

NZ DOG WORLD

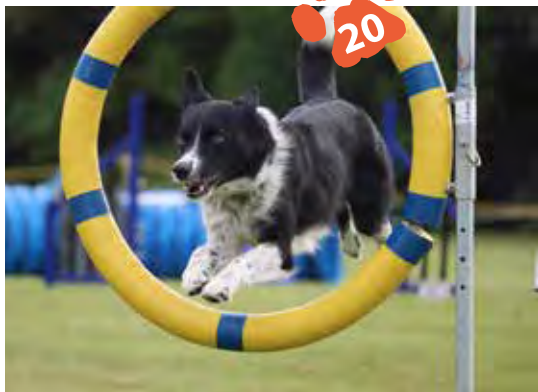
INCORPORATING "THE NEW ZEALAND KENNEL GAZETTE"

March 2025



May
Schedules

March 2025



Front Cover

This gorgeous shot of English Springer Spaniel puppy Nina (Hazelmoor Beam Me Up) was provided by Janelle Barraclough. Nina comes from Janelle's Hazelmoor Kennels' first ESS litter (of four) from early last year and is her keeper! "We hope for a very promising future in the show ring, Rally-O, breeding and anything else she shows aptitude & joy for!" 🐾



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CANINE CORNER

By Kathleen Crisley CCFT, CSMT, CTMT, SCMT
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Choose a dog for mayor!



Rabbit Hash, KY, Mayor Boone, Blue Tick Coonhound.

In October, the polls will be open across New Zealand for local body elections. Local body politics are not for everyone, as evidenced by low voter turnouts when compared to national elections.

Perhaps one way of reversing this trend would be to follow the example of various localities in the United States where dogs take centre stage as candidates for mayor...

Canine elections may be used for fundraising purposes, for teaching local children about politics, to raise the tourism profile of a town, or to simply have some fun and gain publicity for the businesses and residents of the area.

In the small unincorporated Kentucky town of Rabbit Hash, they have been electing a dog mayor since 1998. The election is used as a fund-raiser to help maintain the town's historic buildings which include a general store built in 1831. A vote can be recorded after donating. In 2024, Boone the Blue Tick Coonhound was declared the winner for a four-year term. (The previous mayor, French Bulldog Wilber, decided not to seek re-election.)

Another town with a long history of a canine mayor is Idyllwild, California, which has been electing a dog mayor since 2012. Idyllwild, another unincorporated town, is home to the Idyllwild Animal Rescue Friends, a not-for-profit rescue group. The Friends sponsored the town's first election for fundraising purposes. Any local resident was permitted to nominate their pet for the election; 14 dogs and two cats were nominated and ran for office the first

year. With a vote costing \$1 each, \$31,000 was generated to benefit the rescue.

Idyllwild's current mayor is Mayor Max III, a Golden Retriever (you guessed it: Mayor Max I and Mayor Max II were also Golden Retrievers).

In Cormorant, Minnesota, a town with a population that doesn't quite reach the 1,400 mark, residents elected Khaleesi the Great Pyrenees (Pyrenean Mountain Dog) by a landslide in August 2024. She received 76.5% of the vote, having run a strong campaign against Teddy, a Basset Hound, Ollie, a Golden Retriever and a human named Ken.

If you think that dog mayors are only for small towns, think again. New York City is currently being served by its second dog mayor, Simon, a Basset Cattle Dog cross. Why have a dog mayor in a major US city?

"The Honorary New York City Dog Mayor Election was founded to create something fun and joyful for people at a time in which many are struggling; to provide a unique opportunity for NYC community development; and to present politics and civics in a positive, educational, and compelling way (for once.)" (www.dogmayornyc.com) 🐾



New York City dog mayor, Simon, a Basset Hound/Cattle Dog cross.

(If a town is 'unincorporated' in the USA, it means it does not have a local government. Unincorporated communities exist 'by tradition.' These communities do not have elected officials and, since they are not officially municipal areas, they often are bound by the laws of the city or county in which they are situated.)



From the President...

As much as I try to stay positive in these articles, it seems that in recent times there has been a spate of complaints about the behaviour of exhibitors at Dogs New Zealand shows. In many instances, it has been our senior, very experienced exhibitors that have been at fault

These are the people who should be setting the standard for the rest of us. But in fact, the standard being set is just the opposite of that required. Please, if you have a grudge, take it home. (Also, have a look at Lavina Diamanti's latest *Ringside Thoughts* page, discussing ringside etiquette, on page 8.)

For those who wish to make a complaint, there is a process that needs to be followed. Firstly, take your complaint to the show committee. If you don't receive a satisfactory resolution then put your complaint in writing and send it to the Dogs NZ Director/Secretary (secretary@dogsnz.org.nz). A complaint needs to be in writing; a phone call will not suffice.

