KiwiDogAgility

Certificate of appreciation Mike Butler

Peter de Wit, the Agility Committee chairperson, had the pleasure of presenting to Mike Butler a certificate of appreciation for his contribution to Agility at the Kapiti competition in March.

Mike has been involved in the sport of agility for about 20 years. He has served various positions on Club committees, including President, not only of DAWG/Zone 3 Dog Agility Club but also Central Obedience Club. He developed, and continues to develop with others, the AEM software, and also has supported this over the years. He regularly brings timers/equipment to events for clubs, and often helps clubs run their events by acting as Event Manager, eg. Gisborne, Sth Rangitikei and Feilding. He regularly jumps in at clubs and helps in any way he can. He runs the NALA results system for agility. He is an Agility Judge, and competes with his own dogs and friends dogs too. A few years ago, he made every effort to get a ribbon from every club in NZ (which meant he met lots of NZ agiliteers, and which we think he achieved)! He brought publicity to agility when he did his nationwide walks with his dogs to raise money for Cancer. The nation mourned when he lost one of his dogs, Rapid, in a fire.

Well done and thank you, Mike.

Summer events summary

During the summer North Shore Dog Training Club was asked to organise two agility displays, one for Pooches in the Park in Greenhithe, very close to the club's grounds, and one for Huapai School, about 15 minutes away. For Pooches in the Park it was the second time we did this, while the school display was new. We decided to add flygility as an extra fun part of the demos, in which children could take part by running against the dogs.

We managed to get about 10 club members and around 15 dogs of all shapes, sizes and levels for both days, even though the school one obviously was on a weekday. With two vans and a few people to help load and set up, all the gear was transported to the venues, where we used our ring ropes and some pig tails to set up a ring. To show the public as much variation as possible, we had brought tunnels, weaves and a dog walk, on top of a good number of jumps, so we were able to set up a nice course. Every participant could then run it how they wanted to, and we hadn't put numbers in the course.

At Pooches in the Park we did not let anybody else run our dogs, but in Huapai some of the children got the opportunity to run the course with a few dogs that we knew would run for strangers. They absolutely loved it and were well supported by the cheers of their classmates. The same was the case for the flygility, but we quickly decided the children needed a bit of a head start, because they would never be able to outrun any of the dogs! At the school we did two displays of about 20 minutes,

because we had a total of no less than 500 children to come and see us, too many for just one display. There was also a police dog demo at another part of the school grounds, so the children rotated between the two demos.

A big hit with the children at the school was also the opportunity to pat some of the dogs, obviously under strict supervision. We were pleasantly surprised to receive an envelope with a big pile of letters and drawings from the school some weeks after the event, which showed what the children had liked the most. We put all of them on our notice board in the clubhouse and they are still there at the moment.
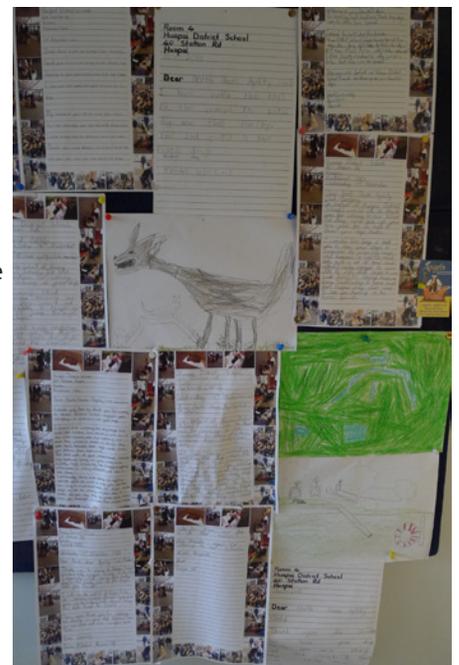
Upper Hutt's Paws in the Park agility display, March 2014

Upper Hutt Dog Training School did a display at the annual Paws in the Park event which is run by the Wellington Regional Council in the very picturesque Tunnel Gully recreational park. We were lucky to be able to use the FM Radio microphone and Gillian Cruickshank, one of our newbies at agility, did the commentary. She was great! Due to the position of the loudspeaker and the direction of the wind the public gathered could hear her really well.

