

Kids show pets

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Founders Festival Kids Day in Shiloh Park.

The Well dogs, 17-year-old dog, Sweetheart, a cocker mix, took second place in the oldest pet category, and Peter, a great dane, took first place in the largest dog category.

Sweetheart was the same dog Well's brother entered in the pet show years ago when brother and sister were kids. In those days, though, Well's brother tried to get Sweetheart to do some tricks on the stage.

No way. Sweetheart wasn't interested. "My brother was so embarrassed," said Well, who raises and shows great danes.

Well was among a huge crowd of kids, pets and parents who gathered around the outdoor stage for the popular pet show, sponsored by Plaza Veterinary Clinic and Pets 'n Particulars at Kids Day in Shiloh Park.

TAKE FOR example, nine-year-old Kelly Hornfield of Farmington Hills and her three-year-old cocker spaniel, Snickers. Kelly entered the dog in the best-dressed category. And Snickers looked stupendous in the cabbage patch doll costume.

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Leah Jefferson, 13, of West Bloomfield, puts the diaper back on her dog, Heidi. They are entered in the "best dressed" category.

"We had a hard time putting the pompons on her feet," Kelly said, about Snickers costume.

And waiting her turn on stage was 6 1/2-year-old Jerusha Hallom of Farmington Hills and her pet brown skunk, Flower. Jerusha said it was her mom's idea to get a pet skunk. But her mom, Joanne, drew the line with letting Flower sleep on Jerusha's bed at night.

The pet show though wasn't only for your regular kind of pet. The La-Bomascus family came prepared with a dove and a degu from Chile.

"We got this bird one week after Desert Storm," said John La-Bomascus. That's why the dove is named Peace.

Actually when the war ended the dove's name reverted to Dave the Dove. But the kids — Stephanie and Zachary — still prefer Peace.

And then there is Spinja the degu, which looks like an over-sized rat. The neat thing about Spinja, Zachary La-Bomascus said, is that animal is known for his tail. If you spin a degu by his tail, the tail will fall off. A new one — not quite as nice as the first one — will grow back.

While kids and pets waited their turn on stage, three judges — Farmington Hills special services director Dan Potter, state Rep. Jan Dolan and Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce president Bob Heinrich — eyed each pet carefully in each category.

"Let's hear your stuff," Dr. John Richardson of Plaza Veterinary Clinic said as he leaned toward the pets on stage and held a microphone close.



Flower, a skunk, nuzzles the neck of her owner, Jerusha Hallom of Farmington Hills.

photos by SHARON LAMIEUX

HOLLY THE collie unfortunately had nothing to say. Scruffy the guinea pig was as speechless. But Shadow, a golden retriever-collie mix, had a good old wool and took first prize in the most articulate category.

At the end of the show, there was no choice but to have a wag-off for the pets in the waggiest tail category. It was just difficult to tell which pet was wagging the most. But the judges finally came through and made a decision. First prize went to Mollie, the cocker spaniel.

Winners of Pet Show are more than the cat's meow

Here are the winners of the 24th annual Pet Show, sponsored by Plaza Veterinary Hospital and Pets 'n Particulars at Kids Day in Shiloh Park Tuesday.

The pet winners, in order from first to third place, pet owners and categories include:

• Oldest pet: Jekyll, a cat, Todd Benivogus; Sweetheart, cocker-mix dog, Alexander Well; Candy, a Labrador, Jill Reeder.

• Most articulate pet: Shadow, a golden retriever-collie mix, Amanda

Randall; Bones, a mixed dog, Jonathan Pawlak; Jake, a poodle, Natalie Rock.

• Largest pet: Peter, a Great Dane, Zachary Well; Dix, a collie, Arden Poniatowski.

• Best presentation of a caged pet: Peace, a dove, Stephanie La-Bomascus; Pig, a guinea pig, Tiffany Nelson; Rosey, a dwarf bunny, Brynn Juraneck.

• Best dressed pet and owner: Cottontail, a New Zealand white bunny, Lindsey Machacek; Penny, an

English setter, Gigi Bosnak-Schuster; and tied for third place, Snickers, a cocker spaniel, Kelly Hornfield, and Sandy, a Lhasa apso, Christina Ryan.

• Best trained pet: Jake, a poodle, Melanie Rock; Andy, a Doberman pinscher, Kyle Shea; Trixie, a cockapoo, Norm McCue.

• Most unusual pet: Flower, a brown skunk, Jerusha Hallom; Spike, a tarantula, Michael McDunnah; Spinja, a degu, Zachary La-Bomascus.

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