With the increasing number of international judges coming to New Zealand, this is not a good look and sends them home with a very negative view of the our dog world. Help us bring the good times back to showing. After all, we are not competing for sheep stations.

For fear of repeating myself, elections for Executive Council are taking place as you read this. Two positions from each of the two islands are required and also the position of President is to be filled. Take time to think about the candidates offering themselves for EC. This is an important year in the history of our club and it will require dedicated hard-working individuals who put the club ahead of their own agendas.

By the time you read this Crufts 2025, the worlds most famous dog show, will be taking place. Many of our members will be travelling over for the event and to support Georgia Calman in the International Junior Handlers competition. To you all, have a wonderful time and we look forward to hearing of great things from Georgia. 🐾

Brian Harris
President

Strong communities are born out of individuals being their best selves.

139th Annual Conference of Delegates

New Zealand Kennel Club (Inc) trading as Dogs New Zealand

Notice is hereby given that the 2025 Annual Conference of Delegates of Dogs New Zealand is to be held as follows:

Date: Saturday 28 June 2025

Venue: Level 4, Members Lounge,
Sky Stadium, 105 Waterloo Quay,
Wellington

Time: 10:00am

Further information and dates:

31 January 2025 Closing date for nominations for delegates to represent Associated All Breed, Specialist Breed, Multi-breed and Group clubs.

7 February 2025 Voting documents sent to eligible clubs for Executive Council roles (if required).

14 May 2025 Voting forms sent to Associated All Breed, Specialist Breed, Multi Breed and Group clubs, if required.

31 March 2005 Closing date for voting to represent Associated All Breed, Specialist Breed, Multi Breed and Group club delegates.

11 April 2025 Closing date for remits, recommendations and discussion papers and nominations for four Executive Council roles (2 North Island, 2 South Island) and President

14 April 2025 Voting documents sent to eligible clubs for

Executive Council votes (if required) and President (if required)

16 May 2025 Voting Closes for Executive Council roles (if required) and President (if required)

27 May 2025 Yearbook and 2024 ACOD minutes posted to clubs (to include remits, recommendations and discussion papers)

Relevant clubs (to include Agility and Dog Training clubs) are encouraged to schedule meetings in a timely fashion to discussion voting for Executive Council roles (if required), President (if required), and the remits, recommendations and discussion papers as lodged and set out in the yearbook (post May 2025). 🐾

Victoria Nelson
Director Secretary



Ringside Thoughts

Dog Show Etiquette

Some of us who have been showing for a good few years will think that most of this is just common sense, but I was reminded recently that what I believe to be common sense may be very different to someone else's opinion. It could be an age thing — I'm a '60s girl! — or it could just be that we each have our own journey in life and because of that, we see things differently. Plus, some of our exhibitors are still relatively new and may receive conflicting advice or no advice, on what is considered etiquette.

So, based on my observations and experiences here is my list:

- Show officials and helpers are like gold. They have given their time and energy to put on an event for you. Never abuse them or treat them badly. Without them, there is no dog show.
- Similarly, show officials should treat exhibitors in a kind and friendly manner because the same principle applies: without them, there is no dog show.
- Sometimes people make mistakes, not one of us is perfect. You don't need to broadcast it to the world via social media. That is just poor form.
- Always thank the judge and accept their decision graciously. You may not like their decision, but it is their opinion that you have paid for, not the opinion of your fellow exhibitors or anyone else. You can have your own opinion, or that of your friends, any time, for free.
- Shake the judge's hand if offered, accept any ribbon or prize with grace and if you weren't in the ribbons today, congratulate the winners. Today is their day, let them enjoy the moment.
- Be at ringside when required and stay ringside within earshot of the steward. It is your responsibility to be present when required, it is not the responsibility of the steward to come and find you. If you are placed first or second in your class, you may be required for further breed judging and should wait close to the ring until all the breed judging has been completed.
- If you are showing multiple dogs, have someone standing by to assist with getting your next dog ready for you to take into the ring.

