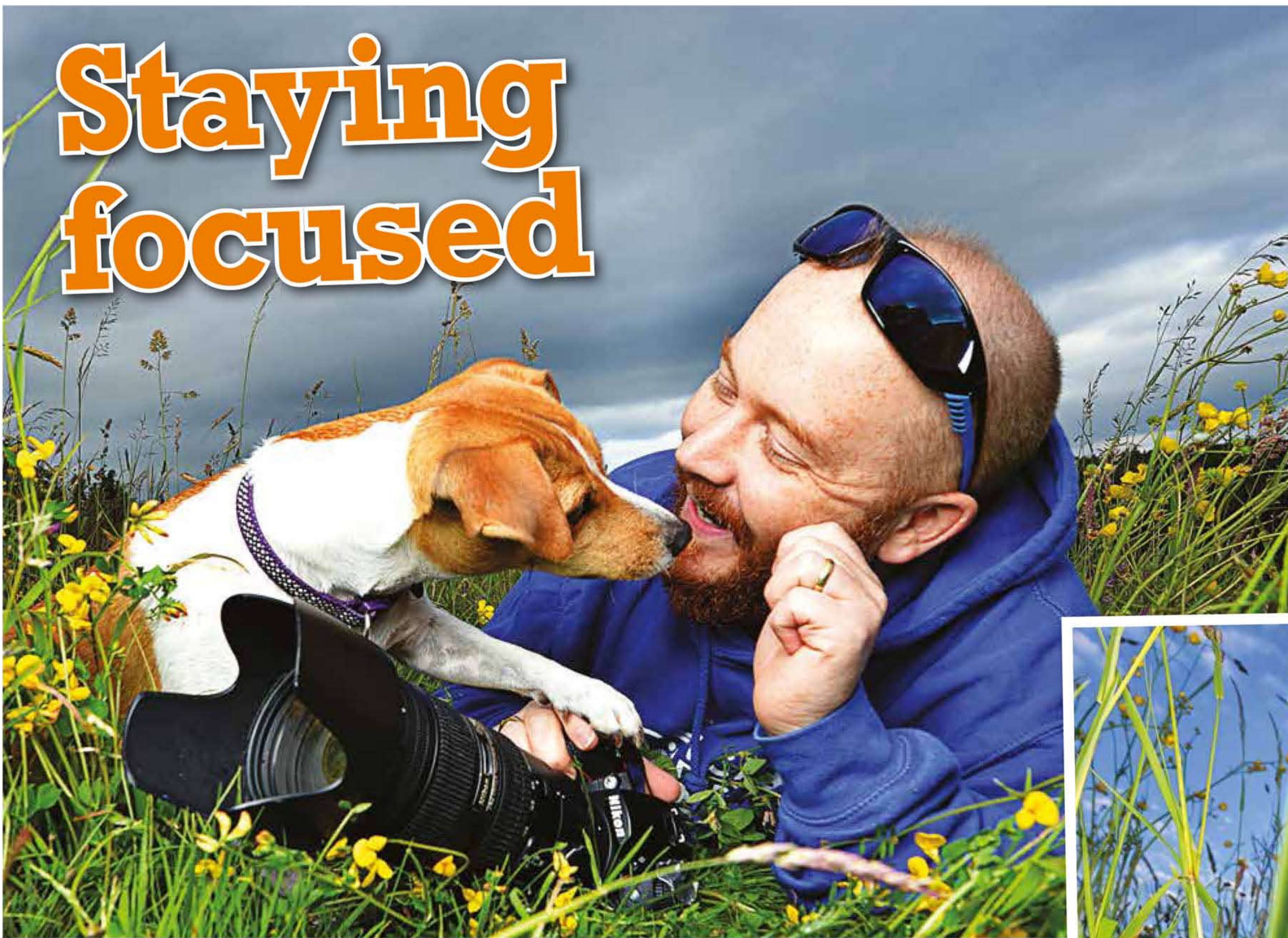


Staying focused



penny finally dropped.

