

March 2019



National Agility Link Association

~ 30 years old ~

National Agility Link Association (formed 1989)

EDITOR/SECRETARY: Karen de Wit
74A Kirton Drive, Riverstone Terraces,
UPPER HUTT 5018
Ph: 04/528 6796. Mob:021 1240174 E:
kpdewit@xtra.co.nz

TREASURER: Malcolm Ward
71 Arawa Street, R D 4,
WHAKATANE 3194
E:malcolm.r.ward@outlook.com

ONLINE RESULTS: Results may be viewed
at www.nala.org.nz
For information contact
MIKE BUTLER Ph: 04/383 8143.
E: mbutler@ihug.co.nz

Results (Games): Karen de Wit
Ph: 04/528 6796. Mob:021 1240174
E: kpdewit@xtra.co.nz
Contact Karen for a std results sheet

RESULTS (VETS) Sandra Mohekey
E: runaone@cheerful.com
Contact Sandra for information to enter
results on googledocs

Junior NALA competition:Jane Aukett
E: markjane.aukett@xtra.co.nz

LIBRARY ENQUIRIES:
kpdewit@xtra.co.nz

MAGAZINES: Carole Logan
E:distribution@nala.org.nz
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AGILITY THIS MONTH

By Karen de wit

AGILITY: is a sport where dogs speed across the ground, traversing narrow/high/unstable obstacles and jumps. There are risks involved with this sort of activity as there is with any sporting activity. If you add the desire to win the tendency to ask for more speed and tighter corners is increased.

From time to time you will see photos of dogs slipping, falling off, or banging into equipment. You will also see photos of dogs traversing the gear faultlessly with passion and flare.

Ove the years, people have called for bans on equipment. Which piece do you ban first? Which one second? Which one third? I don't think banning is the answer, as any piece of equipment, ground surface or manoeuvre can be called unsafe (or safe) in certain conditions.

We should be aware that there are risks, and work hard to minimise them with better manufacture of equipment, better course design and better handling and training of our dogs. Additionally keeping dogs athletic - fit, thin and warmed up is required.

In NZ over the years we have produced safer equipment :-

- nonslip rubber chip on contacts,
- low slats on contacts,
- less steep A-frame angles,
- larger tunnels diameters,
- softer entry/exit requirements for tunnels,
- non-metal lugs on jumps,
- more wings,
- rubber lugs,
- shorter chutes,

- standard seesaw drop rates etc.

There is a need to educate users about the correct/best way to secure equipment to ensure it is even safer.

We educate judges on safer course design. The recent course held by GJP worked some way towards this, alongside various notifications from AC over the years. For example straight line approaches should be offered to contacts, backsides may only be done on wings.

We can help handlers in our clubs by training dogs in a safer manner. For example:

- education about warmup/downs,
- correct body weight,
- fitness regimes,
- using lowest jump heights when practicing other skills,
- Using 4 or 6 pole weaves when practicing entries
- using straight run-ups to collapsible tunnels, and rewards on the ground so dogs keep their heads down and run straight,
- teaching dogs how to become agile on narrow ramps starting with low ramps, and getting them to jump on/off and turn around
- practising angled approaches on to contact gear etc.

Innovation in a sport is often for the best, and Kiwis seem to be really good at that. Cost is also a factor as Clubs have a finite income and have a variety of things to spend it on. Some equipment lasts a long time and whilst you may be able to upgrade by selling it to club members, there is still a big financial and time input involved with major change such as lugs moving, new tunnels purchased. At the end of the day we need to make our own decisions, and for some the decision could be to do something less physically demanding with their dogs.

