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# NZ DOG WORLD

INCORPORATING "THE NEW ZEALAND KENNEL GAZETTE"

May 2025



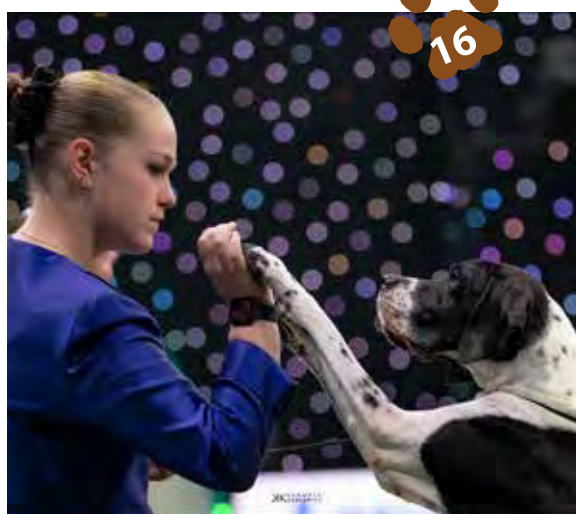
July  
Schedules

Vol 65 No 4

  
PURINA  
PRO PLAN  
NUTRITION THAT PERFORMS

DOGS NEW ZEALAND  
RECOMMENDS FEEDING  
PRO PLAN

May 2025



## Front Cover

Noah - SH Ch Chesterhope Thrill of T Chase (Imp-NZ) - is the first dog from New Zealand to be awarded **Our Dogs Breeder of the Top Stud Dog of All Breeds**, at Crufts this year. He and his breeder, Dogs NZ Breeders Hall of Fame member Diane O'Neill of Chesterhope Pointers, are featured on page 30 of this issue.



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## Canine complementary care

Holistic/complementary medicine can be beneficial for all animals, says Dr Jacqui Snell of Veterinary Holistic Healthcare.

Dr Snell has been a practicing veterinarian for the past 36 years, and says, "I have always had an interest in using holistic options, even when I owned my own conventional veterinary practice. Eventually I was able to undertake a Diploma in Western Veterinary Herbal Medicine to obtain a sound knowledge base, when utilising complementary therapies."

Dr Snell is a member of the NZ Veterinary Association (NZVA), the Complementary Branch of the NZVA, the College of Integrative Veterinary Therapies, the Veterinary Botanical Medical Association, and the Raw Feeding Society.

"Health starts with preventative care and reducing inflammation in the body. I am a huge proponent of an unprocessed diet. 'We are what we eat'. Clients who are considering raw feeding should seek guidance to ensure the right rotation/variety of meat proteins, organs and bone are given. With some health conditions, however, the animal's gut health cannot cope with a raw diet and then we must look at other dietary options."

Therefore preventative health care advice focusses on feeding a non-processed meat-based diet with minimal starch, rich in antioxidants and nutrients. Other considerations are supporting the microbiome, encouraging exercise, and meeting the psychological needs of your pet.



Dr Snell notes that the pH acidity in your dog's stomach may not be as strong when animals are fed a high carbohydrate diet (certain kibbles), this could affect their ability to digest raw bones, leading to digestive upsets. Stress, medications and disease can also affect the stomach acidity. Dogs should never be fed cooked bones and Dr Snell would not recommend feeding raw bones to dogs on a kibble diet, certain breeds and dogs with particular health conditions. For suitable dogs on a non-processed diet eating

appropriate raw bones can provide many health benefits such as essential nutrients, dental support and mental stimulation.

When your dog's next vaccination is next due for parvo and distemper another preventative health measure is to consider titre testing. This is a rapid, inexpensive, in-clinic test to determine if your dog has antibodies to parvo and distemper. If the test is positive your dog is protected from these diseases, making re-vaccination unnecessary until the next due date. (This does not include leptospirosis and kennel cough).

Flea products are needed at times but "I like owners to come from an informed platform when using isoxazoline flea products regularly for flea/tick prevention. The isoxazoline chemical targets the nervous system of the insect and the use of this product is cautioned in animals with neurological disease. As some of these products are used orally, I am also careful with their use in animals with gastrointestinal disease".

Natural flea treatment options are available to help prevent animals from obtaining flea burdens.

Clients who seek out Dr Snell's services are often frustrated because their animal is not responding to conventional treatment protocols. "We know there are diseases that are not being well controlled with conventional medicine. It is often chronic conditions such as skin allergies, anxiety, gastrointestinal disease and cancers that present to me for holistic support."

Whatever treatments Dr Snell recommends, she always aims to adopt health strategies that will be easy to incorporate. "If it is difficult to administer to the animal, we won't have good compliance on the owner's or the animal's part and the treatment will be unsuccessful." For example certain products can be applied to an animal's paw (particularly in cats). Your pet then licks their paws and the dose is given.

The amount of evidence-based research supporting the use of herbal medicine has grown exponentially over the last few years. "There are clinically active constituents in herbs that are closely akin to medications. We must remember that some medications have been developed from herbs." This was an important reason why Dr Snell studied herbal medicine.

Holistic treatment is not about throwing out conventional medication, emphasises Dr Snell. "Conventional medications/treatments/diagnostics are very effective and we would be lost without them. Holistic treatment aims to work alongside conventional practice — I believe integrative medicine is the way of the future." Dr Snell is very happy to work with the client's conventional vet if needed.

Pet owners throughout New Zealand can access Dr Snell's services by enquiring through her website at [vethhc.co.nz](http://vethhc.co.nz). For clients in the Nelson area, she is available for in-person consultations. 🐾

## From the President...



With the upcoming Annual Conference of Delegates (28 June 2025) discussing major changes to the structure of the Dogs New Zealand, it is more important than ever that members make themselves aware of the potential changes.

