



Perris Press Release

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Dogs Have Their Day at the Annual Mutt Strut

People and pets strolled the grounds of Morgan Park Saturday to raise awareness about cancer and money to fight the dreaded disease all while taking advantage of low-cost vaccines and the chance to meet other animal owners and their critters.

The City's annual Strutt Your Mutt celebration joined forces with the American Cancer Society, which also staged their Bark for Life in Perris over the weekend.

The event drew more than 100 participants, attracted by the gorgeous weather and good causes.

"We are extremely excited to be here," said Ray Cisneros, who organized the Bark for Life event. "We want to get the community involved."

Cisneros praised the City of Perris for joining forces to make the day a success.

"We've gotten great participation and support from the City of Perris," he said. "This is a great event and because of the City, it was made better."

Cisneros brought the family Chihuahua, Miley, to Morgan Park for the day's fun. He said dog owners should be aware that cancer also affects canines.

Some who came to Morgan Park to support the cancer walk have been touched by the disease. Kristina Walker said her father is an eight-year survivor of prostate cancer. Walker brought her yellow Labrador retriever, Howard, to the event. Her daughter, Morgan Walker, 13, came with her Chihuahua, Ginger.

"We just want to be out here to encourage people to become more aware that cancer can strike anyone," Kristina Walker said.

The American Cancer Society set up tables to pass out pamphlets and brochures about the disease.

Michael Behrens and his wife, Angel Love-Behrens, supported the cancer walk with their Israeli herding do, Mr. Bobb. The couple has worked with the California Military Institute in recent years to raise funds to fight cancer and has raised \$18,000.

The City and the American Cancer Society will be working together on May 21-22 during the Relay-for-Life at Foss Park.

"I think this is really fantastic," Michael Behrens said. "The more you can get people involved in their community, the more they will appreciate it, and not abuse it."

Strutt Your Mutt featured several fun contests, with City staff members handing for the best dressed dog, the best tail-wagger, best mutt in strutt, best space doggie and an award for the owner and dog that most look alike. The City provided hot dogs, chips and soda for the participants.



Ray and Sharon Cisneros at the Bark for Life on Saturday. Ray Cisneros holds the family Chihuahua, Miley.



Kristina Walker with Howard, a yellow Labrador retriever.



The American Cancer Society handed out information about cancer awareness.