- Know your own dog's temperament and be mindful of other dogs close by, especially in ring assembly areas. It can get crowded, especially if the weather is inclement, and we need to remember that not all dogs like to be friends with everyone else's dog. A large dog lunging, even playfully, at another dog, especially a puppy, can create havoc and destroy a potential show career. Show regulations (20.6.1.1) require all dogs in the assembly area and in the ring to be under the firm control of the handler. There are serious consequences for a dog's aggressive behaviour at a show. If your dog is boisterous or doesn't take kindly to other dogs getting close, then take a wide berth around other dogs. When waiting to go into the ring, let the steward know and wait a respectful distance from the entrance.
- Allow some space between you and the competitor in front of you when either running around the ring or stacking your dog. Crowding another exhibitor is bad manners.
- Similarly, never block another exhibitor from the judge or 'grandstand' — ie, place your dog well out in front of the line of other dogs.
- We all love dogs, that is something we all have in common, but well-behaved dogs are loved even more. Some dogs don't like others approaching their crate or trolley and become defensive. Keep those dogs well away from others.
- If your bitch is in full season, leave her at home. If you can't leave her at home, keep her well away from the ring and don't show her. There is always another show, and it is unreasonable to expect all the entire males to be on their best behaviour when you are parading your girl who is flaunting her desire to be a mummy. Unlike Agility and Obedience competitions, it's not against the regulations, but it's not sporting.
- Boys will be boys and entire boy dogs just love to leave their mark on everything, but please don't let them pee on other people's belongings! It is unprofessional and totally unacceptable. And just because they started to pee on something they shouldn't have, doesn't mean you should let them finish!!
- This one should go without saying — but clearly some exhibitors need reminding — clean up after your dog has toileted. Wherever you are, at the show, at the beach, at the dog park, and especially at the motel or motor camp.
- Staying in motels or camping grounds with our dogs is a privilege. To keep that privilege and to ensure the proprietors want our custom next time, we all need to follow some simple rules. If your dogs are going to bark all night, make sure your vehicle is positioned well away from other guests and their dogs, or better still, get some training to ensure they are happy tucked away in their accommodation at night. Never have the dogs in the motel unit without the proprietor's permission and, most importantly, never leave your doggy doos for the proprietor to pick up. These are the three main reasons why moteliere decide to not allow guests travelling with dogs.
- And finally: treat other exhibitors with respect, and have fun.

Happy showing. 🐾



Paula Pollard Photography

Our Dogs & Members

Visiting hospitals part 2

We have visited hospitals for many years but of particular note is the recent growth in the number of members sharing their dogs in many areas of general hospitals, from children's wards, specialised clinics and units, intensive care and rehabilitation wards, to name a few.

We fully appreciate the level of responsibility that comes with visiting these facilities and have specific guidelines and policies covering the requirements of the hospital and to ensure the safety of all concerned.

As you can imagine, these placements are coveted and many members have been well known to hospital staff for several years. What is always highlighted is the pleasure staff receive from our dogs who provide a kind distraction in a busy and often stressful environment.

We hope you enjoy reading this selection of experiences. 🐾

Carol Millican & Jess, Christchurch



Jess, my Border Collie, and I are proud to be members of Canine Friends Pet Therapy and visit the Brain Injury Unit in Burwood Hospital. Jess loves the attention she receives from the patients and visitors, and the staff really appreciate our visits.

The Activities Coordinator Nic (in the photo with Jess and Quattro, visiting for the first time) always shows us around the ward and together we have shared many special moments. Many patients feel vulnerable and Jess' smile makes their day a little brighter. Many patients are missing their own dogs so having a dog in the ward adds a homely element and we know Jess' company contributes to their recovery by making a stressful time a little easier.

Sarah Sharratt & Koto, Christchurch



Koto is my three-year-old Long Haired Weimaraner who was born with a very deformed foot. I have another Canine Friend, an Australian Koolie called Frosty, and thought Koto would also make a good Canine Friend.

We visit the local primary school, the children's ward in Christchurch Hospital and Children's Oncology each month. He shows the children that it's fine to have something wrong with you, and that you can still enjoy life. He brings so much joy to everyone he meets that we feel like royalty! He helps to calm children down while they are having treatment; quite recently a young lad was having an IV line removed and became distressed so Koto climbed onto his bed (with permission) and lay against his body to comfort him, no more tears were shed.

Another very young girl had been extremely ill and for the first time in two weeks Koto helped her smile and laugh at his nose touches.



PREMIER

Show Dog of the Year

Due to a clash of dates, the Royal Canin 2024 NZ Premier Show Dog of the Year had to be pushed into the beginning of 2025, with 25 January (Auckland Anniversary Day long weekend) luckily being available.

Once again, we were able to secure three top Australian All Breeds judges to officiate: Pamela Brown from Queensland, Marie Pattern and Glen Vernon from New South Wales. They were ably assisted by our skilled stewards, Gay and Stephen Meredith, Rosemary Weaver and then keeping it all rolling were call stewards Rob Ellis and Bob Weaver (the 'Rob and Bob Show').

Each year we strive to make the event better and taking on the feedback from 2023 we were very excited to be able to add a new category to the event: Neuter of the Year, making this is the first time this has been run in NZ. Thank You to our new sponsor Pet Travel for embracing the category. The 2024 entry was 64 puppies, 45 dogs and 17 neuters.

Once again, our amazing major sponsor Royal Canin stepped up and the Auckland Exhibition Centre was turned red for the day. No matter how many years we have set it up it never fails to impress. The level of sponsor prizes they give is unseen at any other show in New Zealand.

