



# KiwiDogAgility

## IMAKE SHOW-JUMPING WORLD CUP FINAL

by Matilda van Rijnberk

Held in January, the Imake Show-Jumping World Cup Final Show provided a perfect opportunity to showcase the sport of agility to a different audience. Approached by the event organising committee, North Shore Dog Training Club jumped at the opportunity (pun intended) to put on a demonstration immediately prior to the main class of the weekend. This was the final qualifier to select the NZ representative for the World Cup Grand Prix to be held in Las Vegas later this year.

With many other classes for horses and ponies over the weekend it was a large event. The sun beat down as riders from all over New Zealand gathered to watch this prestigious and exciting final at Woodhill Sands, a well-known equestrian centre located between Waimauku and Helensville, just north of Auckland. Against the backdrop of the massive horse jumps (up to 160 cm. high), the dog agility equipment looked almost toy-like. The crowd however was clearly entertained by the demonstration, which was put on by the North Shore members Tracey Page, Matilda van Rijnberk, Emily Taylor, Tonka Watson (microphone) and Rachel Wigmore, with two friends from Counties, agility judge Kirstin Graves and Hayley Rohde. The demonstration was sponsored by Hills Science diet. Performing on a short Senior-level course designed by Kirstin, the dog and handler teams wowed the crowd with their speed and agility, particularly over some of the more unfamiliar equipment to equestrians, such as seesaw, A-frame and weaves. A few young members from the crowd then also took a turn to run Emily's dog Pepper, the standout being teenager Maddy Bult, who later competed in the pony Grand Prix. She did a fantastic job for someone with no previous experience.

As tension built towards the main event and the formal Grand Prix Qualifier course walk began, our demonstration moved over to the side of the arena where we quickly set up a flygility course. Here some of the smaller dogs clearly captured the hearts of the audience if the 'oohs' and 'ahs' were any indication. Tracy Page's miniature poodle Gem demonstrated her love of this sport and proved her ability as a great little ball catcher, even if she didn't always want to complete the required course!

Of course, many agility handlers will, when asked what agility is, say that it's a bit like show jumping, but then... for dogs!



Above: Winner Katie Laurie and Dunstan Kiwi Iron Mark qualified for the World Cup Finals in Las Vegas. Below: Emily Taylor and Pepper



Below: Maddy Bult, one of the competitors in the pony Grand Prix, ran Pepper like she'd done it lots of times before.





Below: Some tricks were shown as well  
Here Key and Pepper sit pretty

## First in New Zealand Games Dog award



Achieved by Border Collie Alphabeta It's Business Time at TagTeam (Biz) at the Wairarapa event on Feb 7th. To claim this title Biz gained three wins – two in Jumpers pairs and one in Gamblers, as well as qualifying certificates in Gamblers and snooker.

Owner, Kevin Burnette (Feilding) acknowledged the others who helped along the way.

"It was a true Tag Team effort: Bronwen (his wife) ran Biz for the Gamblers win and the two qualifiers plus Ngaire and Donna were my pairs buddies!"