Our commentary went like this:

Intro	The Upper Hutt Dog Training School would like to welcome you to their agility display.	
	They will show you some aspects about agility and you will get a chance to give it a go afterwards	
Who can do agility?	Just about any type of dog or person, from children to retired people, from little dogs to large dogs	
Today we have (introductions) *Each person runs into the centre of the gaility ring as their name is called*	Sue and Trixie, her Border Terrier Anne and Fergus, her Poodle cross Pam and Ted, her Border Collie Gillian and her Spaniel	Corinne and her dog Wayne and His Maremma cross Zeba Pete and his heading dog Ali
But, before we begin What is agility?	Agility is a fun sport for people and dogs	
The aim of agility is...	to complete the course in as fast a time as possible, without incurring any penalties	
It involves teaching the dog to negotiate a range of different obstacles *Each dog negotiates the obstacle they are lined up in front of at least a couple of times*	Hoop, weave, jumps, long jump, a frame, dog walk, flexible tunnel, collapsible tunnel, and not here today... the seesaw and crossover	
What do you need to start?	A dog that is healthy, fit and over 12 months old. The dog should be able to sit down and come when called and run with you. You will need good sports shoes and a desire to teach and fun with your dog.	
You can compete in agility events all over the country	You might be awarded a clear round certificate, win a ribbon or a prize	
But at the end of the day, gility is all about have fun with your do - so if you have a dog and you want to have fun - come and join us!	There are clubs all over the country, including the one here in Upper Hutt. To find one close to you, as the people here today or go to www.dogagility.org.nz	

handlers and dogs

handler and dog
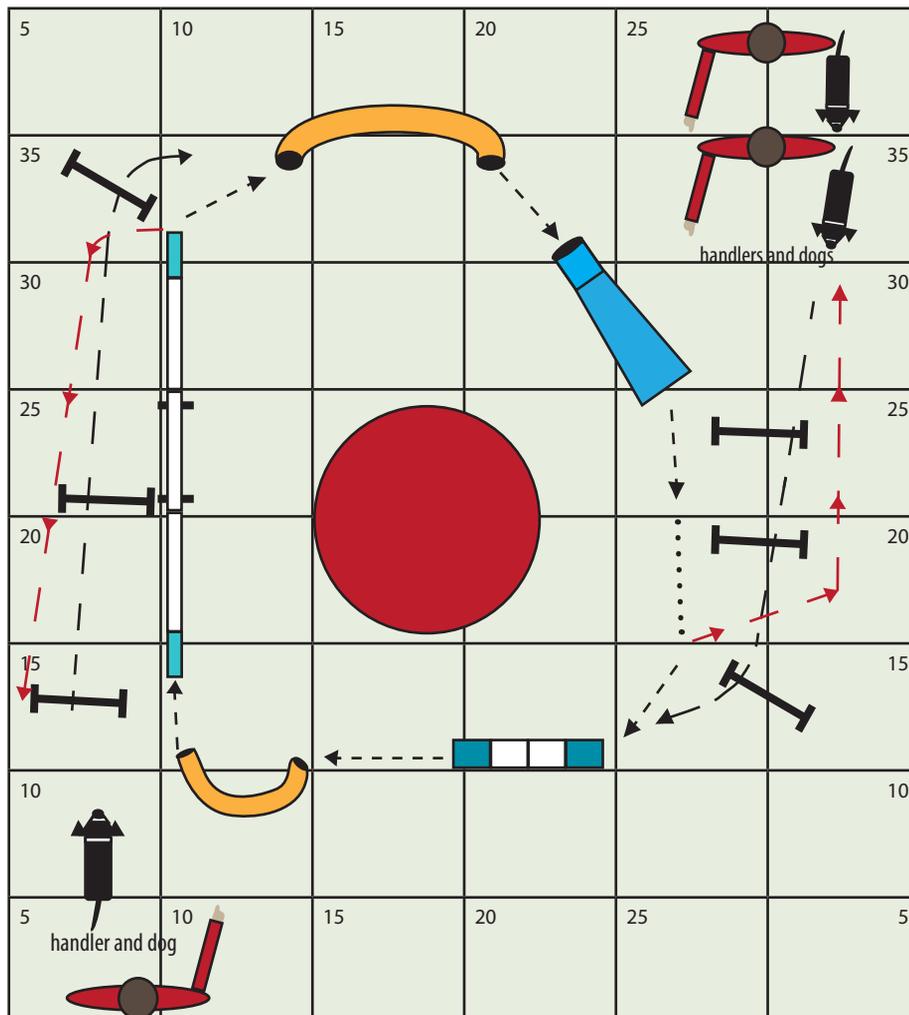
Instructions

1. Run into centre when name is called.
2. When all names have been called, go to piece of equipment
3. When obstacles are called out, do the one you have been allocated.
4. While rest of talk goes on, go to place for the team run.
5. Team run involves one dog at a time running the course.
6. Alternate small dog, big dog (set jumps to lowest height)
7. Do two dogs at a time. Match them up as best you can.