An additional change for 2024 was the way we ran the daytime judging. Instead of a morning draw being done, we changed to a prejudging system with three dogs in the ring at a time in a random order to be presented to each judge individually for prejudging.

This process certainly sped up the day judging with the puppies, then neuter and finishing with the dogs to enable us to finish early afternoon.

This allowed everyone, including the dogs, a chance to relax and get spruced up for the evenings Gala Event. Pet n Sur once again offered all attending a welcome drink on arrival to get the festivities started.

Richard King was again our MC for the evening. We took a moment at the start of the night to honour the late Ray Greer who had been a long-time supporter of Dog of the Year as both a previous Chairperson and also long-time sponsor who will be missed by us all.

The new draw was then presented before dinner, and the first rounds were a random draw working through as an elimination tournament until we reached the final fours.

We commenced the evening with the puppies and the judges were straight into the excitement of the batons up. It was great to hear the crowd getting behind their favourites. Then followed by the neuters.

Upon reaching the final four of the neuters there was another hotly contested section of the event: the Favourite Awards.

Another wonderful new sponsor for 2024 was Departure Pets who not only fully sponsored these awards but also gave a special exhibitor gift.

Now in its second year, the 'NZ Dog World Favourites' have quickly become a highlight of the dog show community. With over 60 people nominated and more than 300 votes cast, these awards recognise the individuals, events, and associations that make a real difference. This year, the South Island dominated the winners' list, showing the incredible strength and dedication of exhibitors, judges, and show organisers in the region.

Judges and stewards, from left to right: Stewards Bob Weaver, Rob Ellis, Stephen Meredith, judge Marie Patterson, steward Gay Meredith, judge Glen Vernon, steward Rosemary Weaver, judge Pamela Brown.



Agility Games in NZ

by Karen de Wit

Are you ready to take your Agility game to the next level? In New Zealand, we have the thrill of participating in three flavours of Agility: standard Agility, Jumpers, and Games. But if you're looking to add some spice to your Agility adventures, the Games category is where the real fun begins! 🐾



Discover the Excitement of Agility Games

New Zealand hosts five types of Games approved for championship events: Jumpers Pairs, Gamblers, Snooker, Blackjack, and Strategic Pairs. Each game offers its unique challenges and endless opportunities for fun. Unlike standard Agility and Jumpers, where the course is predefined, Games allow you to choose the obstacles

and paths, making each run a new adventure.

As a dedicated Agility enthusiast and judge, I've spent countless hours having fun playing these Games with my dogs, and designing courses for others to have fun with too! Designing and judging these courses is not just a challenge but a delight, especially when I see the process of designing their own courses, the wonderful skills and display and sometimes the creative routes handlers take. Let's dive into why you should give Agility Games a go!

Benefits of Agility Games

For You and Your Dog:

- **More Choices:** Pick the obstacles you and your dog excel at and avoid the ones you're not as confident with. Tailor each run to your strengths or challenge yourself by adding a new handling technique or perfecting an obstacle performance.
- **Build Confidence:** Repeatedly run over familiar obstacles, boosting both your confidence and your dog's.
- **No Disqualification for Mistakes:** Some games allow multiple errors and still qualify, especially at the Grade C level, making it perfect for newcomers.
- **Pair Up for More Fun:** Join a friend in Jumpers Pairs, doubling the excitement of the event.



Junior Dog Training

Email: juniordogtrainingnz@gmail.com



JDT Camp 2025

The 2025 Junior Dog Training Camp, which took place 13-17 January at Highland Homes Camp, Ashhurst, was a week to remember! Under the bright sun, junior handlers dove into an action-packed schedule, filled with Obedience training, silly dancing, speedy restrained recall, water sports, cross-country adventures, Agility courses, trick training, and so much more.

The atmosphere was vibrant, with every day offering new challenges and excitement for both handlers and their loyal canine companions. A huge thank you to the incredible trainers, supportive parents, dedicated committee members, and the passionate JDT community.

Most importantly, we celebrate the junior handlers who made the week truly special with their enthusiasm and teamwork! We were lucky to have the wickedly talented **Brya Ingram** with us for the entire camp, and we're so grateful for her presence. Her photos perfectly capture the fun and energy that made camp unforgettable! 🐾

Gala Emmerton



Handling Losses

Learn & grow no matter what the result



Shirley Rolfe/Supashots

Handling losses at dog shows can be challenging, but approaching them with the right mindset is essential for maintaining perspective and enjoying the experience. When we started 50 years ago, we were beaten week after week, month after month, year after year. We had two choices: get better ourselves and our dogs, or give up and get out.

I'm a firm believer that things happen for a reason, and we were lucky to secure a gorgeous young Boston Terrier girl that had mistakenly been mated and now the owners wanted rid of her.