Remits affecting the structure of our club will be presented. These remits, if adopted, will change the structure of the Executive Council and the

processes of the Council. They will lead to more direct member involvement and participation in the management of our club.

For quite some time there has been a call from among our membership for more direct involvement in the voting process and these remits address these concerns. Now it is more important than ever that the members take the time to make themselves familiar with the remits. If you have any questions, any concerns or you wish to express your support you should contact your conference delegate to do so. 🐾

*Brian Harris  
President*



## 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:

**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

### Rally-O Northern Region Call For Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the Rally-O Northern region subcommittee representative position.

Nominations, including a short resume or biography for those being nominated are to be sent to [members@dogsnz.org.nz](mailto:members@dogsnz.org.nz) by 4pm, **Friday 23 May 2025**.



# Ringside Thoughts

## Showcasing our breeds

I decided a couple of months ago to start sorting through some of the piles of 'stuff' I have been storing in my garage. It coincided with my daughter's move to Australia and finally being able to clear away the last of her belongings which had ended up in my garage as well.

And once started I was determined to be a little ruthless and decided to tackle the huge pile of breed supplements that I have saved from over 30 years as a member of Dogs New Zealand. Of course, I'm keeping the special ones, but the rest I am sorting through them on the hunt for good articles on the relevant breeds' history and judging guidance to add to my database of judging articles.

Now because I tend to reflect on these things, I couldn't help but wonder why our breeders are no longer interested in putting together breed supplements. This has been the case for a few years now and I really think it is a sad loss to the dog world, and I don't just mean the magazine, but the dog world as a whole.

When I first started showing dogs, I was like a kid in a candy shop. All these different breeds of all shapes and sizes and I was in my element, and I couldn't wait to get to the next show. I had always loved dogs and receiving the *New Zealand Kennel Gazette* (as *NZ Dog World* was known then) each month just fuelled my love of dogs even further. I would read the whole magazine from cover to cover and then I would remove the monthly breed supplement and add it to my growing collection for future reference. At that early stage,

I had no real reason to keep them other than it being a source of information which I occasionally referred to. I would often obtain additional copies (as I am being reminded as I sort through them!) and I gave many copies away to new exhibitors or people who had shown interest in a particular breed.

When I started judging and studying for exams, these supplements became the source of much valuable information and were an excellent addition to my study material. But it wasn't just about the history and the guidance for judges. Many of the articles gave invaluable insight into the breed, what it was that made those breeders fall in love with their chosen breed, the characteristics of the breed, stories about dogs and their achievements, and essentially what they were like away from the show ring. It was an opportunity for breeders to really showcase their breed and these supplements were sought after, making our magazine very useful.

Now, I know what you will be thinking: we have a huge amount of information at our fingertips with the Internet and everything it offers us. Sure, our judges can search all over the world looking for information to assist them with their study. And if you want to know anything about a breed, you can easily do a Google search. But is it the same? And do we? Really, honestly, do we go looking for the information that we would have read in an *NZ Dog World* breed supplement? Do we come home from an event having seen a breed that interested us and spend time searching the Internet for the information that we used to read in the breed supplements? Do we Google articles about a breed's triumphs or special deeds or those articles that are fascinating or just plain enjoyable to read? I would venture to say that in most cases, no, we don't.

We all know that purebred dogs are on the decline, and there are many reasons for this, but has our lack of information available to the public on our purebred dogs been a contributing factor, even if a very small one? Has our failure to continue with quality, informative breed supplements been another nail in the proverbial coffin? I look at other countries' dog magazines and many still provide informative breed information in their publications. Some are just one or two pages and others have quite a few more pages and most have some really interesting and informative content. Have you ever thought you would love to write something about your breed, or put some articles together on the breed you love, but have been put off because you think it is a whole lot of work? Honestly, it isn't that hard. And here I speak from experience, having been the co-ordinator for a Shetland Sheepdog breed supplement in 2019. In reality, I got other breeders and members to write articles, I wrote a couple myself and I sourced some photographs. My job as the co-ordinator was liaising with those whom I had asked to write articles and the editor at Dogs NZ who did the layout and design, plus sourced the advertising that accompanied it.

So next time you pick up your copy of the *NZ Dog World* and feel that there is something missing — ie. some articles showcasing our beautiful breeds — then I challenge you to put your hand up and do something about it. Don't wait for 'someone else' to do it. Be the 'someone else'. The dog world will thank you for it.

Happy showing. 🐾

Lavina Diamanti

# WANTED

## Breed Features



*NZ Dog World* is actively seeking breed features.

You or your club can submit a range of articles of interest on your breed along with up a selection of high-quality photos. and that's it! We will do the rest.

If you can secure any advertising to go with the feature then this is a great bonus but is not a requirement for publication.

**E: [magazine@dogsnz.org.nz](mailto:magazine@dogsnz.org.nz) for more information and for our guide to assembling a breed feature.**





## Canine Friends on TV

This year marks the 35th anniversary of our organisation, something we can be very proud of, and for our longer-standing members, time to reflect on how far we have come. We have some great ideas on celebrating this milestone which will be in place during the coming months.

When taking on this role I 'inherited' two boxes of paperwork which I have gradually sorted through and have been excited to find original newsletters and photos dating back to 1990. It is clear our Founder, Eileen Curry, was meticulous with keeping records.

On Saturday 1 March 2025, the committee, Liaison Officers, Assessors and Support Members met in Wellington and worked through a packed agenda, sharing ideas and views and took the opportunity to get to know each other a little better. Our sincere thanks to Victoria Nelson, Dogs New Zealand Director/Secretary, who joined us to share her support and recognition of our work.

