



Anneli Hilton (Team Canada 2011)

Born and raised in Sherwood Park, Anneli shares her home with her pals Porter, a 10 year old White Shepard, Slice, a 4 year old Papillon and Pint a 2 year old Papillon.

In 1999, Anneli started training and competing in agility and flyball with her first dog, Bailey, an American Eskimo. Right out of the gates she was told that an Eskimo can be hard to train but would have a lot of potential. Never a quitter she stuck by her dog and took him to a National level and placed on the podium for three consecutive years at the AAC Agility National Championships. Bailey was also retired as one of the top American Eskimos playing in flyball in North America. In 2007, Anneli said goodbye to Bailey after a courageous battle with cancer. He may be gone but the way he has touched her life lives on forever.

2002 saw a lovely rescue dog by the name of Porter enter Anneli's life. Her life has never been the same since. For those of you who know Anneli and Porter, their story is filled with ups and downs but perseverance has gotten them through it all. Porter was a rescue that had been running free with a pack of dogs in Northern Alberta before coming to Anneli's home. When she adopted him she figured another northern breed would be a good fit and she understood how to train them. Little did she know what lay ahead. Working through a serious separation anxiety problem hindered their training of Agility and Flyball. Four years later, with a lot of patience and forgiveness, Porter started competing and titling in both agility and flyball. He brings a smile to the faces of all those who watch him and as a team they provide inspiration to many people who have training issues with their dogs. The dog that no one believed in has now reached the National level in agility and is ranked in the top 10 in flyball for his breed. In 2010, Porter achieved the pinnacle of awards to mark all the hard work they have accomplished as a team, a podium finish at the AAC National Championships. Never has a person been more proud of her dog! Their journey together keeps taking twists and turns and they continue to learn and grow as a team. Porter has to be one of the only dogs that to have his own fan club and cheering section. Wherever he goes there is always a "hey Porter, how you doing?" a pat on the head or just all around cheering for his successes and entertainment value.

Slice, a wee little Papillon, joined the family in 2007. She was the perfect addition to the family when she came along. Her best buddy is Porter, and she can often be found cuddled up in his soft fur having a nap. These two really are like Mutt and Jeff, tag teaming to get into trouble. Working with such a small dog has taught Anneli new handling techniques and another breed with attitude to train. Slice is smart as a whip and proving that size does not matter. In her very short agility career she has been crowned 2010 AB/NWT AAC Regional Champion and placed 2nd at the 2010 AAC National Championships. This dog of a lifetime continues to take Anneli on incredible journeys and in May of 2011, they embarked on a trip to England to represent Canada at the World Agility Open. In their very first international competition, they brought home a gold and silver for Canada as well as top podium placements in 11 out of 13 events. Crowned 2011 World Pentathlon Champion and 2011 World Biathlon Silver Medalist, the sky is the limit for this team. What an amazing and thrilling victory.

In 2009, Anneli also started handling Bogey, a yellow lab, for one of her students who could no longer run her himself. Bogey was another dog who had a tone of potential but needed a handler that understood her

quirks to bring out the success. As a team, Bogey and Anneli, qualified for two National Championships and earned individual round placements. 2010 saw Bogey sidelined with an ACL injury and a long road of rehab. This crazy girl has made a fabulous recovery and is slowly starting her come back for 2011 Regionals.

August of 2009, brought another wee Papillon into Anneli's home. Pint, a brother to Slice, has taken up residence in Anneli's heart and was a welcome addition after losing Bailey. He is a little smaller than his sister but every bit as confident. In January of 2011, he began his agility career and it is already looking like he will be every bit as talented as his sister.

Anneli has been mostly a "tool box" handler for her style of agility handling. This approach has allowed her to adapt to the different personalities of dogs she has been training. Taking seminars and training from incredible instructors such as Shannen Jorgensen, Kiersten Lloyd, Dana Pike, Kim Collins, Kim Anderson, Terry Simons, Jo Sermon, Dave Munnings and Nicki Gurr have continually added "tools" to the toolbox. When speedy little Slice came along, Anneli recognized the need for more consistent communication and handling with Slice which lead them to working primarily in the Awesome Paws Handling System as taught by Nicki Gurr. This transition has accelerated their success and strengthened their team work.

As the owner of See Spot Run Doggy Daycare and Training Inc., Anneli is involved in teaching Agility, Flyball, Obedience and Trick classes on a regular basis. She prides herself on being a problem solver and tries to make every dog successful. Living by her motto "every dog has the potential for greatness, you just have to believe you will find it" has helped her and her students find success and rewarding relationships.

