



Fashionable feline: Elisabeth Pernicone, 8, of Farmington Hills took third place for Best Dressed with her cat, Kalakaua. The pet contest sponsored by Plaza Veterinary Hospital in Farmington is one of the popular features of Kids Day in the Park. More than 30 contestants took part in this year's pet event Tuesday at Shiawassee Park.



All eyes: Christopher Gariepy, 3, peers into the makeshift corral containing small farm animals.

Only kids reign on their parade of fun

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Motors and other four-wheel vehicles turned into the parking lot and from those emerged mothers wheeling strollers. The path led to the park where Kids Day commenced.

This annual rite of Founders Festival week looked precarious at best as the clouds looked ready to unload some precipitation Tuesday at Shiawassee Park. Fun was to be had and certainly worth dodging a few drops of rain.

Or quick drops on the ground.

"Do you know how to stop, drop and roll?" Farmington Hills firefighter Dan Starrs asked Alix Moore, 3.

Starrs covered his eyes and fell to the mat to demonstrate the fire safety maneuver to the blonde-haired girl. She then duplicated the move perfectly, earning a magnetic fire hydrant.

Kids could collect more goodies along the way.

Farmington Public Safety officers were filling helium balloons and a Farmington Hills officer was doing out police badges. Children and their parents could also sit in one of the squad cars.

"They're so hesitant at first; it's really cute," said Hills Officer Sandie Rochford, who deputized Rachel Morhouse, 2, and invited her to sit in the patrol vehicle. "There, that wasn't so scary, was it?" Rochford said to Rachel upon exiting.



Worth his girth: Blake Fielder's cat Sprout took fattest pet honors. Sprout weighs 22 pounds.

A group of animals and their owners were anxiously waiting for the pet contest to start.

Laura Wright of Farmington Hills watched the magic show as her son Douglas, 10, was busy getting made up for the competition. Douglas dressed up as his 4-month-old Pointer Mix pup, "Balto."

Beforehand, the dog chewed on his leash, undoubtedly experiencing pre-performance anxiety.

Miss Farmington Annette Hohl, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagozzi and Farmington Observer Editor Dave Varga judged the contest sponsored by Plaza Veterinary Hospital. Dr. John Richardson emceed the event.



Animal magnetism: The petting zoo was run by the Iaconelli family, formerly of Farmington Hills but now from South Lyon — Carousel Acres.



All ears: Kristen Gee anxiously waits to hear the results with her neighbor Colleen Allmayer, right, in Twin Class category. They won second place with Meiko and Oreo, twin rabbits.

A round of, uh, paws to pet contest winners

Winning trophies in the annual pet contest were:

Twin Class: first place, Ashley Nelson, hamsters Ginger and Spike; second, Kristen Gee and Colleen Allmayer, Dutch rabbits Meiko and Oreo; and third, Jack Wrobel, cockatiels Pork Chop and Kentucky.

Best Speaking/Sitting Pet: first, Leah Wallace, mixed breed dog Angel; second, Claudia Koenig, mixed breed dog Toby; and third, Samantha and Sarah Smith, Golden Lab Bert.

Fattest Pet: first, Blake Fielder, tiger cat Sprout; and second, Michael Brickler, rabbit Corney.

Best Presentation of a Caged Pet: first, Ashley Wrobel, cockatiel, Kentucky; second, Matt Watson, teddy bear hamster Nitro; and third, Cliff Craig, chinchilla Chuck.

Best Dressed Pet and Owner: first, Douglas Wright, pointer mix Balto; second, American Eskimo breed, Nala; and third (tie), Steven Crute, yellow Lab Junior and Elisabeth Pernicone, short-haired tabby cat Kalakaua.

Best Trained Pet: first, Kristina Crute, yellow Lab Junior; second, Amanda Mergener, black lab mix Daisy Mae; and third, Peter Thompson, cat Holly.

Pet with Wagglest Tail: first, Natalie and Katherine Soeve, beagle, springer, lab mix Trxie; second (tie), Seth Gee, lab retriever Rosie and Morgana Krus, Shih-Tzu Snipper; and third (tie) Stacy Schroeder, lab and German shepherd mix Union Jack and Molly Catherly, beagle Daisy Mae.

Shaguest Pet: first, Elizabeth Ferrise, guinea pig Cindy.

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