

The Glengarry News

5th annual K-9 Sportsfest held at Maxville Fairgrounds

July 31 2019 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff

The Dog Days of Summer

It was barking mad at the 5th annual K-9 Sportsfest at the Maxville Fairgrounds this weekend. Things got off to a slow start on Saturday with 40 degree heat affecting attendance and shutting down some of the events early for the well-being of the dogs and participants. Saturday night's storm cooled things off bringing the public out to enjoy the celebration of all things doggie.

"I've been in the dog sport world for about fifteen years," said organizer Erika Anderson. "I thought it would be a great idea to educate people on all the different sports there are for dogs." This year's event featured flyball which is a canine race rally with teams of four competing head-to-head with other teams to complete a flyball course as quickly as possible. There was also barn an brush trials – or ratting – for dogs to try their luck at sniffing out rats which were safely tucked away in tubes. The Bermese Mountain Club had a draft demonstration where dogs were welcome to try pulling a cart around a short course. There was also a range of disc or frisbee events, dog tricks, agility, doc diving, and a whole lot more!

The two-day event was as much for the animals as it was the dog owners, with the quality of vendors and the number of events featured growing every year. "It's a big tourist draw," continued Ms. Anderson. "We get people from across Quebec and Ontario and there are a lot of Americans who come up for the weekend too."

"I love the grounds, we don't have anything like this in Massachusetts," said Aubrey Sperrey who had traveled in from Boston, Massachusetts to compete in the Up-Dog Challenge Frisbee Competition with four year old Dutch Shepherd Jolene. "There's just so much space and it's really well-organized, it's amazing!"

The most popular events were the dog agility trials and the doc jumping which were featured in the infield. "My favourite is the doc jumping," said Cory Locy from Martintown who was attending the event with his 4 month old Blue Merle named Gin for the first time. "It's been great being able to meet other dog owners and seeing all of the different sports available." Elsbeth Vaino of Ottawa decided to join her friend who was competing at the event. "It's my first time at an event like this," she said. "It's a lot of fun. The agility is my favourite part."

The event also featured a range of vendors selling everything from high-end dog clothing, to bedding, treats, toys, healing crystals and specialized training gear. "The set-up is beautiful and the stands are great," said Bernie McIntyre who had traveled in from Innisfil, Ontario with his daughter Nicole and her dogs Zeus and Aurora who were competing in the doc jumping events. "The quality of the vendors is really good, it's well organized, safe, all the dogs are on leashes and everyone is picking up after themselves. We're very impressed with the event."

Performance dogs and competitors also benefited from cooling stations, doggie massage, laser treatments and rehabilitation services. "This dog would not be competing if it wasn't for Carlyne," said Theda Pretsell as she watched over her dog Bria as she received hands on treatment and laser therapy. "Her pelvis wasn't aligned properly which was causing her pain and

discomfort as well as muscle tightness,” explained Carolyn therapist McIntyre. “It’s amazing!” gushed Ms. Pretsell, “She’s running again and jumping all thanks to Carolyn.”

“We love it!” said Avonmore dog owner Brooke Wereley. “We’ve been coming for three years now and look forward to it every year. It’s great seeing all of the different dog sports and getting Dakota to try new things.”

Did you miss out on K-9 Sports Fest this weekend? Hilltop K-9 Agility Club will be hosting Agility Trials on August 3rd and 4th at the Williamstown Fairgrounds. The event will also feature Zakaly with Lure Coursing and ‘OUT’ – an over, under, through obstacle course that will be open to the public and their dogs. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Hilltop club and Ron and Cher’s cat rescue in Bainsville. Hilltop will also be performing a demonstration at the Williamstown Fair on Saturday at 11 am and another at 2 pm behind the cattle barns.

CAPTIONS:

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“Heather Dickenson and her German Shepherd Metric Von Kimberhund were demonstrating IGP at K-9 Sports Fest over the weekend. “It was a horse replacement for me,” said Ms. Dickenson who competed in dressage for more than twenty years. “It’s just as complex as dressage. It takes a lot of thinking and you can keep learning all your life so it fills my time and my need for study as much as the horse world did.”

