

# Top dogs race

17 dachshunds competed in Oktoberfest's Wiener Dog Races in Florence

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

An estimated 300 people gathered along the sidelines of the Wiener Dog Races at the Florence Events Center (FEC), held during Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The third annual event, also known as the Dachhund Derby, had 17 canine participants ranging in age from puppy to adult.

The races were new to some dogs, like the puppies in the opening race who just wanted to play. An event organizer finally had to enter the track and guide the last racers to the finish line.

Jesika Kaczynski, of Swisshome, and her puppy Ralphie took first place, followed by Dan Lyons' Gilligan, of Coos Bay.

For other, older dogs, the race was not a "new trick."

Last year's Grand Champion Ellie, a member of Steve Smoley's family here in Florence, returned to defend her title. She received second in the "teen" age division.

Mike Wrigley and his family's dachshund Sophie took



**Sachi Wrigley, of Roseburg, holds Sophie, this year's grand champion and winner of the "teen" race category in the Wiener Dog Races. Besides winning two trophies, Sophie also got to take her picture in the BeauBooth photo booth inside Oktoberfest.**



first place over Ellie.

Sophie went on to be the overall winner of the entire races.

In the adult category, Scout, owned by Carrie Hogan of

Florence, won first place. Becky Gulseth's Peanut, of Myrtle Point, won second.

This year's race featured fine fall weather and an extended race track.

Dave Petersen, husband of event organizer Jeanna Petersen, hand-milled the fence boards that lined the track.

The increased size meant more spectators could watch the races.

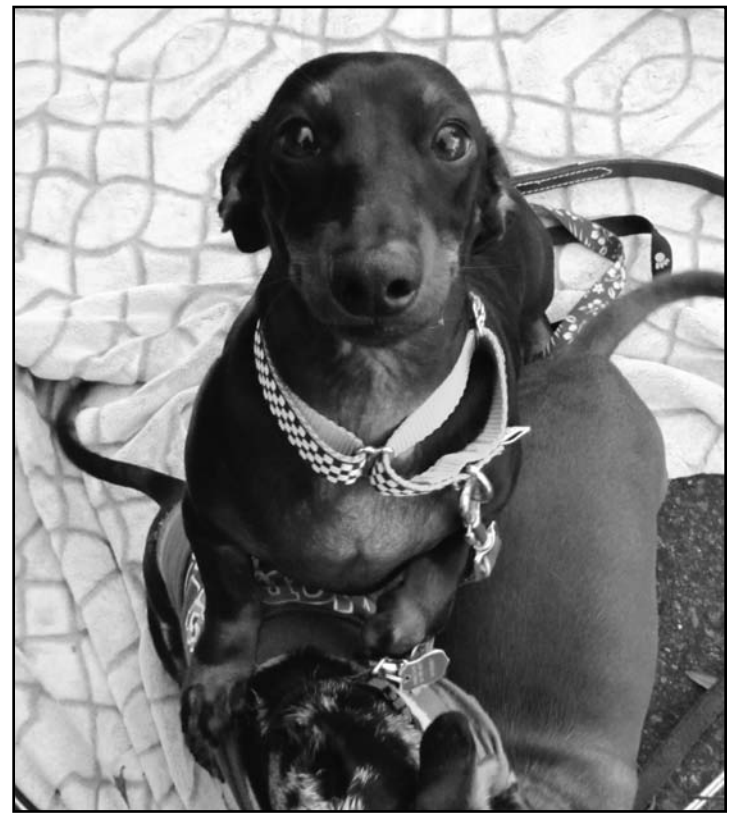
"The Wiener Dog Races were great," said Florence Mayor Joe Henry. "I never envisioned that being mayor would be this much fun and have this much excitement."

FEC Marketing Specialist Jennifer Connor said although many of the race spectators attended Oktoberfest, more than 100 people came just to the Wiener Dog Races.

This year's sponsors included Siuslaw News, Chad E. Clement, D.D.S., OregonFast.net, Florence Sweepers, Welcome to Florence, Dan Lofy Construction, Potter's Tire and Automotive Repair, Beach-Bum Doggie Resort, True Cut Engraving and Trophies, A&W Family Restaurant and Rick Dreiling with History Hounds.

Sponsors also provided prizes for the raffles, ribbons for second place and trophies for all four categories.

Look for the Wiener Dog Races at the 2016 Oktoberfest.



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



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