

## Wilson - The Loveable Lotto Dog

### What breed is Wilson?

Wilson is a wire fox terrier – a breed known for its loyalty and smartness.

### Why was this breed chosen?

It was important to find a dog hero that had not been used on TV before and that had a very different look to Hollywood-style dogs.

### Where did Lotto find Wilson?

There were three dog actors used during the filming of the commercials. Two dogs are from the Wellington region (Barny and Elsie) and one dog (Paddy) was found in Auckland.

### How were the dogs trained?

All three dogs were trained by New Zealand's leading animal trainers over ten days. The dogs were trained to carry the ticket and to follow basic directions – e.g. sit, down, come forward. The welfare of the animals was paramount during the filming process, so having three dog actors enabled the dogs to rest between being required on set.

### Where did the filming take place?

All of the New Zealand footage was shot around Auckland. The overseas segments were filmed in different locations in India. One dog, Paddy, was taken to India to star in these segments. Paddy travelled with two dog trainers and was very well looked after at all times, including resting in an air conditioned van between his takes.

### What music is in the advert?

The main advert features a song by Nick Cave, To Be By Your Side.

### What is the cat features in the advert?

It is a rag doll breed.

### Where are the dogs now?

Barny and Elsie are back with their owners, who live in Wellington. The Auckland dog owner of Paddy was unfortunately finding it difficult to cope with managing a dog, following some health issues, and he therefore was happy for Paddy to be adopted by new owners. Paddy is now living very happily with an ex-pat kiwi family in India.

### Why did NZ Lotteries film in India?

It was very important for this story that our dog hero have his adventures in several recognisably exotic locations. India provided a huge range of diverse locations that are not available within New Zealand. However, we did not decide to take our dog actor to India before being completely assured of his welfare and future.

### Will there be more Wilson adventures?

There are still two advertisements featuring Wilson that are yet to screen – so keep an eye out in 2011 for further stories featuring Wilson, and his new owner, having lots of fun spending their Lotto millions.

