

Agility

Gisborne Agility & Obedience 2021

Supplied by Rosemarie Baker, rjbagility2020@gmail.com



Every year the members of Gisborne Dog Training Club pull together to make the annual Obedience and Agility Championship and Ribbon Show better than the one previous. Each year the agility numbers grow for little ol' Gisborne. We even made it into *The Gisborne Herald*.

This year's event, on 5-6 June at the Poverty Bay Showgrounds, Makaraka, proved that with the right attitude and relaxed atmosphere, people will take the trip to the East Coast.

We are a 'different' breed of human in Gizzy, and at our show you get to experience a cruisey and positive atmosphere. There's less tension and more fun. Most people, including ourselves, start Agility for fun. You try something new with your dog and give them an exciting and enriching sport. At the same time, you make lifelong friends who you can laugh with, cry with and, most importantly, talk as much as you want about your fur babies with. At our show,

Did you know...

For information on getting your dog measured or contacting a measurer, visit:

www.dogagility.org.nz/cont/measuring%20dogs.html

We want people to remember all the good stuff about Agility and have fun. After all, that's why most of us started.

We are very lucky to have great sponsors every year: NZ Safety Blackwoods, Animates and Bunnings were major sponsors this year. But our biggest drawcard is our biggest sponsor, Petfoods NZ. Because of them, we are able to hand out a tray of dog food to every ribbon placing. We are so grateful to Petfoods NZ: during these tough times, they still donate thousands of cans of dog food for our show.

At this show, we like to reward as many people as we can. You don't have to compete to win a prize. Since there are only a few local club members to run the show, we rely on everyone to help and we like to give a little something to those who do. We take note of those that go the extra mile and reward them with prizes donated from our sponsors.

We put a lot of thought into which judges we ask to our show. Since we have particular personalities, we choose judges that will fit in nicely and go with the flow as much as we do. This year was definitely another example of how they make things work. Alan McClumpha and Lyn Sayers had agreed to judge for us in 2020 (during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic) and kept that agreement for 2021.

Being cruisey doesn't always work in our favour. Unfortunately, we left organising the Ribbon Show to the last minute, so we're glad that Fiona Hodgson kindly agreed to judge, fairly last minute. Lyn Sayers stayed on to help judge our Ribbon Show, as did Jacqui Kirkland-Purves.

This year we were the first show to host three disciplines — Agility, Obedience and Scent Work. All three ran smoothly without too much disruption to each. Without the huge amount of help and support of others, we would not have had such a successful 2021 show. All clubs know the importance of everyone doing their fair share at a show. Unfortunately there will always be some that don't pull their weight, but for those that go the extra mile, especially at another club's show, you are very much appreciated.

This year our entries increased by almost 300. It still may have been a small show compared to others, but for us it's just awesome. It's awesome that people who wouldn't usually drive as far as Gisborne, made the effort and supported us. Our raffle and barbecue sales had a huge increase and our lovely coffee ladies did very well too.



We received a lot of great comments after the show:

- "Always enjoy Gizzy"
- "You always do it"
- "Great team work"
- "Worth the trip"
- "Will definitely be back next year"
- "Great weekend", "Fabulous", "Wonderful", "Awesome", "Amazing", "Relaxed".

Our 2021 show was our biggest show yet and we will only be increasing. Next year will be even bigger and better! 🐾

Susan Edwards

