

INAUGURAL WORKING DOG CHALLENGE'S NATION-WIDE BUYING POOL GROSSES \$347,000



Sale statistics:

- Sale gross: \$347,000
- Sale average: \$7,382
- Top price: \$24,000

AUSTRALIA's working dog community took to StockLive to be part of the inaugural Working Dog Challenge at the Central Tablelands Livestock Exchange (CTLX) where RLX, alongside Bowyer and Livermore agents, hosted two full days of sheep and cattle trials, followed by an auction that was topped by an online purchase of \$24,000.

StockLive livestreamed the sale dogs' sheep and cattle prework prior to the auction, held Sunday 28 November, which showcased the inaugural sale's top lot, Lokabe Purple's (Poppy), impeccable training and eye-catching style.

The 13-month-old black and tan Kelpie bitch was purchased by Wes and Nadene Crozier, Moorara Pastoral, 'Moorara Station', Moorak, South Australia, and offered by Nathan Morris, Forbes.

Lokabe Purple was sired by Everyday Roy II and her dam is Rainmar Storm.

In total, 37% of bids during the sale were made via StockLive, and more than 500 people from across the country tuned in to watch the sale's simulcast.

The premium results came off the back of strong online demand at the Ray White Livestock Rockhampton Open Dog Trial and Working Dog Sale held during Beef Australia 2021 in May this year, which boasted a 100% clearance rate and top price of \$10,000.

At that sale, the top-priced online purchase, Glenroy Nigel, was knocked down for \$8,500 to Glen Innes buyer, Will Cameron.

StockLive Manager, Libby Hufton, said she was delighted by the response of working dog breeders, buyers and sale organisers to online selling.

“The inaugural Working Dog Challenge attracted some of Australia’s most well-regarded trainers, so it makes sense we had viewers and buyers from across the nation tune in,” Ms Hufton said.

“Given COVID-19 restrictions, not all buyers could attend the sale in person, so our simulcast of the preworks provided them an excellent opportunity to peruse the talent of the exceptional catalogue of dogs on offer.”

In total, the Working Dog Challenge grossed \$347,000 and achieved a sale average of \$7,382 across the 58 lots which went under the hammer. The average price for dogs purchased online was \$7,233.

Tom Card, Bowyer and Livermore, Bathurst, said the results were being driven by the flow-on effect of buoyant markets in the cattle and sheep industries.

“I would describe the prices as very strong, with many lots selling well above their reserves,” Mr Card said.

“We had plenty of bidder action, and, through StockLive, we had buyers from South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales all secure dogs.”

The second-top-selling dog, bought on the floor, was Shady Acres Ally May, a three-year-old Border Collie bitch which reached \$16,000 and was offered by Robert Johnston from Casino, NSW.

Mr Card said a dominant trend he noticed was strong demand for well-started pups.

“For these younger dogs, the results were phenomenal,” he said.

“Many exceeded the reserve price by more than \$2,000.”