

Agility

Shape Up Agility Training

Lisa and Louise have twice been to Shape Up camp in Edmonton which is a four day dog training camp where people come from all over Canada and America. We were lucky to be apart of this and to be lent amazing dogs to run. We wanted to bring this same opportunity to New Zealand so other people could experience it. Late November, 60 Shape Up enthusiasts came together in North Canterbury to train with Justine Davenport and Jessica Patterson from Shape Up Dog Training. Justine and Jessica have unique teaching styles, they bring the best out in each handler and their dog and do so in a supportive and positive manner. There was something for everyone with foundation, novice and senior groups. The primary focus of the seminar was to provide an opportunity for

the large group of New Zealand enthusiasts that follow this style of handling and participate in their online lessons to work with the girls in person.

The focus of the four days was on fun, support and new learning. Social events were included with a meet and greet evening and a team relay and pizza dinner.

Organising an international seminar is not a small undertaking and we are lucky in New Zealand to have people that take the time to make this happen for us all. We are very much looking forward to having Justine and Jessica back late next year.

If you are interested in finding out more about Shape Up dog training. <https://www.shapeupagility.com>



Participant quotes:

It was everything and more! Karen Morrison

The venue was amazing, the trainers were superb, the work was challenging and everyone achieved and learnt. Overall outcome was a heap of learning by handlers and dogs, and a huge amount of inspiration to take away! Jude Taylor

After completing several online Shape Up courses it was great to have the opportunity to met the girls in real life, the experience exceeded all expectations. Carl Ranford

Amazing experience being taught by 2 incredibly knowledgeable, approachable and skillful ladies. They treated everyone equally and no question was too much trouble to answer. The amount of learning that was packed into those few days was incredible. Fiona Ferrar

I flew over from Australia for the Shape Up Seminar and was thoroughly impressed, by the Venue, the calibre of dogs and handlers and the professional way the four days were organised by Louise Marsh and Lisa Duff. Everyone was helpful and friendly and things ran like clockwork. The Trainers are two of the best in the world and well worth our trip to NZ. Francisca McDonald

Fantastic experience to train my own dogs with the amazing Justine and Jessica duo. I've had the pleasure of working with them online since their 1st online courses offered, plus trained in person with them in Canada. However there is nothing quite like working your own dogs with them. Having Diamond available was the icing on the cake :). Brilliant organisation by Louise and Lisa. Charlotte Rundgren



Queenstown's First Agility Ribbon Trial

Queenstown Dog Agility Club (QDAC) is New Zealand's newest Agility club. The club was formed in September 2016, and gained Dogs New Zealand affiliation in July this year. QDAC is the only club in the Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago districts and has grown rapidly to 32 members.

QDAC train at the picturesque Lake Hayes Showgrounds and this was where the Ribbon Trial was held. The grounds were in perfect condition having been irrigated and were lovely to run on. The weather was hot, Hot, HOT and the close proximity of Lake Hayes was a welcome relief for the dogs. The appearance of ice blocks was welcomed by the handlers.



Lake Hayes Showgrounds – the perfect picturesque setting for Queenstown's first Agility Ribbon Trial



Proud QDAC members with their Elementary B Ribbons

Left to right: Marie McDonald (Judge), Merran Kavanagh & Benson (2nd) Nicola Hall & Molly (1st)

Prior to the Ribbon Trial, only five QDAC members had been to an Agility competition before, so there was a lot of learning to be done. The true spirit of Agility came to the fore with the more experienced visitors from the Southland and Taieri clubs stepping up to help run the show and train the QDAC members in the various jobs. The result was a smoothly run event and some new friendships formed. Judges Marie McDonald and Wayne Grant provided some excellent courses and it was great to see the QDAC newbies quickly finding their feet in the ring. By lunchtime we had attracted quite a crowd of spectators and there are a number of NZ Agility dogs who have found their way into a few overseas tourists' holiday photo albums. Congratulations to QDAC on the success of your first Ribbon Trial – here's looking forward to the next one!