



Canterbury Canine Agility Training Society (CCATS) was fortunate to be invited back to provide another agility display at the Animal and Pet Expo weekend at the CHCH Pioneer stadium on April 29th following a successful event in 2017. A large contingent of CCATS members joined in the fun including many new members and handlers of all ages and experience. Due to some very dismal autumn rainy weather the stadium was packed with enthusiastic onlookers as the handlers drew in the crowd with warm up exercises and clever tricks before beginning the show.



As a newish team with just on 12 months of agility competitions under our belt, Tabasco my red and white border collie and I were very excited to be able to share some of our love for our new favourite sport. We attempted to dazzle prospective new members with our speed, prowess and humour by racing up the dog walk when clearly the tunnel was directed. But, our 5 young handlers, Annie (Stella- Foxy X rabbit chaser & Gazza-German Shepherd), Holly (Ella- labrador), Molly (Nina-GSP), Kate (Coco-bird chaser spoodle) and Isabella (Pippa - Pippi long stockings Beardie X) stole the show, and provided much inspiration particularly to the young people in the audience. Rieko and Pino (Toy Poodle), Geoff and Stella (Labrador X - road cone girl), Nicky and LouLou (Min Schnauzer -Russian girl), Leanah and Bob (Terrier X) and Jess with Jax (Catahoula x Huntaway - jumping jax Flash) further delighted the audience who really got into the spirit cheering for all.

It was awesome to be able to represent such a wide variety of different breeds ranging in size and personality from 'Pino' to 'Jax'. Our dogs of all shapes and sizes truly demonstrated agility as a sport for all. The Duck herding display immediately prior to ours did provided a challenge for our terriers and schnauzers with duck droppings and feathers strategically left on our course, but they handled the distractions like the superstars they are.

Sandra (with her dogs, Tui—Min Poodle - Brat-a Tui & Pippi) and Kathryn (with Viper—Min Schnauzer - VIP dog) both did an incredible job first as MC's, engaging the audience and sharing delightful stories about our canine athletes and second as skilled senior handlers demonstrating the beautiful dance of agility with their dogs.

We rallied around to produce a new CCATS flyer and distributed these to entice new membership as we shamelessly promoted our new introductory class beginning in a week's time. John Osgood took some lovely photos of the display for our website and this report as evidence of the great time had by all.

- Candace Bobier, agility newbie