### In honour of Blake

You may have seen a recent *Seven Sharp* item on TVNZ 1 featuring Sarah Chisnall and her Leonberger Blake visiting Christchurch Hospital ([www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/seven-sharp/clips/blake-the-big-hero-easing-the-cancer-load](http://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/seven-sharp/clips/blake-the-big-hero-easing-the-cancer-load)).

From Sarah: "Blake and I have visited the Oncology Ward and Medical Day Unit for the past two years. My focus is always on him, to note if he is coping OK with the environment, heat and attention, but he usually just flops happily in the middle of the waiting rooms and lets people talk about him and take photos... lots of photos.

"People are waiting to receive radiation or chemotherapy treatment so it's a pretty stressful time. Blake has me very well trained in that he will only move for cheese and this gives all those waiting and watching a fun distraction. He has put many smiles on people's faces as he walks around the corner with his fluffy wagging tail, leaning against those he feels need it most, be it patients or staff. It feels very fulfilling when you hear how much difference those few pats and interactions can make to someone's day".

Sadly, we heard from Sarah that Blake suffered an unexpected medical incident just days after the *Seven Sharp* feature. She added "I have always hoped we made a difference but it was listening to the *Seven Sharp* interviewer asking patients and staff, and the feedback post airing that we realised just what an important job we do." 🐾

Vicky Graham, President



# Junior Handling at Crufts 2025

## New Zealand represented by Georgia Calman

A month ago, to the day as I write, I was sitting at Palmerston North Airport, waiting to embark on our big adventure, final destination Birmingham, England. However, wanting to make the most of the opportunity, a stop-off in America was planned and we spent three days at Disneyland followed by a trip to Las Vegas where we had a day trip to the Grand Canyon.

Bucket list items ticked off, next stop London. We got a hop-on/hop-off bus tour and saw all the sights and to top it off, went to see *Wicked* at a theatre in the West End. Navigating the tube, then onto a train took us to Birmingham and the business end of the trip.

Crufts: What can I say? It was huge! Realising quickly how much I had been missing my own dogs, the first thing we did was visit the breed stands, meeting the Corgis, Bostons and Pugs. Our interest was drawn to so many more breeds and we spent that first morning admiring the breed stands, patting dogs and generally being in our happy place.

As the day wore on, the first twinge of excitement and nerves started to set in. We made our way to the 'meet and greet' where we had a lunch of pizza and chips. This was also an opportunity to introduce myself and get to know some of the competitors from the 38 different countries that were represented. One at a time we shared some information about ourselves and our involvement in the dog world.

Formalities over, we were free to occupy ourselves until that evening. When the main arena had finished its scheduled programme, we had a practice without dogs, so we knew the format for the next day. It was eerie navigating the halls at night without the hustle and bustle of the crowds but we eventually returned to our motel for a few hours' sleep before the dawning of the big day.

An early start saw us arrive at the venue in time to meet our dogs at 7:30am. Five competitors had nominated a Pointer as their breed of choice so the day before we had drawn 'from the hat' to see which dog we would be allocated. Dog D was Dolly, a nine-year-old bitch, with the sweetest temperament. We spent an hour getting to know each other. Under strict instructions, in a confined environment, we were all focussed on finding out how to get the best out of our dogs. It was neat to know I had some additional support in the stands with the safety pin issue being taken care of by Fiona Hodgson and 'Mrs Pointer' — Dianne O'Neil — who was on standby for last-minute advice. Thank you.

Then it was time. We lined up in our allocated order. It was a real buzz to hear my name and country over the loudspeaker as we entered the ring. It was really happening! The nerves subsided and I switched my focus to Dolly, who wasn't so keen on standing still, but we worked together and I felt good about how she presented to the judge. Round one over.

That evening we returned to the main arena. Dolly and I were able to sneak in another quick practice before it was time to enter the ring for the final awards. Congratulations to those competitors that short-listed and the eventual place-getters. Although I didn't make the short list, I can reflect on my performance and hold my head

high. I have learnt so much about the dog world on a bigger scale and made some magical memories.

I felt the support from home with lots of messages before and after the event. Thank you to everyone who took the time, your good wishes meant a lot. Dogs New Zealand and Purina Pro Plan, your sponsorship made this dream come true and I am forever grateful for your generosity.

To the Junior Dog Handling Committee, who organise and run the heats through the year and then the finals, thank you for giving us young handlers a chance to improve our skills and compete for such a prestigious prize.

Lastly, thank you to my family, Granma and Grandad and Granny and Pop who mucked in while we were away and made sure everything was taken care of at home and Dad who worked tirelessly leading up to the trip so we could extend our holiday. Lastly, I want to thank not only my Granny and Pop but my Mum for sharing their love of dogs and dog showing with me. Without you, none of this would have been possible. Thanks for being my biggest supporter. 🐾

*Georgia Calman*





# Rehabilitation

## For performance sports dogs

by Kelly Daniel

Hybrid Dog Training & Rehabilitation

[www.hybriddogtraining.com](http://www.hybriddogtraining.com)

*Performance dog sports are becoming something that handlers are increasing their skills, knowledge, and training for substantially in recent times. Not only have training methods and handling techniques changed, but also the ability and willingness of owners to look outside of their sports to support their canine partner have thankfully changed. Also, we as dog owners have increasingly become knowledgeable and aware of the health and medical care of our furry family members.*

### Recognising an issue

Before we talk about indicators of an issue, it's important to consider that you need to really have a good understanding of your dog's 'normal'. This becomes especially important if something changes. Having regular records of weight, muscle measurements and baseline blood values, along with videos of gait and photos of stance, can be very useful.

