



**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

# NEWS RELEASE

## **TEAM GB SHOWS ITS CLASS AT THE WORLD AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SWITZERLAND**

The Kennel Club sponsored Great Britain Agility Squad turned in some very impressive performances at the FCI Agility World Championships in Switzerland this weekend, proving the outstanding quality of handling and dogs in the country. The World Championships, held from 6 to 8 October at the St. Jakob Arena in Basel, attracted elite agility competitors from 34 nations representing every corner of the world, competing to win coveted medals in both team and individual competitions. Great Britain took a squad of 13 of our very best.

In the final competition of the weekend, Great Britain narrowly missed out on a medal in the Large Dog Individual competition, when Lesley Olden was beaten by only 2/10ths of a second into fourth place with her Border Collie, Beenie.

Lesley had been drawn number one in the running order and it was her unenviable task to open the Championships on Friday in the Large Dog Individual Jumping Round. Showing incredible composure in the huge arena, and in front of a capacity crowd, she set a blistering pace and led the field for most of the first round finishing the day in 5<sup>th</sup> place. In the Agility Round on the final day of competition she put in another outstanding round to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Her achievement was all the more impressive given she was nursing an injured knee which prevented her from running the course.

This is the fourth time Lesley has represented Great Britain, but she wondered how Beenie would cope. She explained, "Beenie had puppies last November and I was worried how this would affect her performance. She has come back as good as ever

**More**





**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

# NEWS RELEASE

and did everything I knew she could. To go into the final round in such a good position was wonderful and I hoped that this year might be the one, but Fate intervened and all the dogs in front of us were all on good form as well”.

Lesley was also proud to report that Judge, Mia Laamanen of Finland, stopped and thanked her for competing as she really enjoyed her rounds.

Dawn Weaver with her Miniature Poodle Chelsea also put in a very impressive and faultless performance, finishing 6th in the overall rankings for the Individual Small Dog competition.

“I was very nervous about how Chelsea would cope at the World Championships with such a highly charged atmosphere. It was beyond my wildest expectations that she would produce 4 clear rounds - the last round pulling her up from 26<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> position. I am extremely proud of her”, Dawn commented.

Gwyn Roberts, Great Britain Team Captain, said of the squad’s performance, “Fantastic! I’d bring every single one of them back for next year! The only thing you can’t train for is the experience of such a huge competition. We have that now, so next year we’ll be better than ever “

The standard in the Team Competitions was equally high, and with national pride at stake, our teams gave it their all.

The Large Dog Team Competition saw the largest number of national teams taking part. The British team put in some very fast rounds, but fortune was not smiling on them and their 17<sup>th</sup> place did not reflect some very impressive handling.

**More**





**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

# NEWS RELEASE

It was a similar story in the Medium Dog Team competition with bad luck seeing some excellent work rewarded with only 18<sup>th</sup> place.

The Small Dog Team fared better coming just outside the top ten in 11th place.

Great Britain's Team Manager, Steve Croxford, was extremely proud of the squad. "The team has once again performed well against the best the world of agility has to offer. Two outstanding performances, from Lesley Olden and Beenie and Dawn Weaver with Chelsea, were the highlights of this year's event. Although we didn't bring home any medals this year, we believe this has been one of the most competitive teams we have fielded. The standard of competition increases every year and against this background the team has performed superbly."

The World Championships also attracted thousands of supporters and agility fans who contributed to a carnival like atmosphere. The excited and enthusiastic 6,500 capacity crowd thronged the arena which was covered in national flags and banners of support for all the national teams. Congratulations must go to the very vocal band of British supporters who made the trip to cheer on the team. Union flags and t-shirts covered nearly every inch of their section and most had cheered themselves hoarse by the closing ceremony.

"The British supporters were fantastic – to see them wildly waving the Union Jack and cheering at the top of their lungs gave the team an incredible boost and we wouldn't have done as well as we did without them. More and more people are making the trip each year and we're incredibly grateful for their support", said, Rachel Mowbray, member of the Small Dog Team.

**More**





**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

# NEWS RELEASE

As ever the Championships was a wonderful opportunity for agility competitors and fans to share their love of the sport. The atmosphere was always friendly and many tales were told, friendships formed and t-shirts swapped over the three days. It was also opportunity to share training and competition tips. The British squad's training techniques and warm-up exercises were keenly watched, with the USA Team for one vowing to emulate them at future competitions.

Kathryn Symns, Kennel Club Executive for Governance who attended all three days of the Festival said, "The Kennel Club offers its sincerest congratulations to the Great Britain Team. We know that our agility competitors and dogs are some of the very best in the world and we are extremely proud to be able to support such a talented team to represent all that is best in British agility. It was thrilling to watch such great performances at the very highest level of competition. Hearty congratulations to every member of the team and also to the team management for their tireless work over many months. I am sure that Team GB will always set the standard in agility and can't wait to see what next year's World Championships will bring."

## **The Swiss Roll of Honour**

### **Large Team**

Nic Jones with Border Collie, Caleb  
Lauren Langman with Border Collie, Popi  
David Munnings with Border Collie, Billy  
Lesley Olden with Border Collie, Beenie  
Simon Peachey with Border Collie, Diesel  
Christine Wingate-Wynne with Border Collie, Nuts

### **Medium Team**

Toni Dawkins with Border Collie, Minx  
Amanda Hampson with Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Minx  
Jane Holland with Cocker Spaniel, Murphy  
Hannah Mitchell with Miniature Poodle, Gem





**THE KENNEL CLUB**

*Making a difference for dogs*

# NEWS RELEASE

## **Small Team**

Rachel Mowbray with Border Terrier, Nutmeg  
Jeanette Tandy with Border Terrier, Buddy  
Dawn Weaver with Miniature Poodle, Chelsea

## **Team Management**

Steve Croxford – Team Manager  
Gwyn Roberts – Coach  
Peter Van Dongen – Team Vet  
Debbie Deuchar – Kennel Club Support Team

## **World Championships 2006 Competition Results**

### *Large Dog Team Competition*

First: Croatia  
Second: Spain  
Third: Sweden

### *Medium Dog Team Competition*

First: Finland  
Second: Czech Republic  
Third: Norway

### *Small Dog Team Competition*

First: Czech Republic  
Second: Switzerland  
Third: Germany

### *Large Dog Individual Competition*

First: Sarah Lorentzen, Denmark  
with Simic (Border Collie)  
Second: Anna Eifert, Hungary  
with Nevian (Border Collie)  
Third: Sylvia Vaanholt, Germany  
Amazing Gill (Border Collie)

### *Medium Dog Individual Competition*

First: Jari Suomalainen, Finland  
with Bromus (Kooikerhondje)  
Second: Jennifer Crank, USA  
with Guess (Shetland Sheepdog)

**More**





**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

# NEWS RELEASE

Third: Patrick Krier, Luxembourg  
with Angie (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever)

*Small Dog Individual Competition*

First: Martin Eberle, Switzerland  
with Pebbles (Poodle)

Second: Svetlana Tumanova, Russian Federation  
with Osborn (Spitz)

Third: Svetlana Kreslina, Latvia  
with Hearty (Shetland Sheepdog)

**ENDS**

**10 October 2006**

**(267.06)**

**For further information please contact**

**Press Office**

**020 7518 1008 / 1020**

**[pressoffice@the-kennel-club.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@the-kennel-club.org.uk)**

**Visit the Kennel Club website**

**[www.the-kennel-club.org.uk](http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk)**

