

# Turnout for Pet Walk high despite dreary weather

By **DANNY CIAMPRONE**  
dciamprone@shawmedia.com

HINSDALE – Steady mist, a mud-battered field and unseasonable chill did its best, but Mother Nature was not going to derail the enthusiasm for guests and canines.

The Hinsdale Humane Society hosted its 24th annual Pet Walk – its largest fundraiser of the year – Sunday at Katherine Legge Memorial Park. Organizers raised about \$45,000.

“Every dollar counts, and it all goes right back to the shelter and to the animals,” said Christie Cuthbert, a spokeswoman for the Humane Society.

Cuthbert said she started setting up stations about 6:15 a.m. She was worried about turnout, because the weather wasn’t looking to clear up, but said she was thrilled with the number of guests and their four-legged friends.

Dirty shoes and paws were inevitable, but there was plenty going on to keep visi-

tors’ heads up, including the high-flying Riley, a competitive Frisbee-catching dog.

Led by Mark Faragoi of Plainfield, the Border Collie did everything from running backward to balancing on Faragoi’s legs with his hind legs to catching Hail Mary passes. Faragoi has been competing in Frisbee dog challenges for two years and said what he loves most is just the bond he gets from working with the dogs.

“It takes time, consistency and patience,” Faragoi said. “Everybody thinks it takes a lot of time; it’s not so much the amount of time, it’s the quality of time. Just like kids.”

The Windy City Agility Club also showed off its canines’ skills in the obstacle course, which featured a tunnel, high jump and in-and-out poles.

Kim Debenedictis of Bloomingdale was there with her dog, Gazzoo. She said it takes a little more than a year

See **WALK**, page 18



Lorae Mundt – lmundt@shawmedia.com

**Bekira Rabinowitz of the Windy City Agility Club runs 18-month-old Australian Cattle Dog mix Dakota through the agility course Sunday during a demonstration at the Hinsdale Humane Society’s Pet Walk. The walkathon was at Katherine Legge Memorial Park and is the shelter’s largest fundraiser for homeless animals.**

## WALK

Continued from page 5

Get the dogs ready for competition. "He's 7, and he's still trying to figure out ... . He's also a tennis ball fanatic," DeBenedictis said as Gazzoo's eyes never left the ball she was holding. While several dogs were on hand to play athletic prowess, some solely are in it for the glamour. About 10 people entered their dogs in the Best Dressed competition, inspired by superhero costumes, sports jerseys and mermaid.

Marilynn Pavlik of Berwyn took home the top prize as her two dogs, Rocky and Holly, won for their costumes lined with ribbons that said, "I Love Hinsdale Humane Society." Pavlik has been coming to the Pet Walk for the past 16 years and said she never gets tired of it. She's happy to help the organization.

"It's exciting, and it's special, because I'm glad to participate in the Pet Walk and to sponsor Hinsdale Humane Society and its events," said Pavlik, who adopted her dogs from the group in 2011.

The Hinsdale Humane Society, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, will host its next public



Photos by Lorae Mundt - lmundt@shawmedia.com

**Bubba, a 4-year-old English Bulldog/Beagle mix from Chicago, waits while his owner shops at a vendor booth Sunday during the Hinsdale Humane Society's Pet Walk at the Katherine Legge Memorial Park.**

## Get involved

For information about the Hinsdale Humane Society or to volunteer, visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://hinsdalehumanesociety.org) or call 630-323-5630.



People and dogs participate in the Hinsdale Humane Society's Pet Walk on Sun-