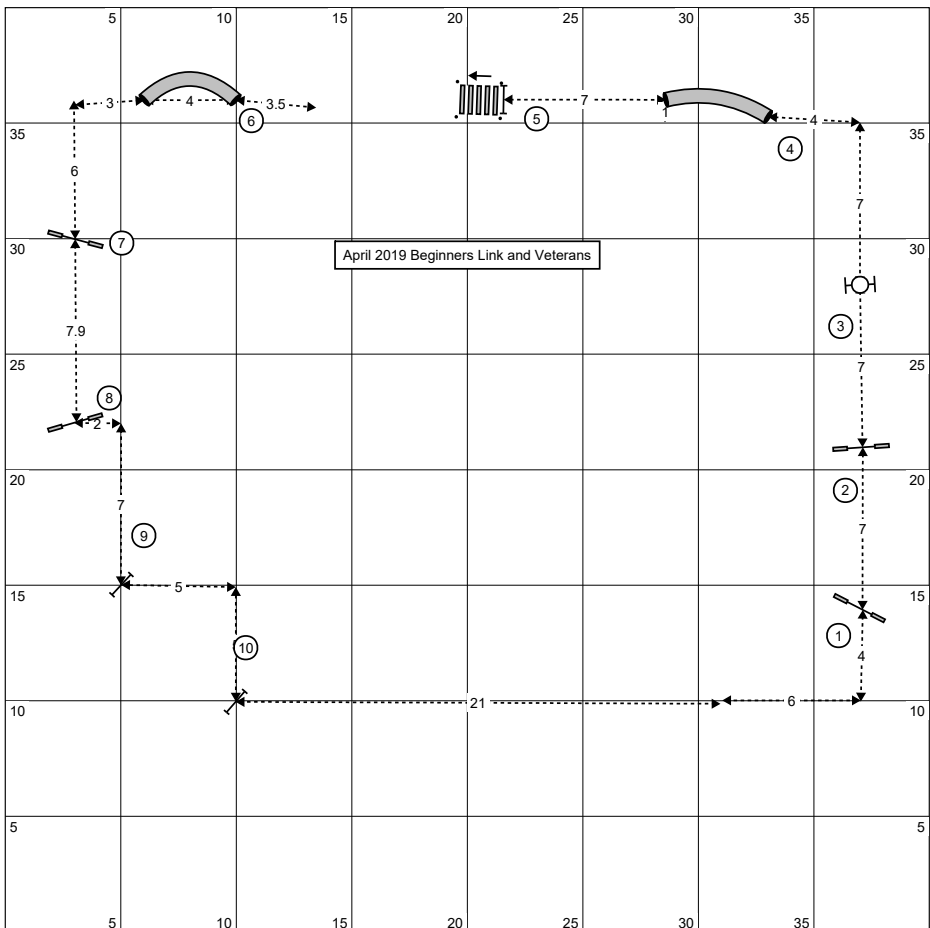
April Beginners/Veterans

For information on Junior Link contact Jane

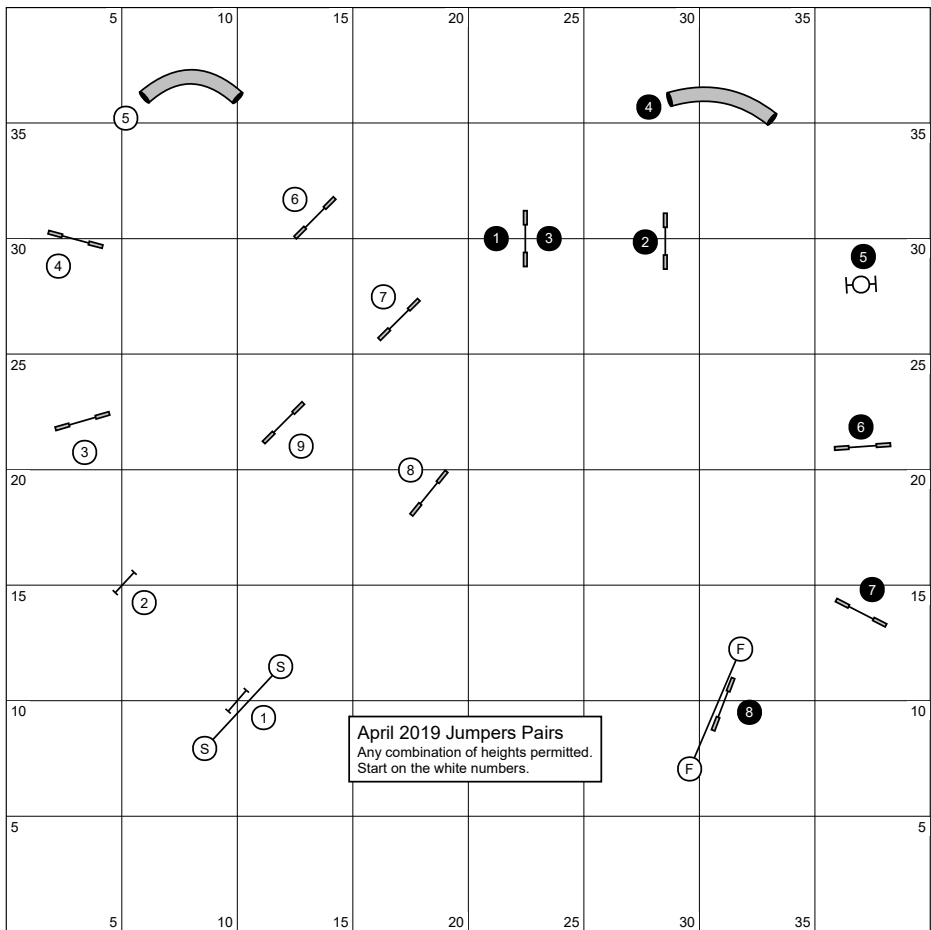
E: markjane.aukett@xtra.co.nz

For information on Veterans contact Sandra

E: February runaone@cheerful.com



April Game: Jumpers pairs



Club - FEB 2019 SNOOKER

| | Dog name | Handler name | Club | Opening points | closing points | | time |
|----|-----------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----|-----------|
| | | MAXI | | | | | |
| 1 | Sequel | Peter de wit | Upper Hutt DTC | 21 | 27 | 48 | 31.690 |
| 2 | Maz | Jorja Mulholland | Upper Hutt DTC | 21 | 27 | 48 | 40.060 |
| 3 | Rogue | Trish Bush | EBOP | 19 | 27 | 46 | 33.060 |
| 4 | Zinc | Karen de wit | Upper Hutt DTC | 17 | 20 | 37 | 29.470 |
| 5 | Thane | Jorja Mulholland | Upper Hutt DTC | 21 | 14 | 35 | 33.570 |
| 6 | Astro | Robyn Fargher | HBDC | 17 | 14 | 31 | 39.468 |
| 7 | Edge | Sue Whitwell | EBOP | 19 | 7 | 26 | 28.190 |
| 8 | Ali | Peter de wit | Upper Hutt DTC | 21 | 5 | 26 | 28.750 |
| 9 | Maestro | Joanne Allan | EBOP | 19 | 7 | 26 | 42.810 |
| 10 | Larrie | Una Forrester | EBOP | 19 | 7 | 26 | 44.150 |
| 11 | Tayghen | Martin Bush | EBOP | 17 | 7 | 24 | 24.530 |
| 12 | Jelo | Una Forrester | EBOP | 13 | 7 | 20 | 31.030 |
| 13 | Lucy | Trish Bush | EBOP | 19 | 0 | 19 | 31.470 |
| 14 | Soda | Jacky Carbin | HBDC | 18 | 0 | 18 | 45.015 |
| 15 | Cash | Wayne turner | Upper Hutt DTC | 13 | 0 | 13 | 17.690 |
| 16 | Prada | Una Forrester | EBOP | 13 | 0 | 13 | 20.150 |
| 17 | Zeba | Wayne turner | Upper Hutt DTC | 9 | 0 | 9 | 46.200 |
| 18 | Airik | Joanne Allan | EBOP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 555.000 |
| | | MEDIUM | | | | | |
| 1 | Joy | Tina Mitchell | EBOP | 19 | 27 | 46 | 27.84 |
| 2 | Misty | Chrissy Harris | HBDC | 19 | 27 | 46 | 36.024 |