At the same time, I sat a show and watched and watched and watched top handlers. We got a big mirror and I practiced and practiced. Then we were lucky to get two beautiful girls in the litter and so we really started.

But as a youngster, or even an older person, getting into the dog world, you have to have thick skin and a willingness to be gracious, win or lose. The losses are hard to handle when you truly love your dog, but you do have to be honest and recognise your dog's shortcomings.

Here's some tips on how to handle losses gracefully and stay focussed on the positive.

1. Remember: It's one judge's opinion

Dog shows are subjective. Judges have different preferences and may prioritise various aspects of conformation or presentation.

A loss doesn't mean your dog isn't exceptional. It simply means that, on that day, the judge's criteria didn't align with your dog's particular strengths. And you need to understand their shortcomings and graciously accept the judge's decision.

2. Focus on the bigger picture

The most important take-away is that your dog remains the same loving, wonderful companion, regardless of the result. The ribbons may come and go, but your dog's value and beauty remain constant.

Reflect on the progress you've made together. Each show is a stepping stone, and growth often comes from setbacks as much as from victories.

3. Analyse and learn

Take a moment to reflect on the show. Was there anything that could be improved in your handling? Was your dog slightly off their game? Did that judge prefer a different style?

Seek feedback from the judge if possible. But only after the show. Many judges are willing to share insights on why they made their

decision, which can provide valuable learning opportunities for the future. Look at things constructively and with an open mind.

4. Celebrate the small wins

Even if you didn't place, focus on what went well. Maybe your dog stayed calm under pressure, improved its stack, or remained focused despite distractions.

Acknowledge these small victories—they are just as important in the long run and help maintain motivation.

5. Stay positive and gracious

Congratulate the winners with genuine respect and sportsmanship. Their success doesn't diminish your efforts and building a supportive community benefits everyone.

Avoid comparing yourself or your dog negatively to others. Every dog has different qualities, and each show is a fresh opportunity.

6. Use losses as motivation

Losses can fuel your drive to improve. Whether it's working on specific areas of handling, training, or grooming, use setbacks as motivation to come back stronger.

Focus on what you can control, such as refining your techniques or ensuring your dog is in peak condition for future shows.

7. Keep perspective

It's easy to get caught up in the competitive aspect of dog shows, but it's essential to keep things in perspective. For a breeder, dog shows are about showcasing their breeding programme, but for most, it is about showcasing the bond between you and your dog, enjoying the experience, and meeting fellow dog lovers.

Remember that your dog doesn't care about the results. To them, the most important thing is spending time with you and receiving your affection, no matter what happens in the ring.

8. Take a break if needed

If the losses start to feel overwhelming or you're not enjoying the experience, it's okay to take a break. Time away can help reset your mindset and renew your enthusiasm.

Use the time to reconnect with your dog outside of competition and enjoy the activities that brought you to the sport in the first place.

9. Lean on your support system

Whether it's family, friends, or fellow handlers, having a support system can help you handle losses with grace. Sharing your thoughts and frustrations with others who understand the sport can lighten the emotional burden.

Listening to stories of other handlers who have faced setbacks and bounced back can also provide inspiration.

10. Stay Grateful for the Experience

Dog shows are not just about winning; they're also about the experience, the relationships you build, and the memories you create with your dog. Focus on the joy of spending time with your dog, meeting new people, and learning from each show.

Gratitude for your dog's companionship and the privilege of competing can help you stay grounded and maintain a positive attitude, win or lose.