Sometimes in performance dogs the first recognised sign of an injury or medical problem is a change in performance. Perhaps their speed changes, maybe they are more reluctant to come off the startline, there might be a change in jumping form, or the number of rails taken. Maybe the dog pops out of weaves when they don't normally. Did you know that you can look up your dog's rate of travel on both NZ Dog Agility, and ShowSec websites? This is one simple way to get an idea if their performance (speed) has changed. Another keynote in terms of orthopaedic and medical issues is that a change in behaviour can be related to pain and injury. So, if your dog starts resource guarding to a high degree when they never have before or starts becoming aggressive to other dogs in your family, or you see other new behavioural issues, you should get a thorough medical and orthopaedic check.

Next, we can look at the stance. This is the ability of a dog to hold themselves in certain positions. How is their form in a sit, a stand, and a down? Are there irregularities with these positions, or has the dog changed how they hold themselves?



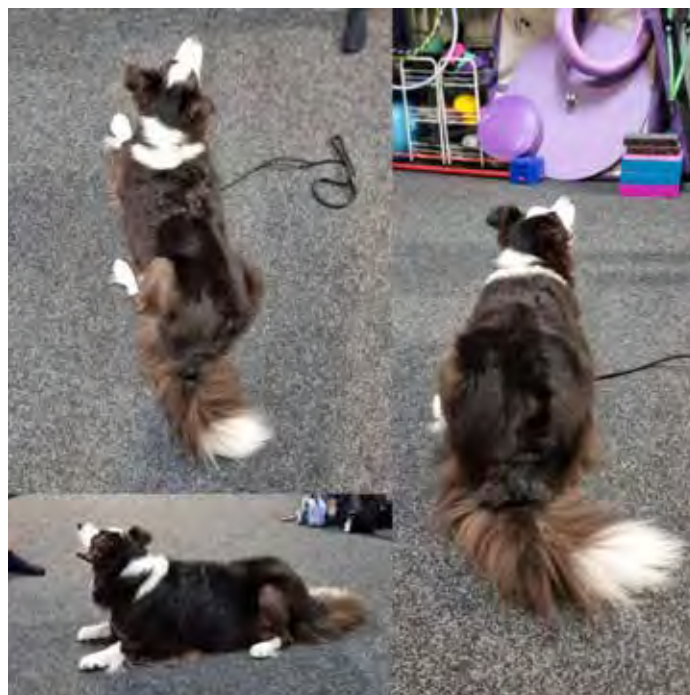
When watching our dogs move there are also key indicators that there may be an issue. If any of these things drastically change, or there are multiple indicators of an issue then further investigation and diagnostics are required. Indicators of potential issues in movement could include:

- A head bob in a walk, or trot
- Pacing when the dog does not normally
- Reluctance to move out of a walk into faster gaits
- Crabbing, when the dog's back end tracks to the side of the front end
- A difference in stride length between limbs

### Diagnosing an issue

Diagnostics can be tough. Some dogs are very stoic, meaning that they show very little response to pain. Dogs are excellent at 'cheating' and often compensate for one area of pain or weakness in another area of their body. This can at times 'hide' the issue, or the severity of the issue. But compensations can also cause pain or trouble in other parts of the body. This can

BlueBoy is currently rehabilitating from knee surgery. In the down he is shifting his weight off his hind left leg, more onto his right hip. This allows him to bend the left knee less and push it forwards. His tail is always curling to the right. This is creating a curve in his spine. BlueBoy is also pulling his forearms back underneath his body.



# The future of...

## Veterinary Medicine & Technology

The Animal Welfare and Use of Technology Conference, hosted by Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa ([nzva.org.nz/about-us/our-committees/awna/](https://nzva.org.nz/about-us/our-committees/awna/)) at Jet Park Hotel, Auckland, 26 March 2025, brought together leading experts to discuss the benefits and ethical challenges posed by emerging smart pet technologies and how advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and monoclonal antibody therapy are revolutionising companion animal medicine in New Zealand.

Dogs New Zealand's Canine Health & Welfare Committee was invited to attend.

### Artificial Intelligence and Monoclonal Antibody Therapy

Dr Natalie Lloyd, a companion animal veterinarian and immediate past president of the Companion Animal Veterinarians branch of the New Zealand Veterinary Association, discussed the effects of the integration of AI in veterinary diagnostics and the transformative potential of monoclonal antibodies in animal treatment.

### AI in Companion Animal Medicine

Dr Lloyd highlighted the challenges veterinarians face in accurately assessing pain in companion animals, often confusing it with anxiety. Poorly managed acute pain can lead to chronic maladaptive pain, deterring pet owners from seeking further veterinary care. A major barrier is the limited resources available in veterinary practices to monitor and assess pain effectively.

She introduced the Grimace Scale, a valuable tool for assessing pain in cats and dogs. The Feline Grimace Scale, a free app that veterinarians and pet owners can download, helps identify pain

levels in cats through facial expression analysis. A version for dogs is under development.

Dr Lloyd, who is also a veterinary adviser for American animal drug company Zoetis, emphasised how AI-powered diagnostics are enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of veterinary care. Systems such as IDEXX DecisionIQ use machine learning algorithms trained on decades of veterinary research to assist in diagnosing diseases. Zoetis's VETSCAN IMAGYST platform provides AI-powered blood smear, faecal analysis, and digital cytology, offering faster, more precise results with a smaller in-clinic footprint.

"AI technology is improving our ability to conduct in-house diagnostics with greater confidence, leading to more timely interventions and better health outcomes for companion animals," Dr Lloyd stated.

### Monoclonal Antibody Therapy: Veterinary Medicine Game Changer

Dr Lloyd pointed to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), as a breakthrough in veterinary medicine. While widely used in human healthcare, their introduction to veterinary medicine has only occurred in the last decade. These lab-engineered proteins mimic naturally occurring antibodies and are designed to target specific disease markers.