| 3 | Rojo | Malcolm Ward | Mt Maunganui DTC | 13 | 27 | 40 | 30.316 |
| 4 | Finn | Karen de wit | Upper Hutt DTC | 10 | 27 | 37 | 28.38 |
| 5 | Cara | Rosemary Paddison | Upper Hutt DTC | 17 | 5 | 22 | 29.220 |
| 6 | Moss | Tina Mitchell | EBOP | 19 | 0 | 19 | 29.040 |
| 7 | Inky | Mandy Ward | Mt Maunganui DTC | 17 | 2 | 19 | 42.666 |
| 8 | Stacey | Wayne turner | Upper Hutt DTC | 13 | 0 | 13 | 13.09 |
| 9 | Fizz | Ben Paddon | EBOP | 9 | | 9 | 32.840 |
| 10 | Ray | Anneke Lilley | Upper Hutt DTC | 5 | 0 | 5 | 10.220 |
| 11 | Lace | Chrissy Harris | HBDC | 5 | 0 | 5 | 31.428 |
| 12 | Taco | Darren Lilley | Upper Hutt DTC | 1 | 0 | 1 | 15.780 |
| 13 | Kiri | Jill Anderson | HBDC | 1 | 0 | 1 | 84.596 |
| 14 | Rider | Margaret Lilley | Upper Hutt DTC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 555 |
| | | SMALL | | | | | |
| 1 | Smudge | Erin Mulholland | Upper Hutt DTC | 22 | 27 | 49 | 36.350 |
| 2 | Feergus | Anne Packer | Upper Hutt DTC | 17 | 27 | 44 | 31.810 |
| 3 | Sky | Gillian Cruickshank | Upper Hutt DTC | 17 | 27 | 44 | 36.850 |
| 4 | Wyna | Robyn Fargher | HBDC | 17 | 27 | 44 | 37.400 |
| 5 | Milly | Alison Derbyshire | EBOP | 16 | 27 | 43 | 29.220 |
| 6 | Dazzle | Alison Derbyshire | EBOP | 16 | 27 | 43 | 36.220 |
| 7 | Shuffle | Robyn Fargher | HBDC | 16 | 27 | 43 | 38.320 |
| 8 | Faith | Sue Boyle | Upper Hutt DTC | 15 | 27 | 42 | 35.720 |
| 9 | Tigger | Robyn Fargher | HBDC | 17 | 14 | 31 | 57.926 |
| 10 | Cameo | Gillian Cruickshank | Upper Hutt DTC | 17 | 9 | 26 | 47.720 |
| 11 | Scallywag | Jackie Olley | HBDC | 18 | 5 | 23 | 35.920 |
| 12 | Kahli | Mandy Ward | Mt Maunganui DTC | 17 | 0 | 17 | 41.222g e |
| 13 | Monty | Trix Jaggi | Upper Hutt DTC | 11 | 0 | 11 | 44.400 |
| 14 | Tevis | Anne Packer | Upper Hutt DTC | 10 | 0 | 10 | 35.650 |

THANKYOU!!