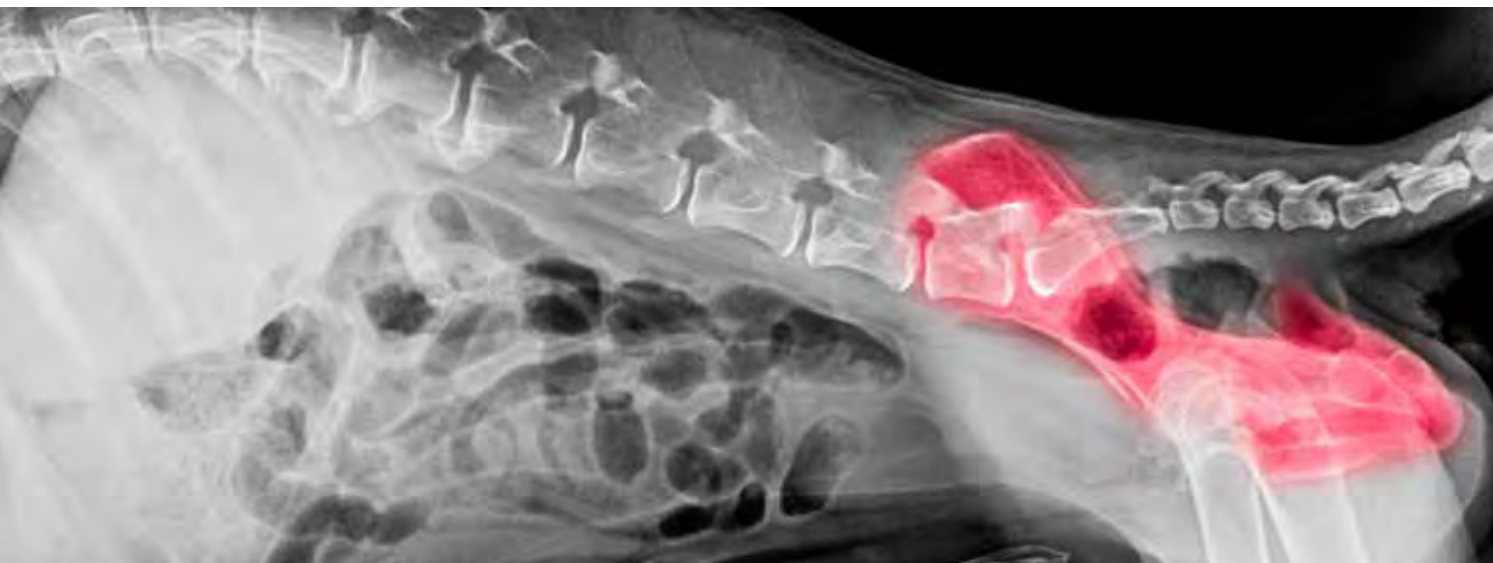
By embracing losses with the right mindset and using them as learning experiences, you can grow as a handler and ensure that every show remains a positive and enjoyable experience for both you and your dog. 🐾

Nicole Harrison

Devine & Rosdhu Boston Terriers

Hip & Elbow Scoring:

It's still important to your breeding strategy



There's been some chatter on social media lately with some pedigree dog breeders expressing reluctance to hip and elbow score their breeding dogs, citing cases where offspring of 'clear' tested parents still develop joint issues. While it is true that canine hip dysplasia (CHD) and elbow dysplasia (ED) are complex conditions with multiple contributing factors, this does not diminish the importance of health screening.

Hip and elbow scoring is an essential tool for reducing genetic risk, improving breed health, and ensuring ethical breeding practices. Here's why Dogs New Zealand's Canine Health and Welfare Committee believes responsible breeders should continue testing, along with some useful references and a round-up of international kennel club policies supporting this approach.

1. Hip & Elbow Scoring Reduces Overall Risk

Even though hip and elbow dysplasia have environmental influences, they are primarily genetic disorders. Scientific studies confirm that selecting dogs with better scores significantly lowers the incidence of these conditions in offspring.

- **Science-based:** Studies consistently report breeding from dogs with lower hip scores led to a significant reduction in CHD prevalence in subsequent generations. The research concluded that "genetic selection using hip scores has successfully improved hip joint conformation and reduced CHD rates" (Lewis et al., 2013, *The Veterinary Journal*)(James, McDonnell, & Lewis, 2019).
- **Kennel Club Policy:** The UK Royal Kennel Club's British Veterinary Association (BVA) Hip & Elbow Scoring Scheme states: "Hip and elbow dysplasia are inherited disorders that can be controlled by screening breeding dogs. Selecting dogs with lower scores significantly reduces the risk of passing on these conditions" (The Kennel Club, UK, 2023).

Key Point: Even if a few "clear" dogs produce affected puppies, the overall risk is lower when breeders select for better hip and elbow scores.

2. Sporadic Cases Don't Invalidate the Science

Some breeders argue that because tested-clear dogs occasionally produce dysplastic offspring, scoring is unreliable. However, hip and elbow dysplasia are polygenic, meaning multiple genes contribute

to the disorder, and environmental factors can also play a role.

- **Science-based:** A study published in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* (2020) explains that while hip dysplasia is heritable, external factors like rapid growth, improper diet, and overexercise in puppyhood can trigger symptoms even in genetically lower-risk dogs (Zhang et al., 2020).
- **Kennel Club Policy:** The American Kennel Club (AKC) and Orthopaedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) emphasise: "A 'clear' scoring dog can still carry recessive genes for dysplasia. Screening does not eliminate all risk but significantly reduces it. Consistent selection for better hip and elbow scores is key to long-term breed improvement" (OFA, 2022).

Key Point: A few exceptions do not override the clear trend—better-scoring parents consistently produce healthier litters on average.

3. Ethical Responsibility & Breed Preservation

Failing to test means breeders are making uninformed decisions that could negatively impact the breed's long-term health. Skipping hip and elbow scoring increases the risk of producing puppies with painful joint issues, leading to unnecessary suffering.

