

'P' puppies progress with prowess

With Grant and Judy Reid presently overseas, the SLD puppy club is wintering over with two 'P' puppies, siblings *Pilot* and *Parker*.



Pilot & Parker absorb history at the 150th celebrations of St Peter's, Queenstown

News of *Pilot* from puppy-raiser David Wright

The little boy is an absolute pleasure - bright-eyed, lively, intelligent, quick-to-learn and full of fun. Nothing seems to faze the boy when he is at the end of a leash with someone he knows. *Pilot* will go anywhere and can handle anything that comes his way; he appears equally comfortable "doing his thing" on the streets of a small village (Arrowtown), a busy town (Queenstown) or the big city (Dunedin, Wellington, Auckland).

Pilot has one of those lovely dispositions that makes people instantly warm to him, and his big glossy eyes don't slow that down either! The boy will sit calmly and let adults and children stroke and pet him and he willingly "shakes" on command. Just a little treasure.

Pilot takes equally well to any form of transport - car, bus, taxi, plane, boat, gondola, lifts - you name it he's been and done it and charmed everyone he met.



Pilot relaxed and charming on the Earnslaw vintage steamship

For a seven-month old puppy he is truly, truly remarkable. I drop my wallet in a store, cafe, supermarket and walk away and then a few moments later tell him to "get the wallet" (or whatever) and off he goes and he will hunt around until he has found it and then bring it right back and place it in my lap. People who see him do this are nothing short of amazed at his talent.

Mind you, he still has the imp in him and he just loves to fly around the property chasing any rabbit that scurries across the lawns ... absolutely no chance of catching one though because, although he has the straight-line speed, the rabbits don't "play fair" and they keep changing direction on him so he ends up flying right past them

Towards the end of June, *Pilot* flew to Wellington where I was running in the Wellington half-marathon. However, what was to be a three-hour return trip turned into four days when inclement weather closed several airports. These four days show-cased what an incredible puppy *Pilot* is. The days were packed full of new places, new smells and sounds and new experiences, namely: large crowds, baggage trolleys, numerous restaurants, cafes and shops, buses, taxi rides, lift rides, shopping centres, three plane rides, and three different hotels! And *Pilot's* reaction to it all? Without exception, the little fella demonstrated extraordinary patience and impeccable behaviour. *Pilot's* performance throughout the entire four days was way, way above and beyond the call of duty. For a puppy less than six months old to perform the way he did was nothing short of utterly brilliant.



Pilot trusts all is well on the flight deck with the real pilot

News of *Parker* from puppy-raiser Eric Simpson

Getting to know *Parker* is a pleasurable experience. He is wise for his age and willing to learn. I've had him on the bus to Queenstown several times, into O'Connell's Mall, in the lift and interacting with people. I took him on The Million Dollar Cruise on Lake Wakatipu which he thoroughly enjoyed and the passengers thought he was a "Star". I take him down to the Arrow River next to our property and he enjoys splashing around in it. At all times he is in sight and comes to me as soon as he is called.



C'mon *Parker*, time to look a million dollars!

About a month ago we went to Dunedin for a three day/two night visit and stayed in a hotel in the central city. *Parker* went with us to the Glenn Miller Orchestra Concert in the Regent Theatre - it was his first outing to a live concert and it was LOUD but he didn't even move, the next night we went to the Town Hall to hear Verdi's "Requiem" and again he was as quiet as a mouse. The staff at both venues and the hotel were superb and said how well behaved he is. *Parker* is a very calm dog, still with plenty of "puppy" in him, interested in what's going on, impacts with other dogs very well and is so intelligent. A little gentleman.



What a sweetie! *Parker* keeps his sweet canine tooth contained in the lolly shop

Thanks to Wakatipu Spinners and Weavers Club

Recently Parker and Pilot, with their raisers, visited the Wakatipu Spinners and Weavers Club. The raisers talked about Mobility Dogs, and the brothers had the opportunity to show some of their tasks.

The Club has kindly designated the Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust as their 'charity of choice', and at each meeting members donate to the Mobility Dogs kitty. Then as Christmas rolls around each year, a cheque arrives special delivery via one of the members.

A whole-hearted thank you to the Spinners and Weavers. We appreciate so much your interest in the dogs and your generosity.



Parker & Pilot ponder the logistics of spinning and weaving dog hair in the winter sun

Judy and Grant Reid, Puppy Club Leaders/Raisers
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