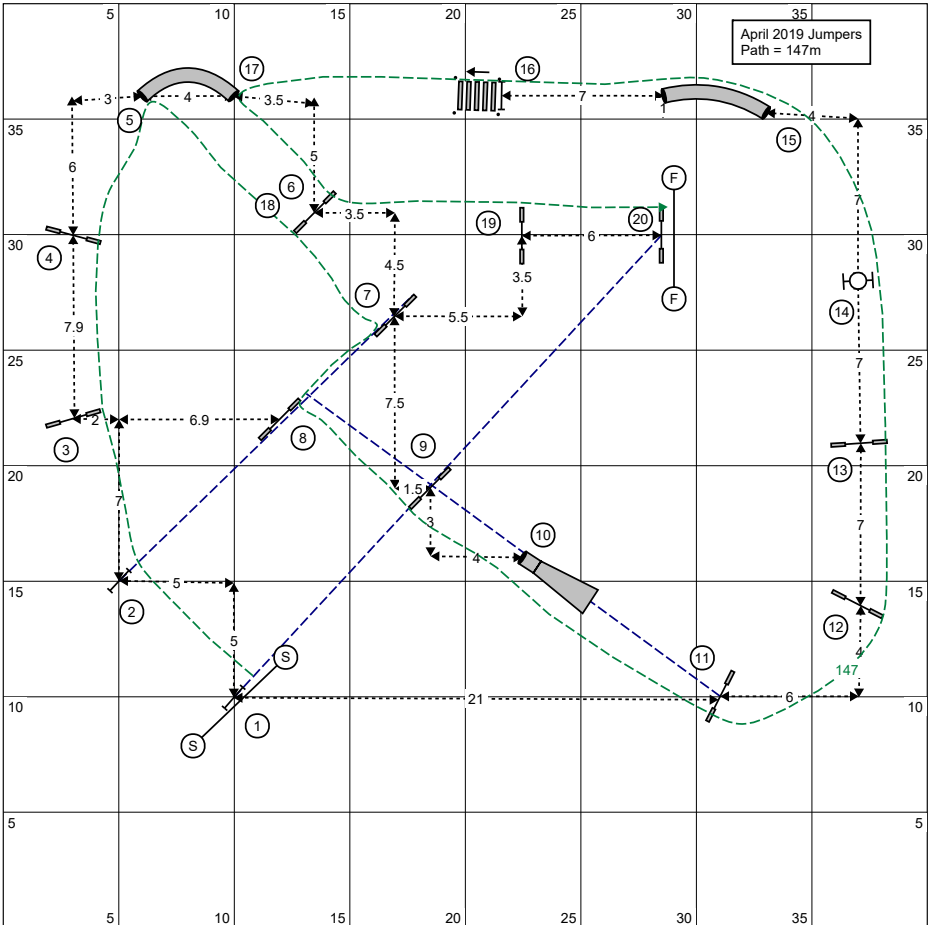
It's nice to be thanked when you put in a bit of effort and help get a job done. How about these "thankyou vouchers" from USA agility?

You could redeem them for entries/food and drink at the next event, or maybe a reduction off the costs of a club T-shirt.

Do you think it could work in NZ?

March 2019: Jumpers

Path length = 147m



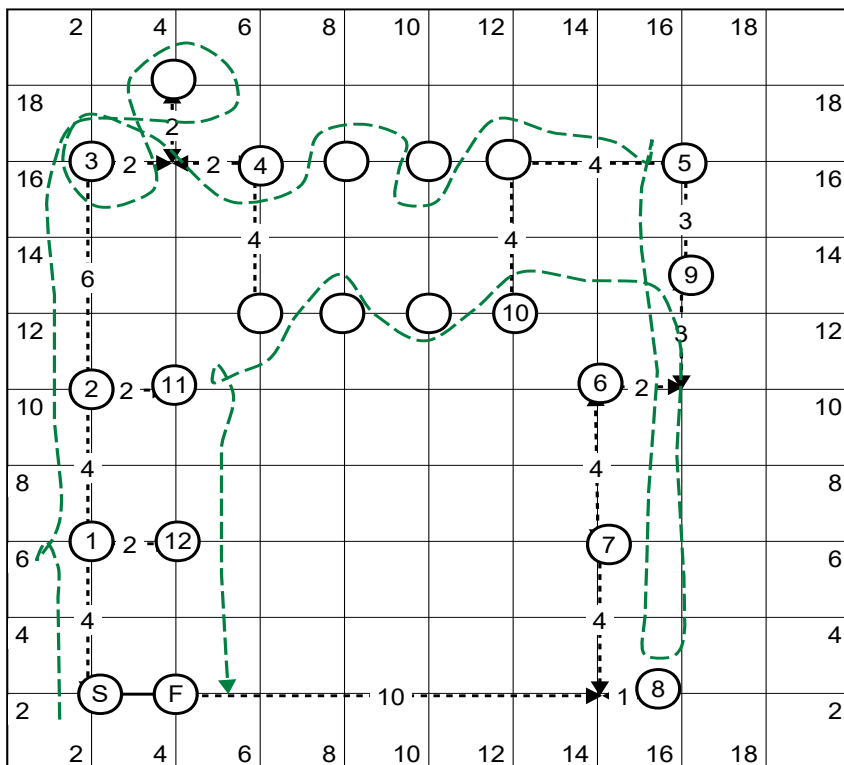
Full results at <https://agilitylink.webs.com/agility>

New Zealand Association of Rally-O

March 2019



You can find NZARO signs at nzaro.webs.com



APRIL 2019 RallyO course

1. 360 left (12)
 2. Call front finish right halt (15)
 3. Figure of eight (N1)
 4. Serpentine weave once (24)
 5. 270 left turn (10)
 6. slow pace (17)
 7. Normal pace (19)
 8. Left about turn (29)
 9. Left turn (6)
 10. serpentine weave once (24)
 11. 270 right (9)
 12. Halt sit walk around(30)
- Signs required: 6,9,10,12,15,17,19, 24(two),29,30, N1