- **Science-based:** The Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) warns that neglecting genetic screening can lead to an increase in debilitating hereditary diseases, damaging the reputation of breeders and breed clubs (FECAVA, 2019).
- **Kennel Club Policy:** Dogs New Zealand strongly encourages breeders to follow health testing recommendations, stating: "While not mandatory, health testing is a fundamental component of responsible breeding. Failing to test increases the risk of hereditary diseases in future generations" (Dogs New Zealand, 2023).
- The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) requires hip and elbow screening for certain breeds before they can be registered as breeding stock (CKC, 2022).

Key Point: Health screening is a commitment to ethical breeding—ignoring it can result in unnecessary suffering for future generations of dogs.

Understanding Lameness in Dogs

Causes, diagnosis and management

Dr Becky Murphy BVSc BSc
TCI GlenBred www.tcivets.com

Lameness in dogs is a common concern for owners, breeders, and veterinarians alike. It can range from a mild, intermittent issue to a severe and debilitating condition. Identifying the cause of lameness and implementing appropriate management strategies are crucial to ensuring a dog's long-term health and quality of life.

Lameness can result from a variety of underlying issues, including orthopaedic, neurological, muscular, and systemic conditions. Joint diseases such as osteoarthritis, hip or elbow dysplasia, and immune-mediated polyarthritis can lead to chronic lameness. Large and giant breeds, including German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Rottweilers, are particularly predisposed to hip and elbow dysplasia. Soft tissue injuries, including sprains, strains, and ligament tears such as cranial cruciate ligament rupture, are common in active and working dogs, with Labrador Retrievers, Border Collies, and Rottweilers at higher risk. Bone disorders such as fractures, growth plate injuries, and developmental conditions like panosteitis and osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) can cause significant pain and mobility issues. OCD is more frequently seen in large and giant breeds such as Great Danes, Labrador Retrievers, and Bernese Mountain Dogs, while panosteitis is common in German Shepherds and Basset Hounds. Neurological conditions, including intervertebral disc disease (IVDD), nerve damage, or spinal injuries, can result in abnormal gait and lameness. IVDD is most commonly seen in Dachshunds, French Bulldogs, and Corgis due to their long backs and short legs. Infectious and immune diseases such as immune-mediated polyarthritis and bacterial infections can affect multiple joints and cause lameness, while neoplasia, including bone cancers like osteosarcoma, can cause progressive and painful lameness, particularly in large and giant breeds such as Greyhounds, Rottweilers, and Great Danes.



Some forms of lameness have a genetic basis. Hip and elbow dysplasia are among the most well-known hereditary conditions, where abnormal development of the joints leads to instability and arthritis over time, particularly in large and giant breeds, including German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, and Bernese Mountain Dogs. Patellar luxation, where the kneecap dislocates from its normal position, is frequently seen in small and toy breeds such as Pomeranians, Chihuahuas, and Yorkshire Terriers but can also occur in larger dogs. Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) is a developmental disorder affecting cartilage growth in joints, leading to pain and lameness in young, rapidly growing dogs, particularly in Labrador Retrievers, Great Danes, and Rottweilers. Panosteitis, often referred to as "growing pains," affects the long bones of young dogs, particularly large and giant breeds such as German Shepherds, Basset Hounds, and Dobermanns, and usually resolves as the dog matures. Degenerative myelopathy is an infrequently encountered progressive neurological disorder that leads to weakness and eventual paralysis and can be seen in breeds such as the German Shepherd Dog, Boxer, and Pembroke Welsh Corgi. Breeders and veterinarians should work to reduce the prevalence of these hereditary conditions through disease screening and responsible breeding programs. Screening schemes for hip and elbow dysplasia are commonly used for at-risk breeds, and genetic testing is available for some conditions although care must be taken in interpreting results as most (if not all) are only identifying one marker where there are multiple genes as well as the environment influencing disease expression.

Veterinarians use a combination of history-taking, physical examination, and diagnostic imaging to determine the cause of lameness. Gait analysis involves observing a dog's movement at a walk, trot, and run to pinpoint affected limbs and assess severity. Palpation and joint manipulation help identify pain, swelling, crepitus, or reduced range of motion. Radiography (X-rays) is commonly used to identify bone abnormalities, arthritis, fractures, and dysplasia, while advanced imaging such as CT scans, MRI, or ultrasound can provide more detailed insights into complex cases involving soft tissues, nerves, or subtle fractures. Laboratory testing, including blood tests, joint fluid analysis, and infectious disease screening, may be necessary for cases involving systemic illness or immune-mediated diseases.

