

# Wicklows dogs love to fly

## Couple trains five dogs for competition

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WICKLOW -- As an energetic catahoula leopard dog, Burke had been adopted and returned to the humane society a few times before a Wicklow family took him home.

Catahoula leopard dogs were used to hunt wild pigs in the southern United States and have a lot of energy, said Chris Beauregard, a Wicklow resident.

"They are not a good house pet if they don't have a way to burn energy," said Mr. Beauregard.

He and his wife Lori Latendresse were looking for a companion for their German shepherd and adopted Burke about six years ago.

But they soon found Burke needed an outlet. Mr. Beauregard looked into activities and discovered flyball, a relay race competition for dogs. Living in Quinte West at the time, the couple joined Hot Diggity Dogs in Frankford. Flyball races are done with two teams of four dogs racing side-by-side. Each dog jumps to a trigger flyball box. The box releases a ball, which the dog grabs and returns over the jumps so the next dog can race. The first team to have all four dogs finish the course wins the heat.

Now with five dogs in flyball, the couple finds themselves heading to competitions many weekends during the warm months. Starting in April the season takes Mr. Beauregard and Ms. Latendresse to competitions across Ontario and Quebec. Burke, Bourbon, Bailey and Louie all live with the couple while a fifth dog lives with a family member. They are all rescue dogs, said Ms. Latendresse. The dogs have space to train in Mr. Beauregard and Ms. Latendresse's yard and are conditioned daily.

"These guys are athletes. We don't have any fat dogs," said Mr. Beauregard.

Once a week they head to Hot Diggity Dogs Flyball Club, which has an indoor facility for training. It can be a lively place with 16 to 18 members and approximately 30 dogs on Wednesday nights. All types of dogs can take part in activities in the club. In addition to flyball, dogs learn tricks at the club.

Healthy, happy dogs is one benefit to training but they also get a lot of socializing with other dogs at the flyball club, said Ms. Latendresse.

"It's for anyone who wants to get out and play with their dog," she added.

While the dogs are having fun, they are also competing. After five years of competition Bourbon has earned 20,000 points, putting him at what is known as Onyx level in flyball. Bailey is getting close to her 20,000 points.



WICKLOW -- Lori Latendresse tosses a disc for agility practise with her dog Louie recently. Ms. Latendresse and her husband Chris Beauregard train their dogs in agility and for flyball competitions. **Karen Longwell / Northumberland News photos**

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### Happy, healthy dogs

Hot Diggity Dogs offers beginner memberships for people whose dogs have completed basic obedience and are at least one year old with good social skills. For more information visit the Hot Diggity

Dogs Club Facebook page or call Natalie or Denny Cornell at 613-398-0002.

Upcoming events:

- Aug. 2 to 3 Norwood Flyball Tournament
- Aug. 10 Campbellford Fair
- Aug. 30 to 31 Skyhoundz Disc Competition, Norwood Fairgrounds.



WICKLOW -- Lori Latendresse with Bourbon, left, and her husband Chris Beauregard with Burke train their dogs in agility and for flyball competitions.