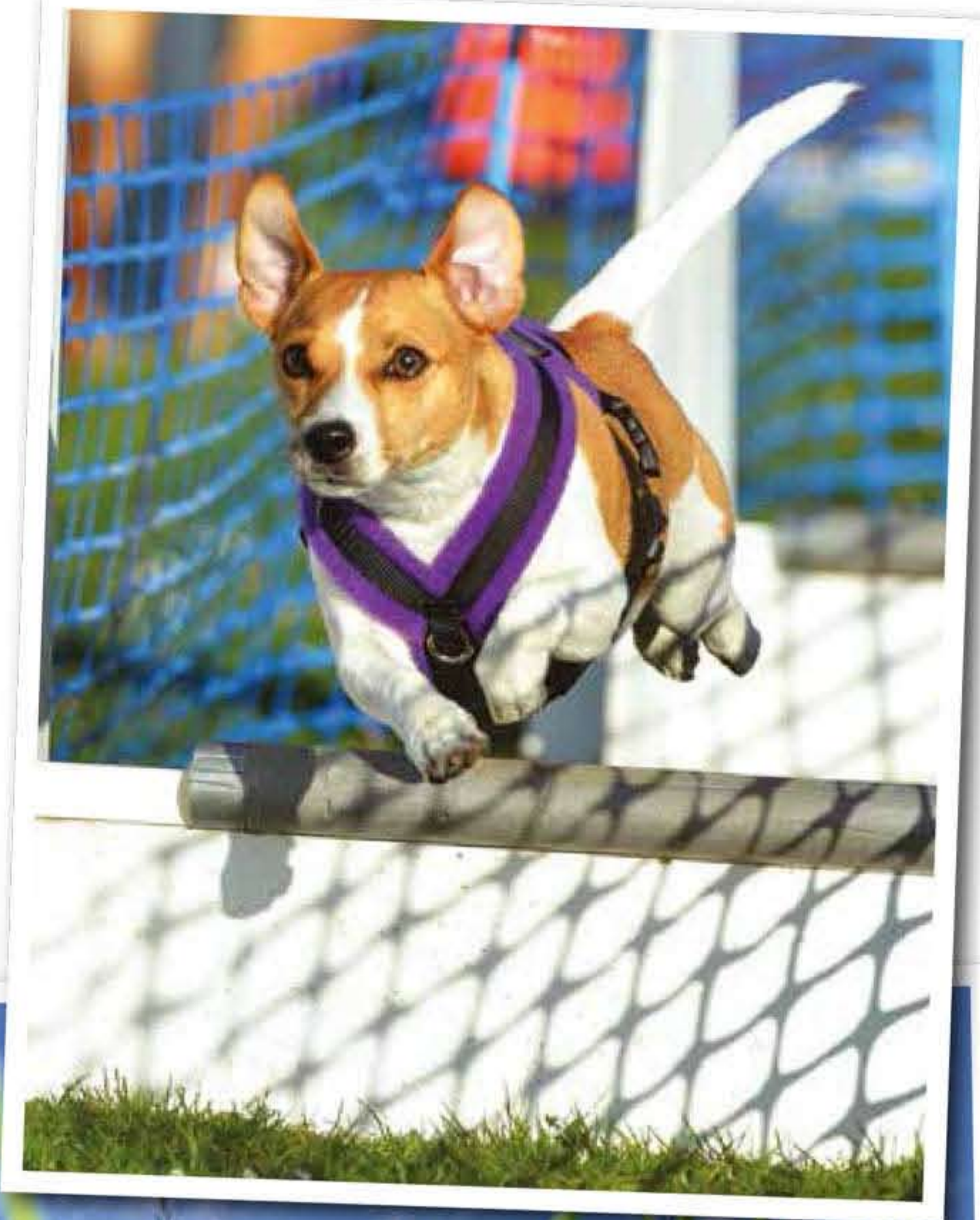
In all that time as a professional photographer, nothing had given me more joy than when I'd had the chance to work with dogs. I'd rediscovered the passion and love for my craft that had been absent for so long, all thanks to the warmth and love of man's best friend.

I immediately started a new business venture, Bounders Dog Photography, and haven't looked back. It's still early days, but I've had really good feedback, and, more importantly, I'm enjoying every minute. Scrooby rarely leaves my side and often accompanies me on shoots where possible.

What I've found from photographing dogs is just how different they can be, how wonderful their characters are, and, no matter how well you prepare for a shoot, you rarely come back with the shot you were looking for... It's almost always better! ●

Bounders Dog Photography

For prices and to see Joe's work – and cute photos of Scrooby – visit www.bounders.co.uk



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After a decade as a photographer, **Joe Riley** had fallen out of love with his art. But then the right muse came along, in the form of a flying Jack Russell, and click!

I'm a professional photographer and have been for around a decade. But it's been some years since I was in love with photography. For me, being a photographer was not a choice; it was a compulsion, an addiction. So where did it all go wrong?

Throughout my career, I have photographed nearly everything there is to photograph. Celebrities and royalty, multiple sports (including football at Wembley

Stadium), school portraits, products, fashion, interiors, weddings, magazine and newspaper shoots... you name it, chances are I've shot it.

But despite my wealth of experience, I've never had to decide what I wanted to do. I've always had an editor or client directing me and telling me what to shoot. I used to joke that I was a hired gun because I'd shoot anything for money. This slowly became more and more true, and before too long, it was no longer a joke.

A typical conversation would go, "I'm a photographer."

"Really? What do you photograph?"

"What would you like me to photograph?"

As with most addictions, the honeymoon period does not last forever. I was disillusioned and lost.

PUPPY POWER!

It wasn't until around two years ago when my wife Debs and I opened our hearts to Scrooby, a Jack Russell puppy, that my

life was transformed. We'd both been brought up with dogs, but for various reasons couldn't have one until recently.

Scrooby made me realise many things: that exploring the great outdoors is fun, working nine to five just isn't for me, and taking naps in the middle of the day should be compulsory.

My eureka moment still took a while to materialise. When Scrooby recently made the team of the local flyball club, I thought I'd get some pics of her in action. It was then that the