"The use of monoclonal antibodies in veterinary medicine offers improved safety, efficacy, and longer-lasting effects, reducing the need for frequent dosing and lowering caregiver burden," she explained.

She highlighted the use of Gilvetmab, an immune checkpoint





# Vaccination & immunity

Dr Becky Murphy BVSc BSc  
TCI GlenBred [www.tcivets.com](http://www.tcivets.com)

*You may have heard about the 12 suspected post-vaccinal distemper cases in puppies given Vanguard Plus 5 between 2021 and 2025, but these events remain exceedingly rare. While canine distemper virus (CDV) is not endemic in New Zealand, vaccination against distemper remains critical to maintain our nation's disease-free status. Most importantly, the greatest risk for unvaccinated puppies in NZ comes from endemic canine parvovirus (CPV), an environmentally-resilient virus that causes severe, often fatal, enteritis. Please continue your core puppy series, discuss with your veterinarian whether switching to a non-Rockborn distemper vaccine for primary courses or at-risk litters is appropriate, keep accurate records, report any suspected reactions to MPI, and refer to the NZVA website ([nzva.org.nz](http://nzva.org.nz)) for the latest guidance on balancing vaccination risks and benefits.*

## Future Proofing Your Pack: Why Core Vaccination Matters

As a breeder, every puppy you raise relies on you to protect it from the most significant infectious threats in New Zealand. While CDV no longer circulates naturally here, canine parvovirus (CPV) remains endemic—its hardy viral particles capable of persisting in the environment and causing devastating intestinal disease. Core vaccination with Modified Live Viral Vaccines (MLVs) stands as the cornerstone of protection for both parvovirus and to safeguard against any potential re emergence of CDV. Below we cover vaccine types, the immunological rationale behind MLVs, World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) aligned protocols, safety considerations and practical breeder tips.

### 1. Types of Canine Vaccines in New Zealand

#### Modified Live Viral Vaccines (MLVs)

- Contain live pathogens attenuated (weakened) to replicate briefly without causing disease.
- Stimulate both humoral immunity (antibody production) and cellular immunity (T cell responses).
- Provide rapid onset of protection, often within days, and durable immunity lasting three years or longer.
- In NZ, most cover parvovirus, distemper, adenovirus 2 (hepatitis/CAV respiratory disease) and parainfluenza.

#### Killed (Inactivated) Vaccines

- Consist of non-replicating organisms plus an adjuvant (immune stimulating ingredient).
- Require multiple doses and generally confer shorter-lived immunity.
- Used in NZ for leptospirosis (bacterial disease spread by wildlife/livestock), kennel cough combinations (eg. Canigen KC, Vanguard CCI) and rabies (export scenarios).

### 2. Immunological Basis: How MLVs Work

MLVs mimic a natural infection by allowing low-level replication at the injection site or local lymphoid tissues. This effectively 'teaches' the puppy's immune system without causing clinical disease:

- Humoral response: B cells produce neutralising antibodies against the pathogen.
- Cellular response: Helper and cytotoxic T cells form immunologic memory to clear infected cells.

Because MLVs replicate in vivo, they often require a single adult booster, commonly given at around 26 weeks, to maintain protective immunity for three years or more. This dual stimulation underpins their status as the gold standard for core canine vaccines.

### 3. The Overriding Threat: Parvovirus

In New Zealand, parvovirus is by far the greatest threat to puppies. Its features include:

- Environmental resilience: CPV particles can survive in soil, kennels and bedding for months.
- Rapid transmission: Highly contagious via faecal–oral routes.
- High morbidity and mortality: Severe haemorrhagic enteritis, dehydration and secondary sepsis can lead to death.

By contrast, CDV remains confined to import-related or theoretical exposures, making parvovirus the driver of early puppy vaccination urgency. A robust MLV series ensures each puppy gains active immunity as soon as maternal antibodies wane.

### 4. Maternal Antibodies and Puppy Protocols

Maternal antibodies (MDA), acquired when puppies ingest colostrum in the first 24 hours after birth, provide crucial passive protection against pathogens the dam has encountered. These antibodies circulate in the puppy's bloodstream with a variable half life, typically declining exponentially over 8–12 weeks. While



# NZ Breeder Leads the way in the UK



Paul Scanlon Our Dogs

Most New Zealand dog show enthusiasts were recently glued to live streams of the 'Greatest Dog Show on Earth', Crufts 2025 at NEC Birmingham, England, 6-9 March 2025. For the first time, this show was won by a dog from Italy with the Whippet Miuccia taking Best in Show. While all eyes were on Crufts, one of our Hall of Fame Breeders, Diane O'Neill of Chesterhope Pointers fame, was also creating history by becoming the first breeder of a pedigree dog from New Zealand to receive the incredibly special award of the *Our Dogs* Breeder of the Top Stud Dog of All Breeds in the UK. What an amazing feat for a Pointer from New Zealand to achieve in the United Kingdom!

Last year the total pedigree dog registrations in the UK was a mind-blowing 187,772 dogs, with 82,027 coming from the Gundog group. To achieve the award as the Top Stud of All Breeds is a remarkable achievement and has created another piece of history in the dog world. What an incredible performance and achievement for Diane to be able to attend the official presentation during Crufts. Breeding top-class dogs is always a breeder's aim but to produce one that not only achieves at the highest level himself but then goes on to have an outstanding record as a producer is the endorsement that every breeder covets.