Treatment depends on the underlying cause and may involve medical, surgical, or rehabilitative approaches. Medical management includes pain relief and anti-inflammatory medications such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), alongside other pain management strategies like gabapentin, amantadine, or corticosteroids. Joint supplements, including glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate, Omega-3 fatty acids, and green-lipped mussel extracts, can support joint health, while maintaining an ideal body condition through weight management helps minimise the progression of degenerative joint disease. Surgical interventions may be necessary in some cases, such as cruciate ligament repair using techniques like Tibial Plateau Levelling Osteotomy (TPLO)



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PD Spotlights

GENERATIONAL TRENDS AMONG PET OWNERS

Which generation is most in favour of dog-friendly workspaces? Which one most regards pets as family members? And which is most concerned about the environmental impact our pets have on the environment? These are just some of the questions answered in our partner PD's latest policyholder survey.

After reviewing the data from more than 1500 survey respondents, PD uncovered fascinating insights into how attitudes and behaviours around pet ownership vary across generations.

“ We’re looking for common ground and understanding how pets fit into families across different generations. ”

- Michelle Le Long, PD Insurance COO

If you're wondering what those generational groupings look like, let's pause here to look:



MEMBER CLUBS OF DOGS NEW ZEALAND

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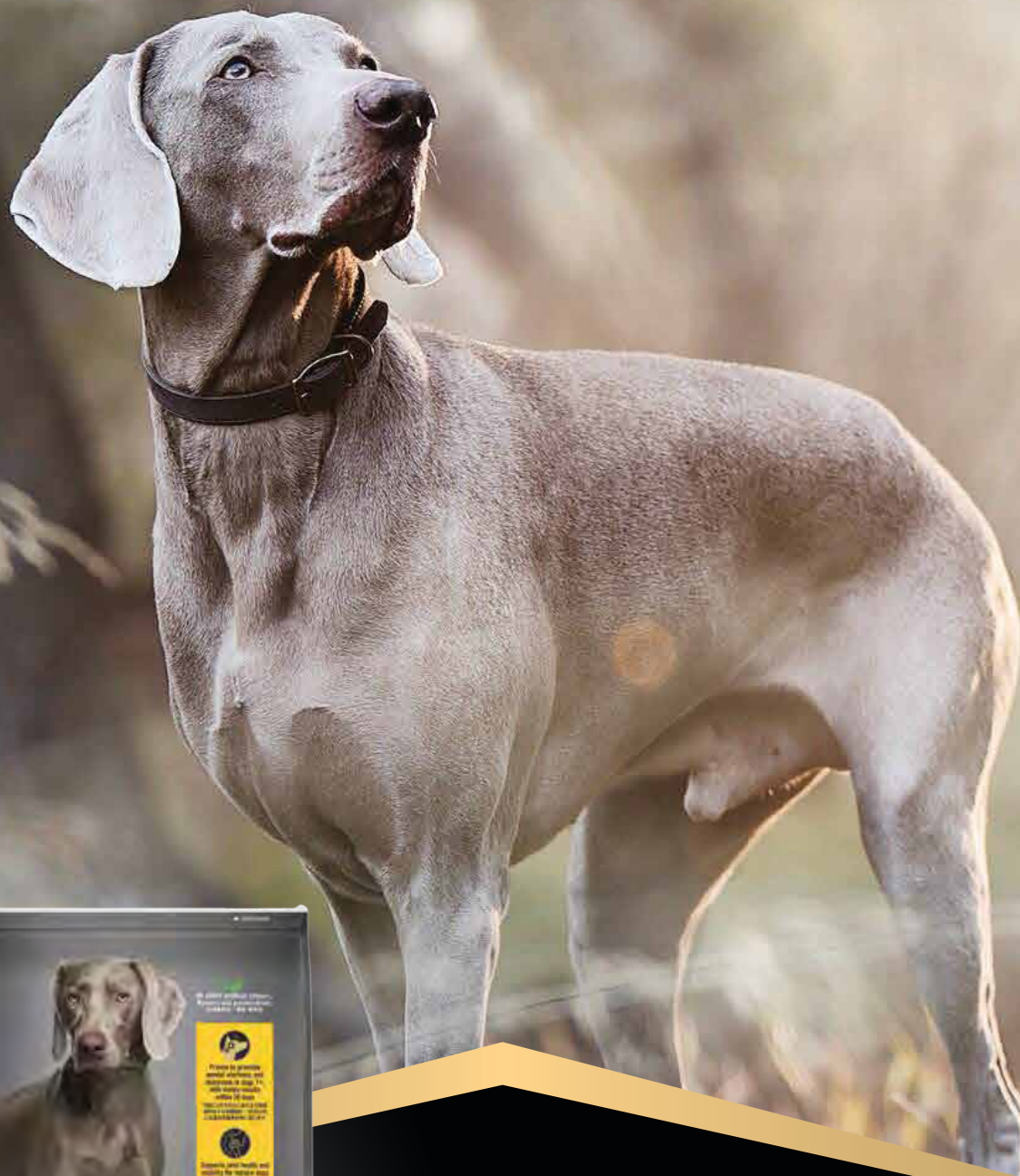
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