

# the CANINE CORNER

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Many of you know that this has been a challenging year for event organisers. On New Year's Day, who would have thought that 2020 would be the year that it would be difficult to gather with our dogs in all manner of ways?

Luckily, despite being in Alert Level 2, the 4 Paws Marathon in Christchurch was able to proceed on 20 September. The event organiser capped the number of physical participants to 100 to meet Level 2 requirements and asked that spectators stay away. Those of us providing services at the finish line were asked to wear masks, something that has become commonplace in the massage industry for Level 2 operations. And because of the pandemic, the organiser added a virtual event for runners to participate from other parts of the country.

Of interest to *NZ Dog World* readers is the fact that pure bred dogs represented the highest percentage of dogs participating in the event:

Darryl Cotton and his Kelpie, Pip, placed second behind a runner without a dog in the Full Marathon at a time of 04:17:21.

Grant Ramsay and Gus, a Border Collie, won the men's Half Marathon at a time of 01:44:17.

India Kraal and her German Shorthaired Pointer, Bonnie, placed second in the Women's Half Marathon by participating virtually.

In the shorter distances, Matt Reid and Kele, a Border Collie, won the 15 kms event; James Wilson and his Labrador, Leo, won the 10 kms event; and Kirsty Burnett and her Labrador, Penny won the women's class 10 kms running virtually.

In the 5 kms event, Aaron Duncan and his loyal Leonberger, Blake, placed second with a time of 00:45:08; Emma Herbert and her German Shepherd won the women's class by running virtually with a finishing time of 00:28:39.

Although a scaled-down event thanks to the pandemic, we enjoyed a sunny spring day – sunnier than last year which meant that the dogs were feeling the heat more. Many runners reported that their dogs had slowed up in the latter stages of their events.

We're all hopeful that 2021 will see this event and many others return to more normal operating conditions with more dogs and their humans able to participate. 🐾

Below: A view from the massage table.

Right top: Massaging Sully the Irish Wolfhound.

Bottom: Runners and their dogs were massaged at the finish line.