RALLY-O TEAM RESULTS – Feb

| Plc | Club | Team | Score | Time |
|-----|-----------------------|---|-------|---------|
| 1 | Wanganui DTC | Glenn Armitage & Buddy, Rhonda Campbell & Asti, Christine Warren & Charlie | 100.0 | 229.880 |
| 2 | Hawkes Bay | Kristina Beresford & Stellar, Lorraine Lennox & Phoenix, Kristina Beresford & Tempo | 100.0 | 236.878 |
| 3 | Wairarapa | Nicky Detheridge-Davies & Rufus, Eline Herve & Tio, Nicky Detheridge-Davies & Pipi | 100.0 | 274.560 |
| 4 | Norwest | Diana Munford & Spud, Karen Smith & Alfie, Marion Lines & Sam | 100.0 | 360.560 |
| 5 | Upper Hutt | Peter de Wit & Sequel, Sue Boyle & Ranger, Peter de Wit & Quick | 99.7 | 259.560 |
| 6 | DAWG Wellington | Marian Holman & Chai, Liz Barlow & Polly Rocket, Marian Holman & Aria | 99.0 | 310.040 |
| 7 | Canterbury COC | Helen Scott & Harry, Kathryn Sutton & Daisy, Kelly Walker & Gael | 98.3 | 315.380 |
| 8 | Sunshine Whakatāne | Maria Van Beek & Buddy, Helen Barnes & Cookie, Maria Van Beek & Edison | 97.7 | 297.720 |
| 9 | Dog Sports Rotorua | Debbie Trimbach & Sophie, Sue Andreson & Queenie, Alex Jones & Texas | 97.3 | 328.030 |

TRAINING SEGMENT

Snippets from training exercises on my computer.

| | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|
| | 5 | 10 | 15 | |
| | | | | |
| 10 | | | | 10 |
| | | | | |
| 5 | | | | 5 |
| | 5 | 10 | 15 | |

WEAVE ENTRY EXERCISE

Use 4-6 poles to practice entries as this minimises the stress on the dog that continual 12 poles might do.

Practice complete weaves elsewhere and for just a few reps.

The blue jumps show a slightly more difficult option for your progression.

1. You can start with #1 a straight line entry- to really teach a dog to decel before the weave add more jumps.
2. Offside weave entry - dog has to go round the first pole to enter correctly, requiring really accurate footwork and decel
3. Requires dog to curve in to find the entry
4. Opens up all the poles and requires the dog to find and nail the correct one!

The seesaw “bang”.

Lower the down contact end of the seesaw until it is 30cm or so off the ground (for some dogs, even one cm is where you should start) and teach the dog to bang the board (usually with front two feet)

If you don't have a seesaw, you can teach your dog to close a drawer, or bang a plank, or any surface on another object that causes movement that is an approximation of the movement a dog will feel when they cause the seesaw plank to move down.

Use the bang noise as a clicker and reward the dog after the bang, as close to the plank as possible.

Some dogs don't like the noise so just stand nearby when someone is doing the seesaw with their dog and feed after each “bang”. If the dog wont eat, move further away. Play the **Noise box game** (add noisy things to a box and feed the dog its meals in there – they have to rummage around to eat and make the noises themselves.

AGILITY RESULTS – February

| Division ONE | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | East BOP | Edge Tayghen JDX Lucy | Sue Whitwell Martin Bush Trish Bush | 18.56 18.62 19.78 | 56.96 |
| 2 | Central HB | Aero Izzy JDX Poppi | Becks Holland Joanne Little Katrina Alexander | 18.86 19.888 21.005 | 59.753 |
| 3 | Wairarapa | Spy ADXB JDX Fern AD JDX Tio JD | Sharleen Drummond Caragh Briggs Elaine Herve | 19.517 20.424 22.222 | 62.163 |
| 4 | Hawkes Bay | Lace JDX CGCG Lucy Chester | Chrissy Harris Denise Ockey Peggy Scott | 19.893 20.815 23.471 | 64.179 |
| 5 | Mangawhai | Belle ADX FD Faze Pippa ADXB JD RN | Carol Taylor Lauren Meyers Colleen Lauder | 21.444 21.644 25.6 | 68.688 |
| | Upper Hutt1 | AG Gr CH Ali Feergus ADXB AgCh Holly | Peter de Wit Anne Packer Jane Aukett | 18.5 23.34 27.41 | 69.25 |
| 7 | Huntly | George JD Silver Pandaris AD JD | Dr John Gates Kim Orlando-Reep Kim Orlando-Reep | 28.235 36.365 37.39 | 101.99 |

Division TWO

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Nelson 2 | Rio | Joanna Martin | 19.732 | 60.451 |
| | | Lia JDX ADX | Nartarsha Gorrie | 19.927 | |
| | | Turbo ADXA Gold JDX | Nikki Steyn | 20.792 | |
| 2 | CCATS | Sketch | Helen Lappin | 19.683 | 64.072 |
| | | Tui | Sandra McHugh | 21.576 | |
| | | Toffee ADXG JDX JAX | Helen Lappin | 22.813 | |
| 3 | Tauranga 2 | Epic JDX | Fiona Denton | 18.014 | 67.74 |
| | | Chilli ADXB JD | Bernice Shearman | 23.704 | |
| | | Maggy ADX JDX | Tania Greenwood | 26.022 | |
| 4 | Cambridge | Gillie | Julie McConkey | 24.842 | 78.725 |
| | | Lilly ADXG JDS JAX | Robyn Brettell | 25.577 | |
| | | Tess | Tracey Trotter | 28.306 | |
| 5 | Sth Canterbury | Mia JDX | Shelley Sisson | 24.139 | 85.232 |
| | | Ziggy ADXG JDG JAS SNB | Jenny D'Arcy | 28.432 | |
| | | Riki JD | Kate Butler | 32.661 | |
| 6 | Mt Maunganui 2 | Teaga | Kelly Rutherford | 25.437 | 113.97 |
| | | Buddy | Maggie Marriner | 41.423 | |
| | | Ava | Renee James | 47.11 | |