The winning Pointer is SH Ch Chesterhope Thrill of T Chase (Imp-NZ), 'Noah', imported into the UK and owned by Mr John Thirwell, the well-known and respected breeder of Ferndel top-winning Welsh Springer Spaniels. Noah has had a hugely successful career in the UK since his import in 2016. Noah was shown by John throughout his show career and is currently the breed record holder for Challenge Certificates achieved, an amazing 45 CCs during his UK show career. He was the Best Puppy at Crufts in 2017, went Dog CC and RBOB at Crufts in 2018, and was Res CC at the next three Crufts shows. Noah was the Top Pointer in the UK in 2017, 2018 and 2019. He has won at the highest level including three Reserve BIS and the Gundog group on seven occasions, including BIS at the Gundog Society of Wales. During his show career he won top UK Gundog, and he retired from showing having won Reserve CC at Crufts in 2022.

Since his retirement, Noah has become a prolific producer of winning

puppies. To date, he has sired 12 UK Show Champions and eight different CC winners in 2024 with five of them joining him in the Champions club in the 2024 show year.

One of his sons, Sh Ch Sharnphilly Boondoggle, is the Top Pointer for 2024 and was the overall third-placed Gundog for the year. In addition to his outstanding UK champion production he has also produced champion offspring in the USA, Japan, Poland, Hungary, and Pakistan. He was the top Pointer sire for the past three years in the UK. He has enjoyed a remarkable career, and has already left an indelible mark on the breed for the future. John describes Noah as "the perfect gentleman, kind, easy going, a little sensitive but never any trouble and very loving and friendly".

Diane, his breeder, was inducted into the New Zealand Breeders Hall of Fame in 2018, one of only seven breeders to have been afforded this honour by Dogs NZ. Pointers bred or owned by Diane have won BIS at our National Dog Show on four occasions, an amazing record for a single kennel. In addition, she has also bred the Reserve BIS on a further four occasions. In our history, no other kennel has such a proud and exceptional record at our national show. Chesterhope Pointers have certainly carried the New Zealand flag internationally, achieving major awards in various parts of the world over an extended period. Achieving the award as the Breeder of the Top Stud Dog of All Breeds in the UK cements Diane's position as one of the world's leading breeders and her Chesterhope Pointers as simply world class.

We should feel proud that a kennel from our tiny nation can receive such a stunning endorsement in a truly global sport. Congratulations, Diane. The special award achieved by you and Noah is a stunning endorsement of your skill and dedication as a breeder. 🐾

Paul Robinson, BEM  
Robwyn Pointers



# HOT TOPIC

## Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) in pet food

MCT



## In focus

Although medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) do not supply essential fatty acids and thus should not be the only dietary fat source in pet food,<sup>1</sup> studies show supplementing MCTs in the diet can provide health benefits to some dogs.

The Purina Institute provides the scientific facts to support your nutritional conversations.

let's  
**takeback**  
the conversation.

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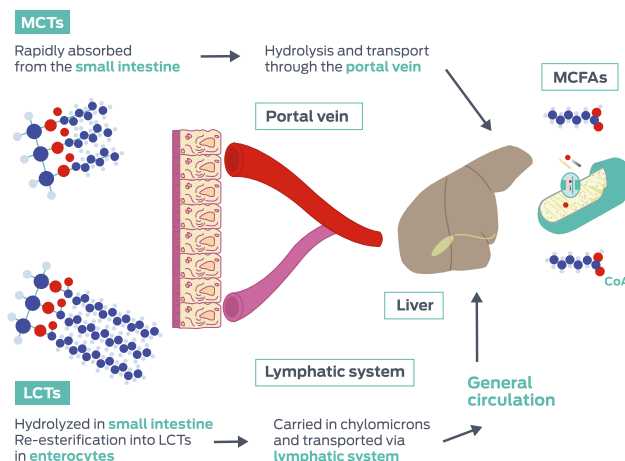
## How do MCTs differ from long-chain triglycerides (LCTs)?

MCT fatty acids are 6-12 carbons long, and LCT fatty acids >16 carbons. With shorter fatty acid chains, MCTs:

- are more easily digested, and their fatty acids more rapidly absorbed with most transported directly to the liver via the portal vein<sup>2</sup>
- yield more ketone bodies when oxidized<sup>2</sup>

MCTs are found in coconut oil, LCTs in animal fats and vegetable oils.

### Digestion and absorption of MCTs & LCTs





## How can an MCT-supplemented diet help dogs?

- **Brain health.** Healthy brains rely primarily on glucose for energy. With age, brain glucose metabolism often becomes inefficient, creating an energy deficiency, with brain regions critical to cognition most affected. Metabolic alongside functional and structural changes may result in age-associated cognitive decline, which may progress to cognitive dysfunction syndrome.<sup>3,4</sup>

Similarly, in dogs with idiopathic epilepsy, brain glucose metabolism is disrupted, predisposing to more seizures.<sup>5</sup> Cognitive impairment, e.g., memory loss,<sup>6,7</sup> attention deficit hyperactivity disorder-like behaviors,<sup>8</sup> and/or anxious behaviors,<sup>8</sup> may also develop.

