



THROUGH THE LENS

Alaska Summer Solstice Flyball Tourneys

PHOTOS BY HEATHER A. RESZ

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014 PAGE 9



Rocky passes his teammate, 'peanuT' as he heads for the finish line in a flyball race Friday during the 9th annual Alaska Summer Solstice Flyball Tournament at the Alaska State Fairgrounds.



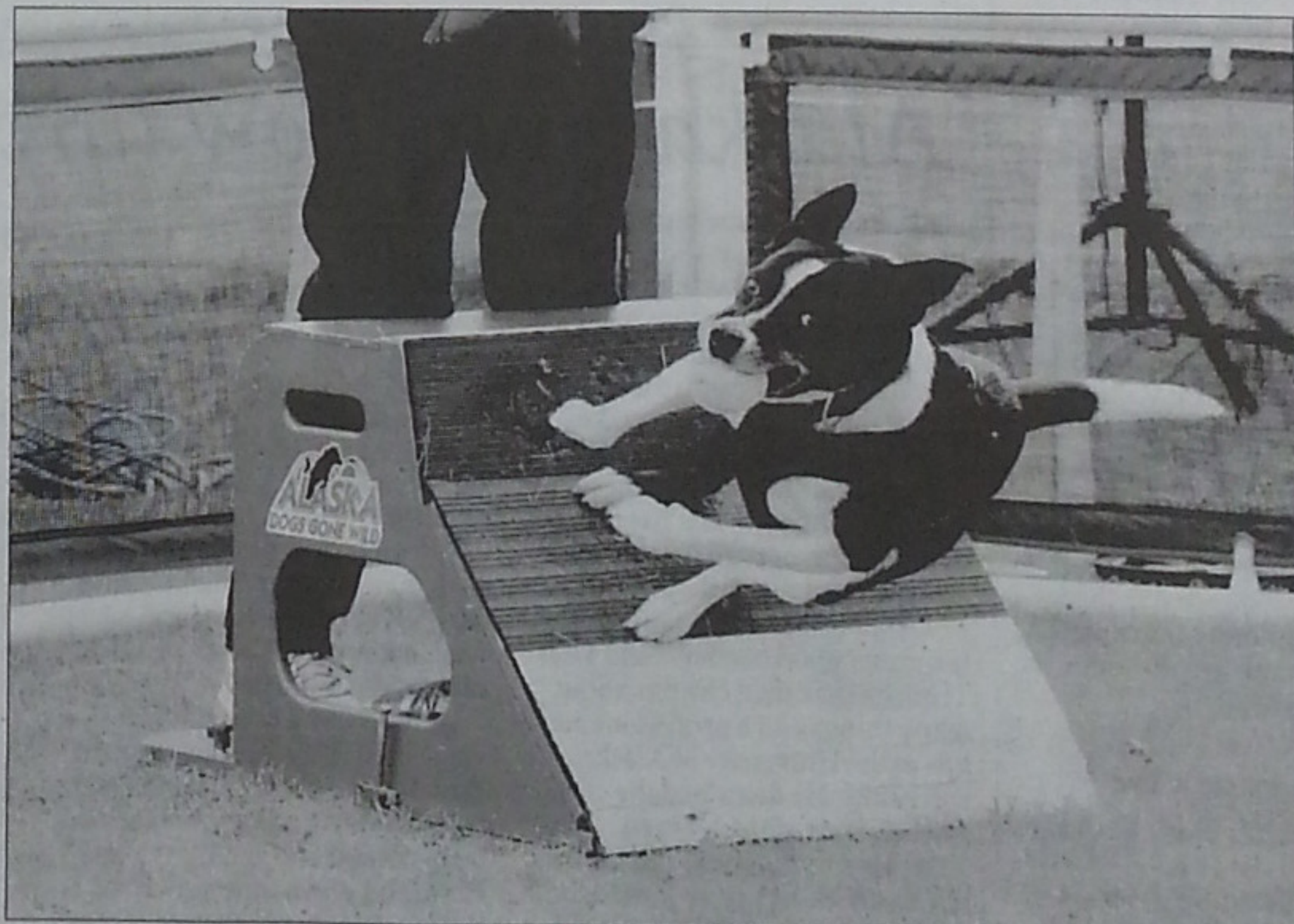
Rugby and Ang Parsons catch some air after Rugby completed a speedy pass during the 9th annual Alaska Summer Solstice Flyball Tournament Friday.



Darby is one of those dogs who was born for flyball, his human says. After the race, Darby left the field carrying a blue flyball.



'peanuT' flies over one of four hurdles during a flyball race Friday. The height of the hurdles is set based on the height of the smallest dog on each team, known as 'height dogs.'



Rugby triggers the spring-loaded box, catches the ball and prepares to run back through the hurdles. Dogs with a strong love of toys or tug make the best flyball dogs, according to Curtis Smith, president of Alaska Dogs Gone Wild, which organized the tournament for Alaska's three flyball clubs.



Toby crosses the last hurdle on his way to release the ball from the spring-loaded box.



Psych makes his way across the finish line with the tennis ball. Dogs compete in teams of four. Each dog jumps four hurdles, triggers the box, catches the ball and returns through the hurdles to release the next dog.