



KiwiDogAgility

InterZone Team Event



The InterZone Teams (IZT) event is held annually at the NZ Dog Agility Championships, which is held over labour weekend and is rotated around the five Zones in New Zealand.

The 25th anniversary of this event was in 2013 at Bulls. It was marked with a special cake cutting ceremony and other memorabilia.

The first IZT event was held in Timaru. It was merely a paper exercise. The Zones chose the teams, and team member scarcely knew who their other team members were and spectators had little idea of how their team was doing until the end of the competition. The winners of the first event was Zone 2.

The format of the event has changed a few times over the years. The next change to the teams' event came the following year when it was held in Christchurch. The Zones competed for the first time for a shield donated by Zone 3 couple Edith and Harry Radcliffe. It was donated in memory of their dog Dino, "who would have loved agility". The format of the event also changed. A Zone chose the best three dogs in its area and all these dogs competed on the same course to see who the Best Zone in New Zealand was. The first year it was held this way the winning Zone was 2????.

At this time the IZT event (and agility) was part of the NDOA (Obedience Assembly) and the IZT event was held in the lunch break on Monday during the Obedience IZT event. Everyone crowded around one ring and the suspense grew as each dog ran. Each Zone had team mascots, who were dressed up as penguins, dogs and black and white (Sylvester) cats!!! They got up to all sorts of shenanigans during breaks in the agility action.

International scene and it was an exciting way to end the IZT event.

A Zone 3 supporter, Emmy



Agility soon became a multi-level structure with Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior. Soon after this, common opinion was that all levels of agility should be represented. So a dog at each level had to be selected and the IZT event was run over four courses.

A more recent addition has been the addition of Jumpers, with the team members' jumpers dogs being the top two qualified jumpers dogs in the team.

Another innovation by Zone 3 at Manfield, saw a team relay used as part of the IZT competition. Relays are a common feature of the



Zone 3 team

The NZDAC has its own set of regulations (Section E #9) which cover:

- zones – how the NZDAC is rotated around the Zones and the formation of the NZDAC committee, and that committee's responsibilities
- how the format of the NZDAC is set – there has to be Championship Agility, Jumpers, IZT Interclub and finals. Everything else is optional. The format has to be pre-approved by the NZKAC
- registration – everyone has to register for NZDAC, and the amount to be charged has a limit
- the rules for the conduct of the IZT event
- the team selection process, which has been standardised. Each Zone must run trials
- the NZKAC supplied travel subsidy for NZDAC, as well as a Team uniform
- the eligibility criteria – who and which dogs may compete in IZT
- the running order – this is set and begins with Starters, the dog from the host Zone running first
- the method of scoring – this is standardised with all runners ranked, first receiving five points, 2nd four points etc. The winning Team has the highest number of points.

Interesting facts about IZT event

- It was 25 years old in 2013
- Each Zone has won it approximately five times
- Zone 2 was the first winner.
- In the early days of the event Zone 4 was dominant. Zone 5 didn't win it until 1994 and Zone 1 waited till 1997, Zone 3 1999.
- In 1998 the names of the dogs was added to the shield (Dougal, Jess, Storm, Dee)
- Dogs that has been in the winning team the most times (three) Lorin Sole and Dougal, Karen de Wit & Moss, both of Zone 3
- Carol Parker, Elaine Rohde and Karen de Wit have run five dogs in the IZT
- Owen and Ian Booth were the first siblings in the IZT
- First husband and wife to be in the IZT in the same year were Ron and Susan Sheppard, and Karen and Peter de Wit have together been in the IZT eight times.
- Peter de Wit was in the Zone team eight years in a row, and has altogether been in the IZT 16 times over the 25 years.
- The dogs to be in the team the most are the dewits Moss and Ascki (six years each)

For more interesting facts on the NZDAC see <http://www.dogagility.org.nz/records/recordsndta.html>



This years winners (Zone 3)