

## OUT&ABOUT

# Pet Walk steps into its 23rd year

Hinsdale Humane Society fun-filled event designed to fetch support



**H**insdale Humane Society will hold its 23rd annual pet walk from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, June 3, at Katherine Legge Memorial Park, 5901 S. County Line Road.

The event, a walk-a-thon for people and their pets, is the organization's largest fundraiser and includes activities for the entire family to enjoy.

Lori Halligan, executive director of the humane society, said many of the favorite attractions from past walks will be on hand for visitors' entertainment. They include the K-9 unit from the Willowbrook Police Department and Frisbee dog demonstrations.

"We're really excited that Sylvia Perez will be back with us for the fourth year" as emcee, Halligan said.

Other activities include a raffle, a petting zoo, pony rides, face-painting and pet contests. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: best dressed pet, best pet tricks and owner-pet look-a-like. The pet contests will begin at 11 a.m., and contestants can sign up at the event.

Halligan said money received through the Pet Walk represents a significant portion of the shelter's financial resources.

"We raise about 10 percent of our

operating budget," she said.

Halligan said the event has grown since its inception more than two decades ago, and the timing seems to be good for people.

"We've been doing it on the first Sunday of June for a really long time," she said.

The fact that it often falls on the same weekend as the pet parade in nearby La Grange, as it does this year, is by happenstance, not design, Halligan said.

The pet walk "Shopping Mall" features dozens of local vendors including pet portraits, pet apparel, specialty pet treats, pet groomers, doggie day care and pet sitting businesses. The pet walk "food court," hosted by the Hinsdale Rotary, will be serving up fresh grilled brats and hot dogs.

Visitors can talk with veterinarians and pet care professionals, check out Merrick Animal Hospital's first aid booth and cooling station, receive a free dental exam and report card at Boone Animal Hospital's booth and stop by Hinsdale Animal Hospital's booth.

Many have already signed up to walk and raise money, but Halligan said people can register the day of the

event.

"We're expecting between 300 and 400 walkers," she said. Prizes will be awarded for those who collect the most donations.

The registration fee is \$25 for adults and free for children younger than 13. Dogs are welcome and also free. Groups of four can register for \$80.

Paid registration includes an official "Pet Walk 2012" T-shirt, and the first 400 guests will receive goody bags. Pet goody bags will be available for four-legged guests while supplies last.

"If an animal is an alumnus of the shelter, we give them a special alumni badge," Halligan said.

She noted that adoptable dogs will be available for those considering adding a pet to their household.

Halligan said the event is designed to be inter-generational.

"We really promote it as a fun-filled day for the family," she said. "From babies in strollers up through grandmas and grandpas and everyone in between.

"It's not just for dogs. It's for pets and the people who love them."

For more information or to register, call (630) 323-5630, ext. 17, or visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://hinsdalehumanesociety.org).



Two boys put the finishing touches on their dog's outfit for the best dressed pet contest at the 2009 pet walk as Hinsdale village President Tom Cauley and Hinsdale Police Chief Brad Bloom, serving as judges, look on. This year's-

fundraiser to benefit the Hinsdale Humane Society will be held Sunday at Katherine Legge Memorial Park. (file photo)