



KiwiDogAgility

by Karen de Wit

Promoting agility to the wider community

The Agility Committee has had promotional grants for a few years now, and over that time a number of clubs have applied for, and been granted, \$100. The NZKC Agility committee sees this as a thank-you from the national organisation for putting in the effort and promoting agility to the wider public.

Some clubs are also good at getting their name in their local papers, as shown recently by Upper Hutt Dog Training School which had articles in the local free paper *The Leader* both before and after the September Jumpers event. President of the Club Wayne Turner said "It wasn't that hard really, and we got great publicity for the Club for free".

Previously great publicity was provided by the TV series *TUX Wonder-dogs*, and to a lesser degree *Superdogs* which also featured some agility dogs owned by Fiona Hodgson and Peter de Wit.

A tail-wagging time

Canines were front and centre at a windy Maidstone Park over the weekend as the Upper Hutt Dog training School hosted the Agility Jumpers Championship. More than 150 dogs jumped hurdles and ran through tunnels in the different classes – **PETER MCDONALD** was there to capture some of the action.



Good dog: Karen and Peter de Wit's dog Quick shows his jumping ability.



Treat time: Jo Searle's Boston Terrier puppy Daisy Jayn decides that eating treats is much better than jumping.



Windy: From left, Sally, Liz Barlow and Polly get wind-blown at Maidstone Park.



Pole position: One example of an obstacle that dogs will encounter this weekend.

Clever canines

Jumps, tunnels, obstacles and weave poles will test canine ability this weekend at Maidstone Park.

The Upper Hutt Dog Training School will host the Agility Jumpers Championship, which will see 150 dogs battle it out for ribbons. Competitors are coming from as far as Dunedin to take part.

Dog agility is a sport in which a dog runs through a set exercise as directed by its handler. Hurdles and hoops, bendy and collapsible tunnels and the always-watchable weave poles

are just some of the obstacles the agile canine has to negotiate. The dogs on show will vary in size from minors to maxi, and levels from started to senior.

Upper Hutt Dog Training School is a club that provides domestic training for dogs. To enquire about training nights, go to the www.upperhurtdtc.org.nz or contact Wayne (021 768 566) or Sharon (027 4 451 9811)

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Airborne: Sue Alexander's border terrier Trixie shoots around the course.



A poem written at the time recreates some of the atmosphere for those involved in this event at Titahi Bay, near Wellington.

Tux Wonder Dogs, March 1995

by Karen de Wit

I remember the days when the filming was done
at Pikarere farm, where the cattle do run.
The two dozen teams in the show weren't the same,
there was big, there was small – from ChiChi to the Dane.
TUX Wonder dog stars were born those three days,
in the scent, the retrieve and the water dog phase,
in the sendaway and on the agility course.
The dogs were the best, they all did their stuff,
they'd never done it before but it wasn't too tough.
The water jump licked, the bulls eye was neat,
the retrieve of the hat, boot and egg was a treat.

The food was great, the tent gave us some place to rest,
the sun shone all day and the view was the best.
We watched the cameras and thought – will we be seen
when the final result hits the big TV screen?

Then home we went, late tea and our bed,
lay and listened to the weather forecaster with dread.

So what do you do
when the weather's against you?
Why you abandon the tent and the loos to the views,
and shift it all further on up the road.
Trucks, cars, dogs and people, and the rest of the load,
grab some bales of hay from the farmer's big shed
and set it all up again – from the start to the end.

The cameras are whirring, the dogs doing their stuff,
till the Producer in the van says we've all done enough.
The water dogs are quick – in the water then out.
Who do you think is the winner? we shout
The Borders, the Shepherds or the Labs – we're not sure
- the judges in the white van confer some more.
Then the waiting is over – the result it is known
the winners are the Shepherds – they will take the cup home!

And we all turn our backs on the wind at last,
and get in our cars and drive down the road fast,
from Pikarere farm where the filming was done,
tired and dirty – but gee, wasn't it fun?



In 1999 What Now also had a short series, featuring a number of agility children, based in Wellington. Some of the names might be familiar to agility competitors today – Chelsea Marriner, Rohdes boys, Amanda Benson, Christie and Amanda McKennie, and Jasmin Ellery. Even our own children had a go – Jonathan and Moss and Nicola and Ascki, who won!

Blenheim Dogs Day Out

Blenheim Canine Training Club attended the More FM Dogs Day Out held on Sunday September 15th at the Taylor River Reserve. Approximately 300 people and their dogs registered for the event. The Blenheim Canine Training Club had about 15 members entertaining the large and enthusiastic crowd for an hour. An agility course was set up with many variations for beginner dogs right up to the grand champions. They also did a flygility demonstration. There was a lot of interest from the public and some enquiries into joining agility. It was a fun morning for club members and the public alike.



Tauranga Dog Training Club, Playcentre display

by Helen Fabling

On Friday 5th July 2013 the club ran a display for one of their members Play Centre Group. This was attended by eight club members with eight dogs and three puppies. The playcentre group attending was made up of 17 adults and 23 children ages from 3 to 4½ years of age.

The object of the event was to show small children how to act around dogs they were not familiar with. A flyer was given out to the parents, and all children were instructed to ask the owners of the dogs on display “if they may pat them”. Most of these children come from families that do own animals and everyone that attended all did exceptionally well. They all asked us for permission and were shown how to approach the dog on the lead etc.

A display of flygility and an agility course took place, showing our audience what agility dogs can do. The agility course was done by a vast variety of heights, from Maxi, Midi and Mini dogs and we explained how we put the poles up and down for the sized dogs that were there doing the display.

Also on display were three 11 week old Schnauzer puppies for the children to look at and have a cuddle.

The young children and their parents all enjoyed their morning out at our club. The children helped collect some of our gear to help us put it away, e.g. the numbers and the poles from the jumps and the weaves.

At the conclusion of our display, parents and members had a coffee and cake while the children had their lunch in the playground adjacent to our grounds.