### SEIZURES ARE ELECTRICAL STORMS WITHIN THE CEREBRAL CORTEX



TODAY, SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT IS DEFINED AS A REDUCTION IN SEIZURE FREQUENCY OF AT LEAST

**50%**

... SO THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

IDIOPATHIC EPILEPSY APPEARS TO BE A HERITABLE CONDITION AND IS MORE COMMON IN MALES

MOST IDIOPATHIC SEIZURES COMMENCE IN DOGS BETWEEN

**1 AND 3**

YEARS OF AGE

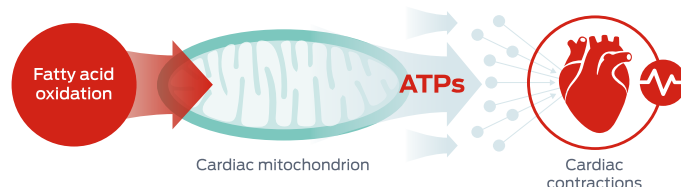
Dietary MCT-derived medium-chain fatty acids (MCFAs) and ketone bodies can provide an alternative source of energy. In addition, the MCFA decanoic acid may inhibit seizures by blocking AMPA excitatory receptors on neurons.<sup>9</sup>

Purina-supported research demonstrated:

- Cognitive ability improved in senior dogs fed an MCT-supplemented diet. In contrast to control dogs, MCT diet-fed dogs performed better as the cognitive tests became more demanding. Positive learning changes occurred within the first month.<sup>4</sup>
- When dogs with refractory idiopathic epilepsy (receiving  $\geq 1$  anticonvulsant medication[s]) were fed an MCT-supplemented diet, seizure frequency significantly decreased. Seventy-one

percent of dogs improved, with 48% achieving  $\geq 50\%$  reduction in frequency and 14% becoming seizure-free. Improvement was seen as early as day 1.<sup>10</sup> Serum concentrations of anticonvulsant medication(s) were not significantly affected.<sup>10</sup> Adverse behaviors (i.e., chasing and fear towards strangers) declined when dogs were fed the MCT diet.<sup>8</sup>

- **Cardiac health.** For energy, a healthy heart relies mostly on mitochondrial oxidation of LCFAs.<sup>11</sup>



Research shows dogs with early stage myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) have less efficient cardiac energy production.<sup>12</sup> MCT-derived MCFAs and ketone bodies can act as an alternative energy source.<sup>13</sup>

Purina research demonstrated:

- Dogs with asymptomatic MMVD fed a special diet including MCTs were less likely than control dogs to progress from stage B1 to B2. Cardiac left atrial diameter, on average, decreased 3% in dogs fed the special diet, but increased 10% in control dogs.<sup>14</sup>
- MMVD dogs fed the special diet showed improved energy metabolism, and decreased markers of oxidative stress and inflammation.<sup>15</sup>
- **Gastrointestinal health.** With LCFA maldigestion or malabsorption, e.g., in dogs with chronic enteropathy, exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, liver disease, or lymphangiectasia, a low-fat diet that restricts LCTs is usually fed.<sup>1,16,17</sup> Since fats provide a concentrated form of energy, low-fat diets can be lower in calories, resulting in increased food intake required to meet energy needs. MCTs can serve as another fat source to provide an easily digestible energy source.<sup>1,17</sup>

## Can MCTs benefit cats?

Research evaluating optimal dietary inclusion levels and benefits is ongoing. A Purina-funded study showed a diet containing 5.5% MCTs from coconut oil to be palatable and acceptable to cats.<sup>18</sup>

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## PD and Dogs NZ

CELEBRATE

NATIONAL PUREBRED DOG DAY

The significance of May 1st is twofold. This is both the date we honour International Workers Day and celebrate National Purebred Dog Day. Coincidentally, many of our pedigreed dog breeds were primarily bred as working dogs but have since expanded their roles in our lives to include 'firm favourite' as family pets.

It's appropriate then that May 1st deserves a special highlight in our calendars to celebrate the purpose, history, and diversity of our beloved purebred canine companions.

### Celebrating purposeful predictability

From agility champions to guide dogs, pedigree breeds shine in roles that require consistency—such as herding,

search and rescue, and disability support, to name a few. Their inherited traits and instincts, paired with proper training, make them outstanding partners in both professional and family settings.

Beyond the dogs themselves, our breed-specific communities offer a wealth of support for owners. Breed clubs provide resources on training, health, grooming, and behaviour, helping dog enthusiasts raise well-adjusted companions while staying connected to others who share their passion.

## The origins of National Purebred Dog Day

National Purebred Dog Day was founded in 2013 by Susi Szeremy, a Puli fancier and writer. Her aim was to highlight the rich histories and diverse roles of purpose-bred dogs. This included a focus on numerous purebred dogs, like the Skye Terrier and Field Spaniel, which, despite their unique legacies, are at risk of becoming extinct.

It's thanks to the ongoing dedication of pedigree dog breeders who cherish these purebred dogs that we still have them with us today.

## Celebrating responsible, health-first pedigree breeding

Ethical breeders play a vital role in the longevity and health of purebred dog lines. Through rigorous health testing, genetic screening, and thoughtful pairing, Dogs NZ registered breeders help reduce the risk of inherited diseases and support the sustainability of beloved purebred dogs.

This is important for all purebreds and noteworthy for breeds with a heightened genetic disposition to certain health conditions—such as brachycephalic dog breeds. Michelle Le Long, PD Insurance COO, shares her story on finding a well-bred brachycephalic dog.

"After losing our Labrador of 16 years, we took our time deciding on the perfect fit for our lifestyle. British Bulldogs were an obvious choice—not only for their charm but also for their laid-back nature. We found a reputable breeder just after COVID when prices were steep, but it was worth every penny to ensure Buster was healthy and well-bred."

Having a well-documented lineage in the Dogs NZ registry helps maintain purebred pedigree qualities and importantly, allows for a health-first approach to breeding that can be carried over from one canine generation to the next.

## Working together in support of purebred pedigree dog health

Championing purebred pedigree dog health, PD and Dogs NZ's ongoing commitment to providing puppies with a strong health foundation is evident through the Breeder Referral Programme and other initiatives.

## A big round of paws to all registered Dogs NZ breeders for the enormous effort and dedication that goes into breeding healthy purebred pedigree dogs.

For those who already enjoy the benefits, congrats! To all registered Dogs NZ breeders who have yet to enjoy the benefits, you can join at any time—even if you don't anticipate litters soon.

