

Caring For Our Community

"There's no such thing as a bad breed of dog. Just bad owners."

Two weeks ago dogs of all breeds competed at obedience competition training in Levin. Most club members do it for fun but there is a more serious side: making sure your dog is properly socialised and trained can save lives.

Horowhenua Obedience Dog Training Club

Ashley and Bugs are Welsh Springer Spaniels. Bugs is deaf and her owner Penny uses hand signals to communicate while competing.



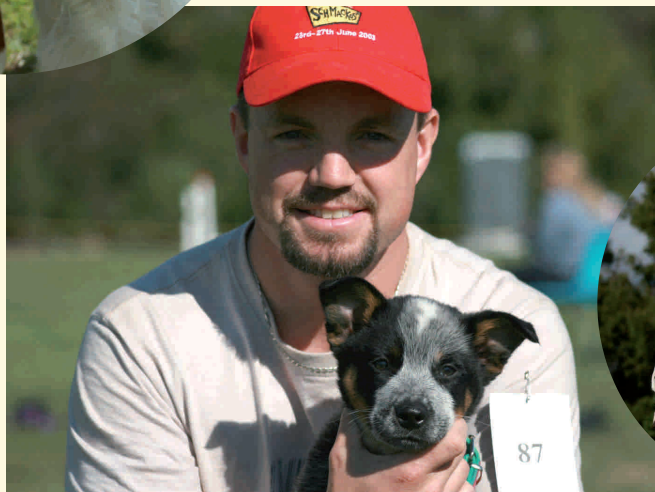
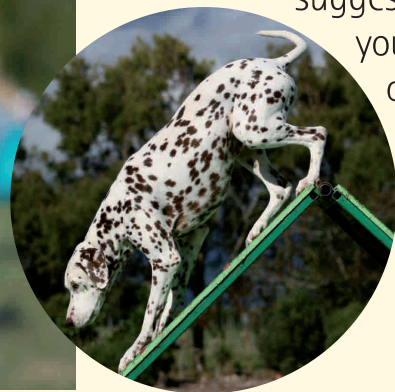
Deefa and owner Kim.



Rosemary Cleator is the president of the Horowhenua Obedience Dog Training Club. Her dog Zest came second in novice class. When Rosemary was a child, she was scared of dogs. She now runs her own dog kennel and dog obedience classes. She believes that most dog attacks are not the dogs fault, but the owner, and that some breeds aren't great around people if they're not socialised properly (like rottweiler and pitbull terrier). "Dogs are pack animals and they have to know where they are in the pack. If they think they're leader, they'll treat humans accordingly."



Term 2 starts 30 May. Contact Rosemary for information on courses and private obedience training. Ph 06 368 9833. She suggests starting training your puppy at six weeks old. The club needs funds for more agility gear so if you can help, make contact.



Ross is hoping young Riley will compete soon. "Dogs need proper stimulation or they end up chewing things. They get bored like humans," says Ross.

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