Division Three

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| 1 | Upper Hutt 3 | Sequel | Peter de Wit | 18 | 61.91 |
| | | FDCh Stacey | Wayne Turner | 20.47 | |
| | | Taco | Darren Lilley | 23.44 | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| 2 | North Shore | Bill Lola JD Agility Zak | Jenny Lawry Florence Purves Mia Heijnen | 22.402 22.416 22.587 | 67.405 |
| 3 | Tokoroa | Vogue ADXG JDX Shelby AD JDX Envy | Paul Needham Linda Martin Paul Needham | 20.305 23.401 26.664 | 70.37 |
| 4 | Whangarei | Fleet Bilbo ADXB JDX Sanchez | Christine Gillespie Anne Cozens Amelie McIlhinney | 17.389 26.592 30.645 | 74.626 |
| 5 | Tauranga 3 | Taylah Jet Heidi AD | Fiona Denton Kim Hammond Helen Fabling | 24.744 25.867 28.185 | 78.796 |
| Division Four | | | | | |
| 1 | DAWG | Rebel Frank RN Aria | Joanne Kilmister Liz Barlow Marian Holman | 16.857 23.206 24.485 | 64.548 |
| 2 | Nelson 4 | Shilo JD Zsisi JD Peppa JD | Rachel Cunningham Lizzi Gillard Martin Steyn | 20.417 21.713 24.681 | 66.811 |
| 3 | CHB Orange Roughies | Skye Jinx Whio | Catherine Harty Lynette Sayers Kay Griffiths | 18.772 23.944 25.479 | 68.195 |
| 4 | Dog Sport Rotorua | Chip Storm JD Grace | Raewyn Saville Christine Longton Sharon Brosnahan | 25.78 29.81 32.75 | 88.34 |

Flygility – standard results, Feb 2019.

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|---|--------|
| 1 | Taranaki BeeGees | Blue FDX AD JDX TT1 FD GrCh Willow ADXB JDX GD Kez | Lynn Pillette Sandra Banks Ella Sands-Fore | 24.618 |
| 2 | Taranaki Harlequins | FDCH Dazzle CDX WDX JD RN Storm FDX FDCH Bella ADXG JAB | Laurel Austin Sandra Banks Lynn Pillette | 30.874 |
| 3 | Counties Real Dogs | Daisy Eric Sneaky JD | Nicole Beaumont Natalia Beketova Elaine Rohde | 31.516 |
| 4 | FDTC Meadowlarks | Shadow FDX FDGrCh Echo Holly FD | Nichola Cole Nichola Cole Wendy Cole | 32.33 |
| 5 | Dog Sports Rotorua 1 | Sophie Gypsy Pipa | Debbie Trimbach Dave Swinyard Christine Longton | 32.47 |
| 6 | Hurricaneines | Caesar Rebel Tank | Clint Perkins Joanne Kilmister Cherie Picking | 32.736 |
| 7 | Hawkes Bay 1 | Chester Lace JDX CGCG | Peggy Scott Chrissy Harris | 33.68 |

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--|--|--------|
| | | Misty CGCG ADX JDX RN FDX | Chrissy Harris | |
| 8 | Counties Headbord | AG & J GRCH FDCH Bolt ADXG JDX JAB TCQ RE Kruze JD Piper AD JDX | Elaine Rohde Allan Rohde Nicole Beaumont | 34.053 |
| 9 | FDTC Friendly Fields | FD Ch Meggie FD Gr Ch Blaze ADXG JDX RA FdCh Pulse | Nichola Cole Lynda Cummins Sandra Mohekey | 34.2 |
| 10 | Mighty Misfits | Big Bad Wolf Sam Cooper | Judy Towers Diane Haydon Kirsten Pierson | 34.94 |
| 11 | North Shore | Cassidy ADXG JDX FDX Meg Winter | Jacqui Wigmore Debbie Nilsson Sheeran Johnson | 35.12 |
| 12 | In The Fly Zone | Little Miss Chatter Box Belle JD Moss FDCH JD AD | Diane Haydon Judy Towers Diane Haydon | 35.5 |
| 13 | Hurricanines 1 | Abby JD Chai Huck | Stuart McCaw Marian Holman Frazer Jeromson | 36.279 |
| 14 | Dog Sports Rotorua 2 | Chip | Raewyn Saville | 41.4 |

| | | | | |
|----|------------------------|--|---|--------|
| | | FdCh Bess ADXG JAX Boston | Dave Swinyard Christine Hutchings | |
| 15 | Counties Big & Littlez | CH Gator JD Scooter ADX JDX Roma | Natalia Beketova Sylvia Lord Natalia Beketova | 47.166 |
| 16 | Hurricaneines 2 | Sage ADX JDX Aria Camo | Joanne Kilmister Marian Holman Cherie Picking | 47.975 |
| 17 | Dog Sports Rotorua 3 | Jade Molly Bootz | Pam Sharp Sue Warrender Christine Hutchings | 48.59 |
| 18 | Hawkes Bay 2 | Biggie CGCG RN Henry Ruby | Chrissy Harris Emma Speeden Denise Ockey | 68.418 |

FLYGILITY REPORT by SANDRA MOHEKEY.