## Protecting purebred dogs and puppies

The benefits of the Breeder Referral Programme include activating a period of free cover for each puppy as they transition to their new home. During this time, the new owner is afforded the chance to simply focus on getting to know their new pedigree pup with fewer niggling concerns about vet costs for potential unexpected mishaps or illnesses.

Another benefit is that once the period of free cover ends, the new owner can sign up for a pet insurance plan with Dogs NZ Insurance by [pd.co.nz](https://pd.co.nz) and enjoy as much as three months of additional complimentary insurance. Additionally, breeders are rewarded \$100 each time one of their customers moves from the FREE Starter Cover\* to a pet insurance plan.

Happy National Purebred Dog Day to all Dogs NZ members. Since every dog (whether pedigree or not) deserves to get vet treatment when they need it, Dogs NZ Pet Insurance by [pd.co.nz](https://pd.co.nz) offers several pet insurance perks and discounts.



To join the Breeder Referral Programme or learn more about our insurance plans, visit

[dogsnz.org.nz/dogsnz/insurance](https://dogsnz.org.nz/dogsnz/insurance)



\*FREE Starter Cover Ts and Cs apply. Dogs NZ Insurance is a product of Pacific International Insurance Pty Limited, NZBN 9429041356500, FSP394846.





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## EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS TO DOGS NZ MEMBERS AND BREEDERS

### Join the Dogs NZ Insurance Breeder Program

- 🐾 Stand out from other breeders by providing **4 weeks complimentary insurance** for puppies in your litters.
- 🐾 Start your litters off in their new homes with a plan that protects their wellbeing from the start.
- 🐾 Support Dogs NZ's mission for lifelong health and improved outcomes for Kiwi dogs.
- 🐾 Earn cash rewards.

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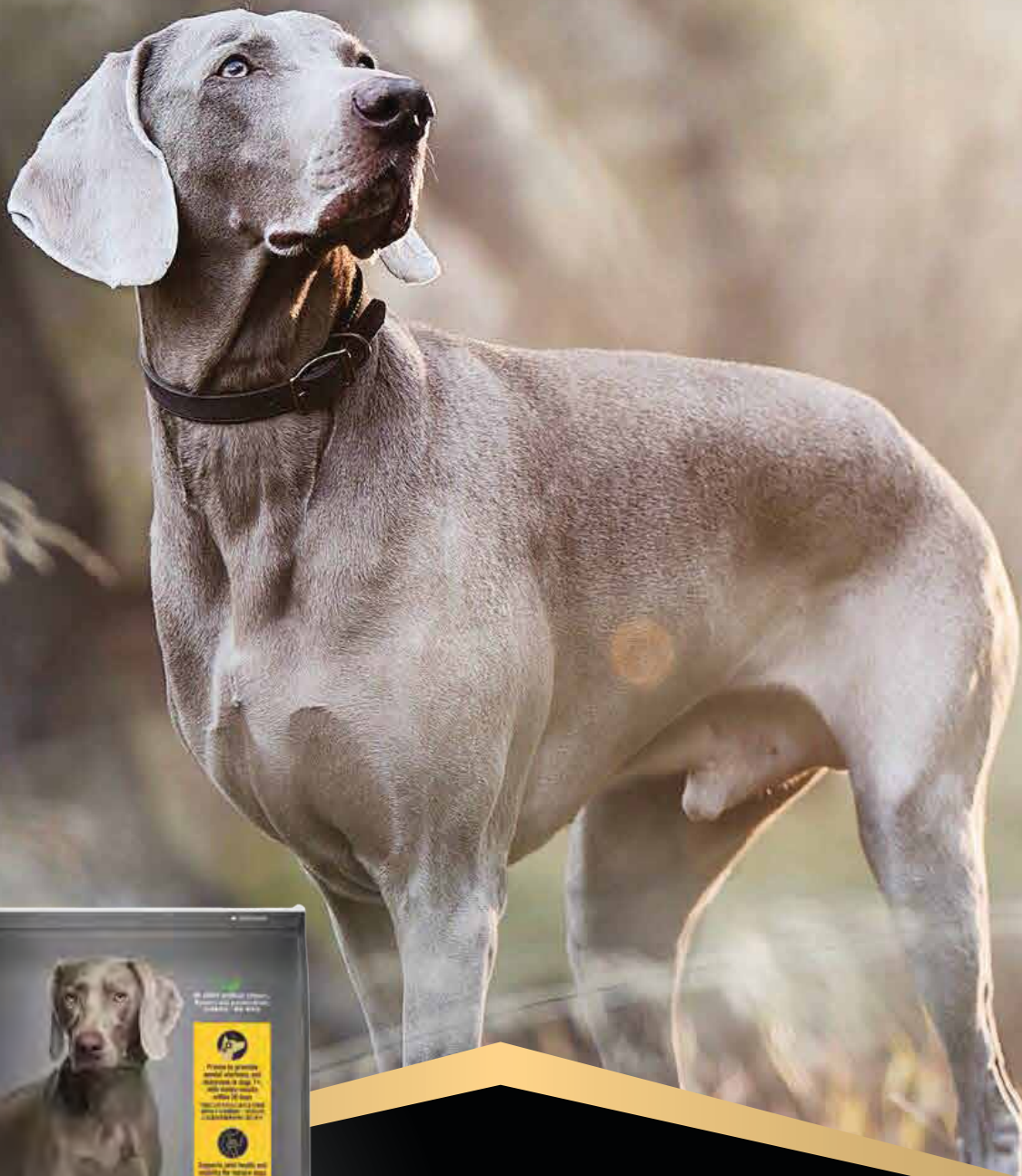
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