



 [M/SUNNY 64°](#)

2501 35TH AVE.
970-330-3801

THE TRIBUNE

[News](#)
[Sports](#)
[Opinion](#)
[Business](#)
[Features](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Viewfinder](#)
[Special Sections](#)
[In-Depth Reports](#)
[National News](#)
[Photo Reprints](#)
[Tribune Awards](#)
[Subscribe](#)

SPOTLIGHT**INTERACTIVE**

[Greeley Blogs](#)
[Greeley Boards](#)
[Editor's Blog](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[eNewsletter](#)
[News Tip](#)
[Write the Editor](#)

[Announcement Forms](#)
[RSS Feeds](#)

MARKETPLACE

[Real Estate](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Today's Ads](#)
[Coupon Book](#)
[Top Jobs](#)
[Dining Guide](#)
[Your Neighborhood](#)

SERVICES

[Archives](#)
[Weather & Alerts](#)
[Subscriber Services](#)
[Public Notices](#)
[Movie Listings](#)
[TV Listings](#)

NEWSPAPERS

[Windsor Tribune](#)

Search:

[Classifieds](#) | [Place an Ad](#)

Dogs, owners participate in frenzied flyball competition at The Ranch

Rebecca Waddingham, (Bio)
waddingham@greeleytrib.com
 November 21, 2005

[Comments \(0\)](#)
[Print](#)
[Email](#)

LOVELAND -- Midway through the last relay race of the day on Sunday, an over-enthusiastic competitor stole Winston's tennis ball.

But Winston, a two-year veteran of the frantic canine sport called flyball, was unfazed. He picked up the intruding border collie's ball and happily crossed the finish line, getting a treat from his owner, Mary Martin of Longmont.

Winston is a papillon, a small type of spaniel named after the French word for "butterfly" because of the breed's large, erect fringed ears. The dogs are more often seen on laps or silk pillows than on competitive agility tracks.

But wee Winston, ranked 16th in the nation among flyball-playing papillons, could certainly hold his own.

Any breed of dog is allowed on a flyball track, and although border collies and Australian shepherds made up the majority Sunday, a fair share of labs and other breeds were there, too.

"It's a great socialization for the dogs," said Martin, who brought another papillon, Trinket, to a livestock event arena at The Ranch for the flyball competition. "(Flyball) is probably one of the fastest-growing canine sports."

Danny Fitts, vice president of Colorado RUFF, a Denver-based flyball team, talked about the sport over the din of dozens of barking dogs.

Dana Nichols, also a member of RUFF, said one of the best things about the sport is its nondiscrimination: no American Kennel Club membership required, and any average mutt can play.

But that also means trouble for flyball when clubs seek a venue for a tournament, Nichols said -- cities with breed like Denver, can't host the sport.

Fitts laughed as he watched the hyperactive border collie run into Winston's lane and grab his ball.

"We spend a lot of time trying to get them mentally ready," Fitts said. "It doesn't always work. Sometimes they just get their little minds."

DETAILS

Go to Coloradoflyball.com for more information and to find a flyball team.

Flyball is a relay race of four dogs per team. Handlers try to get their dogs as close to the start line as possible before letting them go. In a frenzy of fur, legs and barks, dogs sail over a set of hurdles on their way to a tennis ball dispenser. The dogs grab the tennis ball, leap over the hurdles and return to their handlers right as a teammate dog starts its own run.

ADVERTISEMENT

Got Safety? • Got Power? • Got Value

GOT 34 MPG?

CLICK HERE

FOR DETAIL

[Stampede Hyundai](#)
[VIEW FULL AD](#)

HILLARY
 WHEAT/wheat@greeleytrib.com
 Rosie Fivian of Boulder releases her border collie, Charlette, to take its turn in the team flyball competition. Fivian and Charlette were at the Ranch in Loveland on Sunday for a flyball tournament comprised of 16 teams from around the Denver area.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

If you live here, you get it!

For the most up to date news and information in Weld County, subscribe to the Greeley Tribune.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

[← BACK](#) [▲ TOP OF PAGE](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Code of Ethics](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Archives](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) [XML](#)

Visit our other [news and portal sites](#).
All contents © Copyright 2005 greeleytrib.com
The Greeley Publishing Co. - P.O. Box 1690 - Greeley, CO 80632