I have been musing about a few fly related things lately but not actually managing to write anything down. If I could just think it and get a robot or something to word process it I would have written hundreds of articles by now. Anyway, decided I would actually write one – even without AI support - since the madness that was the first two months of the year is in a – possibly brief - lull.

I have had a few discussions with people about why flygility seems to be going through a bit of a down turn in numbers lately and thought I could share the theories. Of course, there may not be a drop in numbers where you are. May just be a central/lower North Island thing but I think it is still worth exploring as a topic.

Theory one. Some dog club members actively put people off sports they do not compete in. With flygility they often claim it causes more injuries than other sports. I do not know what their evidence is for this, or if they even have some. None of my dogs has ever been injured training or competing in fly but they have been injured playing with other dogs – tee-boning Niko was a favourite game for my pack which I stopped very quickly - and in their daily lives they get hurt. (Sore feet from running on rocks at river swims was a biggy for my dogs but thankfully Musher's Secret and some tanin have helped with that.) I have seen a couple of other dogs injured hitting the fly jump and I applaud Nicola's new jump design. It makes that jump much safer. If you are running a tournament why not adapt your own and trial it?

The NZ style box has come in for quite a lot of criticism and I think it could be improved. I wonder if we could put some impact absorbing material under it and on the foot. But - let's not chuck it out and replace the whole thing yet. Having seen the box flyball uses I am not convinced it is safer. Surely those dogs get more injuries because they only turn one way and the impact is so much more repetitive? I would be interested in a scientific comparison.

My vet trained chiro-physio has observed both agility and fly and says agility is harder on dogs but still it is flygility which gets the bad rap from other sports. Those people who criticise fly may not be aware that,

apparently, according to an attendee, a recent vet conference spent time discussing the dogs coming in with neck problems caused by holding their heads high in an unnatural position for obedience competitions. Perhaps we need to ban that style of competition?

I guess the point is we need to ensure people have all the information they need to make an informed decision.

Theory two. There are some influential people who attract people to compete because they do and others enjoy their company. When they leave a sport others may also leave or may not compete as much. I think that has happened a bit in the last few years.

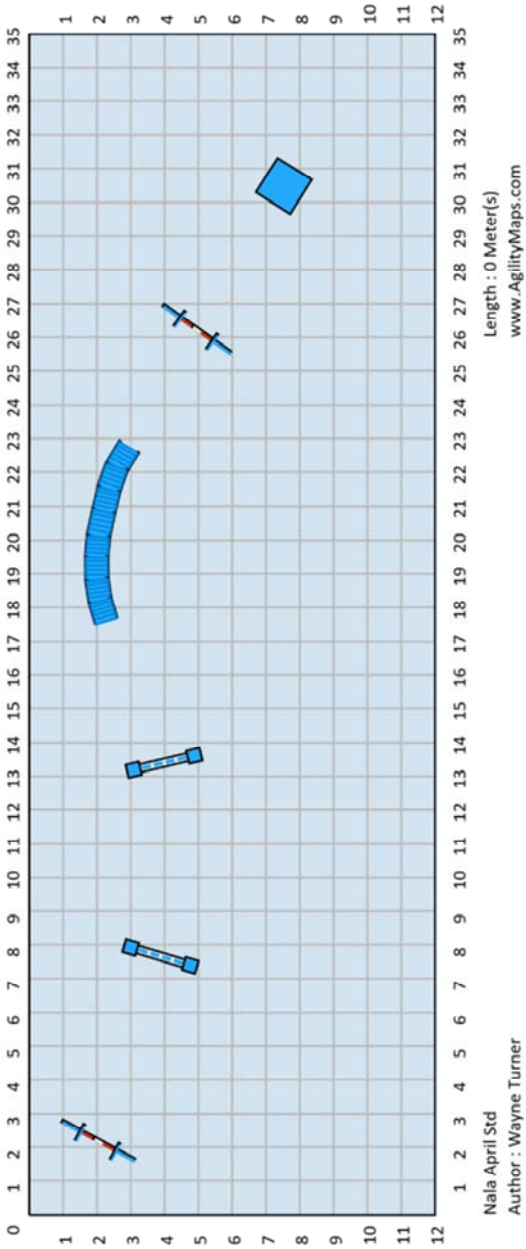
Theory three. There are people with strong personalities who can dominate a sport in an area and, if the pool is small enough, can put people off competing. (But don't worry because I will be taking a break from fly. It will be safe for you to go to shows again.)

Theory four. People compete until they have acquired the title or skill they were chasing, then move to something else. I have made Pulse up to Grand; time to concentrate on the younger ones and agility.

Theory five. A lack of variety in setting courses. Some people tell me they don't do as much fly because the courses all test the same skills – they have just one tight combination of jumps and a tunnel after another with no ramps, long jumps, or even weaves. Agility courses are not all the same, so why do clubs run fly courses which only suit the same pool of dogs? Instead, why not have a tight course and a speed course and a tricky course....

