six core values that will ensure the future of Dog Sport is positive and kind.

### Find out more about #taketheleaddogsnz

Visit the website [www.taketheleaddogsnz.org.nz](http://www.taketheleaddogsnz.org.nz)

### How can I access Take the Lead material for my club?

The Dogs NZ Tool Kit site has all six core value posters available for download and use as well as a summary core values poster.

Download Take the Lead material for your club by using your club login and password to access the club page on the Dogs NZ website.

**Step 1:** Use your club login and password to access the club page and click on the Club Show Tool Kit in the sidebar.

**Step 2:** Click on the POS Maker link to access the Dogs NZ Tool Kit site.

**Step 3:** Download the posters from the Take the Lead page found on the 4th tab.







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