“This dog would not be competing if it wasn’t for Carolyn,” said competitor Theda Pretsell as her Belgian Tervuren Bria received a canine rehabilitation therapy from McIntyre’s Rehabilitation during K-9 Sports Fest over the weekend. - TARA MACDONALD

Felicia Pynes and her dogs Luna and Balto along with and Katy Munro with her dog Kyubey were joined by Laurin Fulton drove in from Ottawa for the day to compete and celebrate all things dog at K-9 Sports Fest on Sunday. “It’s super fun,” said Ms. Fulton. “We like being able to watch all of the different sports and find out which is best for our dogs, added Ms. Pynes, “It’s wonderful for dogs.” - TARA MACDONALD

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Kristin Bibeault and her Doberman mix Anguss drove in from Gatineau on Sunday to compete in the Barn and Brush Hunt. “It’s been hot but a lot of fun,” said Ms. Bibeault. “I love all the different dog sports and the try-it’s. You get to give new sports a shot for a small fee. It’s been a great day!” - TARA MACDONALD

Donna Boine and her Australian Shepherd Maverick were joined by Donna Boine (left) and Rhainnon Vanburren (right) from Ottawa for K-9 Sports Fest. “It’s our second time here, we think it’s awesome,” said Donna Boine. “We like watching the agility and the herders. It’s good socializing for Maverick and the vendors were really good.” - TARA MACDONALD

Cindy Smith of Bewdley, Ontario demonstrates ‘drafting’ or ‘carting’ with her seven year old Bernese Heidi at the Bernese Mountain Dog Club area. “We’re one of the few clubs in Canada

that are sanctioned by the Canadian Kennel Club to hold draft tests,” said Director Helen Rimmer. “Historically, the Bernese were farm dogs bred to do pulling of loads at the farm and hauling milk to the cheese factory, so this is part of their heritage.” - TARA MACDONALD

Avonmore dog owner Brooke Wereley and her German Shepherd mix 3 year old ‘Dakota’ were showing off after winning “Most Impressive Trick of the Day” at K-9 Sports Fest on Sunday. “We love it!” said Ms. Wereley. “We’ve been coming for three years now and look forward to it every year. It’s great seeing all of the different dog sports and getting Dakota to try new things.” - TARA MACDONALD

“The whole sport is really fun for the dogs and the competitors,” said Aubrey Sperrey who had traveled in from Boston, Massachusetts to compete in the Up-Dog Challenge Frisbee Competition with four year old Dutch Shepherd Jolene. “I love the grounds, we don’t have anything like this in Massachusetts,” said Ms. Sperrey who would like to see the sport be added to the Olympics roster. “The dogs must compete an obstacle course and attempt to catch the frisbee in a catch zone to get points.” - TARA MACDONALD

Handle Sandy MacDavid and her 10 year old Australian Cattle dog Abby from Hamilton, Ontario won the Eukanuba Performance Games Champion Team award with Carole-Anne Girouard and her 12 year old all Canadian (mixed breed) Fergie from St. Lazare, Quebec along with Barb Geoghegan and her ten and a half year old Mini Australian Shepherd Dixie from Brantford, Ontario. “Old dogs rock!” said the Team who beat out younger competitors in the Guides Canins Inc. Agility Ring on Sunday. - TARA MACDONALD

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Fred – a nine year old Golden Retriever from Pembroke, Ontario – has been doc diving for seven years, said handler Sharon Needham. “He took second place in the novice lure as well as the grab dog competition and won Junior Event Championship this weekend.” - TARA MACDONALD

Linda Viau from Lancaster and Shari Joansse from Cornwall were manning the ‘Poop Depot’ over the weekend. “For every dog deposit, you get a raffle ticket,” explained Ms. Joansse. “There have been a few kids scouring the grounds for forgotten treasures. It’s a great motivator to remind people to pick up after their dogs.” - TARA MACDONALD

Rats Canada competitor and judge Julie Connor and her German Coolie dog Tweak came in from Gatineau, Quebec for the weekend. “It was a new sport to do with my dog and he really enjoyed it,” said Ms. Connor. “This weekend he earned his Advance Brush title.” - TARA MACDONALD

Lyse Savard from Montreal was competing at the Agility Trials at K-9 Sports Fest this weekend with her seven year old Australian Cattle dog Billie Jean. - TARA MACDONALD

Sixteen year old Nicole McIntyre from Innisfil, Ontario was one of the youngest competitors at K-9 Sports Fest this weekend. “It’s our first time to K-9,” said Miss McIntyre. “The dogs have a lot of fun. There aren’t many kids, but I’ve made a lot of new friends. It’s a great group of people.” Her father – Bernie McIntyre – agreed, “The adults have been so supportive and welcoming, as a parent we couldn’t ask for better. It was Nicole that convinced us to get dogs

and promised to train the dogs so we agreed. It's like watching little kids when the dogs train, they can't wait to get into the water." - TARA MACDONALD

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