Enough theories. I hope I provoked some discussions. Happy training and may your dog carry the ball over the line!

Flygility course - April



NALA is 30 years old this year.

**We are going to invite you all to
a party!**

**Every month NALA will gift some
\$\$ to a Club or two so that they
can put on a celebration at the
running of LINK at the club.**

**We would of course like to see
some photos of you enjoying
yourself whilst celebrating
NALA's 30th!!!**

April: Happy Birthday NALA! (Don't forget the pictures.)

Blenheim CTC
Huntly & Districts AC
Whanganui DTC
Wairarapa DTC

*Can the club contacts
email Malcolm with
their Club's Bank
account details.*

Can You Compost Dog Poop?

March 06, 2019



According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a single dog creates about **274 pounds of waste a year**. A larger dog will produce even more! That's a lot of poop.

So, what's the best way to dispose of it? Is it better to let Nature take care of the "mess" or can you compost dog poop?

Biodegradable Poop Bags: The Green Choice?

While leaving poop to Nature to dispose of may seem like the most natural option, you're actually hurting, rather than helping, the environment.

For example, dog poop is carried by storm water directly into waterways. This can lead to bacterial contamination. Poop is also nitrogen-rich, so it can deplete oxygen levels. This has a negative impact on fish in those waterways, the wildlife that require them for food or water ...

... you get the picture.

That's the beauty of **biodegradable poop bags**, right? Well, that depends.

Sure, picking up the waste in a biodegradable bag is much better. In the perfect conditions, that bag will break down and do what it's supposed to. The problem with this is that our landfills don't actually provide the perfect conditions, so those bags aren't able to break down and decompose safely.

So, what's the answer? You shouldn't leave it on the ground and those poop bags won't break down at the dump. **It's time to start composting, but ...**

Can You Compost Dog Poop?

Yes, once you've picked up the poop in that biodegradable bag, you can compost it. And, not only can you compost dog poop, you should. A composter will give you that perfect environment to break it down.

It also gives you great fertilizer for that garden **full of dog-friendly plants!**

When you compost dog poop, you can use the nutrient rich material as fertilizer, giving back to the earth instead of hurting it. If the soil in your garden is lacking, no amount of chemical fertilizer is going to help. The compost from the dog waste can really make a difference.

And it's really simple to do.

How To Compost Your Dog's Waste

You can go out and buy a compost container and set it up in your backyard. You can also make one on your own with minimal effort.

It's a fairly simple procedure to compost dog waste. All you need is a few supplies (and a lot of this stuff you probably already have in the garage):

- A small area (try to keep it at least a short distance from your home and the dogs)
- A large wood or metal bin to keep and mix the waste
- Nitrogen-rich materials such as grass clippings or vegetable waste
- Dry, carbon-rich materials such as leaves, old newspaper or sawdust
- A pitchfork or shovel to mix the material
- A thermometer to measure the compost temperature
- A supply of warm water

Once the setup is complete, the next step is to toss the dog waste in the bin with the yard waste, sawdust and vegetable peels. Add some water every few days and let Nature do her work.

Every few days, head out to the bin and mix it. The pile should be turned from outside to inside. This allows all of the material to reach a temperature high enough to make the process work. The internal temperature of the pile should reach at least 145 degrees. The entire process often takes about six to eight weeks.

***NOTE: While your organic food waste is great for your vegetable garden, make sure this compost is kept separate from other compost and used only in ornamental gardens.*

How To Tell When the Process Is Complete

There are a few different ways to tell when the process is finished. Here are the most common ones:

- The compost pile has a pleasant, earthy odor
- The material in the pile is dark, moist and crumbly

- The material no longer heats up after turning

When the compost pile is mature, it forms an effective fertilizer for plant growth. This serves as a beneficial product while keeping the dog waste out of the water table.

If you want to know more about composting dog waste, the benefits, or more tips on how to build your own, the United States Department of Agriculture has a whole paper on it - [find it here](#).

So, keep picking up the poop in those biodegradable bags. But, instead of tossing them in the garbage bin, make that poop work for you in the compost!



Emily Vey is a research and writing wizard on the Four Leaf Rover team. She's always working to help dogs live the healthiest lives possible (and helping the earth doesn't hurt either)! She lives in Ontario with her partner-in-crime Ryan, their husky Inuk and German shepherd Indi. Together they enjoy hiking, swimming and all things outdoors

<https://fourleafrover.com/>

CAN YOU COMPOST **DOG POOP?**



A single dog creates about 274 pounds of waste a year. A larger dog will produce even more!

SO, WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DISPOSE OF IT?



Biodegradable bags are great, but our landfills don't provide the perfect conditions, so those bags can't break down.

SO, PICK UP THE POOP AND BRING IT HOME TO COMPOST IT!



HOW TO COMPOST DOG POOP

Buy a compost container or make one on your own and set it up in a corner of your yard.

Toss the dog waste in the bin with some yard waste, sawdust and vegetable peels. Add some water every few days and let Nature do her work.

Every few days, head out to the bin and mix it.

The internal temperature of the pile should reach at least 145 degrees. The entire process often takes about 6 to 8 weeks.

When you compost dog poop, you can use the nutrient rich material as fertilizer, giving back to the earth instead of hurting it.

