

The HOOT



Hey Welcome to the Hoot! My name is Fledge and I've got a fantastic story below sent in from one of our UKFL Junior Members! I love hearing updates from you all! Please keep emailing your stores for me to read. I put my favourites in the magazine with the help of the editor Sam

ISOBEL COLEMAN

Hi!

My name is Isobel Coleman and I run with Northants Falcons.

I have been going to competitions with my mum for nearly four years and I first ran a dog by myself in May 2017. The first dog I ran was my team captain's, Katie's. The dog's name is Pepsi and she is amazing. I learnt a lot from Pepsi about changeovers and working in a team. Since then, I have been lucky to run some other dogs for other teams, getting lots of good experience.



In training, there are lots of jobs to be done. Since Northants Falcons is a small team, we all help. When I am at training, I ball collect, box load, wind the dogs up and sometimes run dogs. We also have some starters at training so I release dogs and generally help out. Recently, Northants Falcons hosted their first indoor competition, with help from Tails and Cambridgeshire. It was a busy day but I absolutely loved it!



Our family has four dogs. Last year, I started running our second oldest dog, Laurie, in competitions. Laurie is an eight year old whippet who is in Northants Hawks or Northants Harriers. It took Laurie a long time to understand flyball and my mum is very jealous that he runs better for me! I love running Laurie and he is a lovely dog; he isn't too strong to hold and I have to remember to shout 'Laurie, bucket!' very loudly! Laurie will only run for treats though and only runs indoors at the moment. He competed at the UKFL championships with me last summer in the Northants Hawks and we came 4th.

Last March, I bought myself a puppy. His name is Tarran which means 'Thunder' in Welsh. He has started training and has finally, after lots of work at home picking up balls, been able to get the ball off the board. Tarran is half collie, quarter whippet and quarter Jack Russell

although the Jack Russell doesn't show in his height or his looks. He loves tuggies and has about six of them. Tarran loves training with the Falcons. One day, I hope to compete Tarran at the Championships as well as Crufts. However, even if he doesn't, I still love him and like to spoil him with treats and toys!



I love Flyball because I love spending time with my favourite animals and I love spending time with my flyball friends and family. Sometimes, competitions include lots of driving, long days, crazy weather and thousands of steps but I don't mind.

In the future, I hope to run my mum's collie, Pippa. If I could choose a dog to run in my team, it would be Katie's husky, Mishka, because she is super fluffy, loves hugs and is brilliant at Flyball.

One of my favourite things about UKFL is the Fledge challenges, since they are so much fun and get you active. At competitions, everyone is very kind to me and encourages me. I know people from lots of teams and I enjoy helping out other teams by ball collecting when they don't have enough people. The Junior scheme is brilliant and I have already achieved my Fledgling and Wren awards and am working hard to get my next one (1000 points).