



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Anti-Cruelty Society's 17th Annual Bark in the Park
Sponsored by Hills Science Diet, ABC-7, Harris Investment Management, and Chicago's Rewind 100.3**

On Saturday, May 7th approximately 2,500 dogs and 3,000 of their human companions attended our 16th annual Bark in the Park. This 5K walk, with or without your dog, was an exciting morning of fun for everyone that attended.

Board Member, Dan Jaffee and his family, started the walk at 9 a.m. with one of the Society's adoptable dogs. Even with the weather cloudy weather and chance of rain, everyone was very excited and enjoyed their 3.1 mile walk along the lakefront course.

As participants finished the walk they were greeted by our generous human food sponsors Honest Tea, Starbucks, Burrito Beach, Stanley's Fruit Market, Federated Food Group, Talerico-Martin Bakery and many more. Small Business Pavilion sponsors offered doggie treats and other goodies for pets and the humans.

At the stage, ABC 7's Hosea Sanders and Roz Varon, the Rewind's Brian Middleton, Steve Dale and Bart Shore and their dogs, ran the show, announcing activities and prizes for the day. Animal Talent Scout, Bill Casey was at the event looking for the next big doggie talent. Dr. Robyn Barbiers, President of The Anti-Cruelty Society also helped out at the stage and announced the winner of the 50/50 cash raffle.

Dogs that weren't competing in the stage activities could be found at the Hawk City K9 agility course or in the Family Fun Tent playing games, stamping paw prints and getting doggie tattoos.

Danielle DeCamp from Bally Total Fitness warmed up the people, Integrative Pet Care warmed up the pups before the walk, and Pam Kuhn cooled them down in the spa tent by giving doggie massages. Kevin Landis drew charity pet portraits for event participants. Denise Zak, Animal Intuitive, was helping owners find out how much fun their dogs were really having at Bark in the Park or how happy their kitty was because she was having a party home.

Individuals and pledge teams raised funds on their own to benefit The Anti-Cruelty Society. Over \$77,000 was raised by pledge supporters alone.

Team Hot Dogs, formed largely by members of local breed enthusiast and social club, Chicago Dachshund Lovers, included 49 walkers, 64 dogs and raised over \$5,000 for the animals of The Anti-Cruelty Society, winning the Team Challenge for the fourth straight year. The Lil' Smokies came in a close second raising almost \$2,500 and Team Stanley was third raising almost \$2,000.

Our top individual fundraiser was Angie McGrath raising almost \$3,000 for the animals. The second top fundraiser was Jennifer Crouch who rose over \$2,000 and the third was JoAnne Linsell. Thank you to all of our fundraisers for helping us to raise funds for our life-saving programs and services.

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We'd like to thank all of our sponsors including, ABC-7, Chicago's Rewind, Harris Investment Management, and Hill's Pet Nutrition, Starbucks, Honest Tea, Burrito Beach, Stanley's Fruit Market, Animal ARK, Hawk City K9, Blum Animal Hospital, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc, Furnetic-Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine, Federated Food Group, Talerico-Martin Bakery, Pepper Construction, all of our small business sponsors, everyone who underwrote items for Bark in the Park, and of course our wonderful volunteers!

All proceeds from Bark in the Park will help us continue to build our community of caring by helping pets and educating people. For information about Bark in the Park, on Saturday, May 5, 2012 please email events@anticruelty.org.

About The Anti-Cruelty Society

The Anti-Cruelty Society is Chicago's oldest and largest, private, open-admission, unlimited stay humane society. With a mission of building a community of caring by helping pets and educating people, its comprehensive programs and services help over 50,000 animals and humans every year and include: adoption, charity veterinary clinic, low or no-cost spay/neuter clinic, cruelty investigation and rescue, humane education & community outreach, a free behavior hotline, dog training classes, S.A.F.E. program (short-term accommodations for emergencies), The Bruckner Rehabilitation & Treatment Center and Virginia Butts Berger Cat Clinic. For more information, visit www.anticruelty.org.

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