

## Papillon Club of Victoria Inc Restricted to Height Trial

On a warm Saturday morning, the first Restricted to Height (for dogs jumping 200mm & 300mm) Agility and Jumping Trial in Australia was run by the Papillon Club of Victoria Inc at KCC Park Skye Vic.

94 entries were received with triallers traveling from all over Melbourne and as far away as Canberra, Burra, Sydney, Warrnambool, and Bendigo.

Many breeds of small dog were represented including of course the Papillon, along with Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Schipperkes, German Spitz, Scottish Terriers, Australian Silky Terriers, Border Terriers, Griffon Bruxellois, Shetland Sheepdog, Toy and Miniature Poodles and Associates. Many of these small dogs did not only have Agility and Jumping Titles but also had Obedience and Conformation Titles.

The judges, Roger Padfield and Robyn Docker provided challenging and fun courses and it was a delight to see handlers and their dogs enjoying the trial.

The award for Best in Trial and Best Papillon in Trial was won by Maisongabbi Likea Sprite JDX AD GD. It was inspiring to see Sprite and her handler/owner Loris Cameron complete the Excellent Agility course in a time of 41.40 seconds with a Standard Course time of 62 seconds.

Congratulations to all triallers that were awarded with Passes on the day and also to those who completed their Titles. Good things DO come in small packages.

**Trial Secretary, Jacinta M Baker**



(above and left)  
Best in Trial winner  
Maisongabbi Likea Sprite JDX AD GD



(below left)  
Beauchiot  
Dream Chaser  
AD JD  
(below)  
Starblaze Mary Rose



(above)  
Dual Ch (Tracking)  
Wispodown Country Fiddle JDX AD

## Remember Babe the pig who could round up sheep?

Well, amazing feats do happen in real life and for an amazing first in Australian canine history, American Staffordshire Terrier named Ch Obsessions Tear of the Phoenix CGC TT ET JD (imp USA) is living proof.

Three year old Phoenix is a wonder dog because she recently progressed in a Novice jumping competition in agility which is usually dominated by Working Dogs ie. Border collies etc She has just become the first dog of her breed in Australia, known to have achieved a novice title in Jumping, Phoenix has really set the bench mark high.

Owner Krysta Staszek has been training Phoenix for around 8 months and has only been competing for 4 months. Dogs have to be at least 18 months old before they are allowed to compete so it's been a great achievement in such a short time.

According to Ms Staszek there is no other American Stafford who has achieved this outstanding feat. She said "I wanted to do agility to show off just how wonderful this breed can be, I thought that Phoenix would be so great at it because she has got such a good even temperament."

Trainer Keith Edwards from Canine Fun Sports in Castlereagh said it was a rare achievement. "It's something every dog should be able to do but in this breed it is not recognised for agility". He said "It's a big step to achieve what they have done".

Ms Staszek said "Phoenix has passed many bench marks since her arrival in Australia,

She left America at 14 months with her CGC title (Canine Good Citizenship) and came to Australia to gain her conformation Championship title with ease in 4 short months, then went on to become the only Import and FIRST Amstaff in NSW to gain an ET (Endurance Title), next up was her TT (Temperament Test) which she passed with flying colours. This test was held by DOGS NSW at Erskine Park with the Chief Instructor from America and we all hope it soon will become a recognised title, and now with the JD title in agility she has surpassed all our expectations and done her breed so well, proving that these dogs have the ability to do many things other than just in the showing. They are very versatile and will do anything to please their owners.



Ch Obsessions Tear of the Phoenix CGC TT ET JD (imp USA)



Vacquero Vanilla Sky AD JDX

Barbara Skilton wrote ... I was delighted to receive the following e-mail from Angela Hammond. I understand Angela is now about to compete in the conformation ring and hope she will get the same encouragement she deserves, though she will probably find it rather boring after agility and jumping trials.

Having obtained a greyhound puppy first, I then discovered the sport of agility! A little while after that I discovered Italian Greyhounds and was absorbed - hook, line and sinker! When my greyhound sustained a devastating non agility-related injury that kept her out of action for about 18 months, I wanted another dog to train, and much to the dismay of fellow agiliteers (who are obsessed with Border Collies) went to see the last litter of IG puppies bred by Barbara McLeod. People try to tell me that you cannot train a sighthound but I quietly scoff at their suggestion - what they really mean is "I don't understand the Sighthound psyche and it seems like far too much hard work". My dogs are not the traditional working German Shepard Dog or Border Collie, but they have been quite successful regardless. I see no reason that any breed of dog cannot excel at whatever his owner wants (even if that just entails being a good pet and friend).

Due to university commitments, I have not trialled regularly for the past 18 months, but my dogs compete at Advanced level with ADAA (Agility Dog Association of Australia Ltd) and Excellent and Masters level with ANKC. Rhody (aka Vacquero Vanilla Sky AD JDX) competes against dogs who are much much bigger than he is, but he has still managed a lot of wins and placings along the way. It took him only about 8 months to get from Novice to Masters level jumping, which considering the limited number of trials we attend, is an achievement I am justly proud of.

## Rhody Versatile Italian Greyhound

came

third in the

Novice Agility class at Brisbane Royal 2006 and although he made one course mistake, he certainly had the fastest course time - the placings are worked out on clear rounds/least course faults first, and then time faults. Nonetheless I was happy - especially since I was so sick with the flu that I nearly didn't go! I had no voice with which to call any commands, and was worried that I would let him down. His performance quite impressed a lady from NSW who was there showing her cattle, and she eventually tracked me down explaining that she had been disheartened by someone at her local Obedience Club who told her she was wasting her time trying to train a whippet. I told her whoever said that wasn't worth listening to.

Rhody is only two qualifiers away from his Masters Jumping Dog title (JDM), and at his last jumping trial before Christmas he came second place and qualified in the Masters Jumping - beating a host of otherwise successful Border Collies! I have had a few judges make no secret of the fact that they love watching my dogs compete whether they have a qualifying round or not. Rhody has also gained some qualifying rounds in the new Open Agility and Open Jumping Classes at ANKC - these courses can be complex and must contain a distance handling challenge that requires the dog to work up to 5 metres from the handler.

While my favourite pastime remains teaching my dogs to be sociable, well-behaved, independent thinkers, and trialling in agility; I am also interested in other canine activities and looking forward to learning more about them.