

## Passage West Dog Show

Passage West Dog Show last Saturday was a huge success. Dogs of all shapes and sizes turned out, from pugs, Jack Russells and shitzus to mastiffs and alsatians. All dogs were exceptionally well behaved, the weather smiled on them throughout and the afternoon went smoothly from start to finish.

An adorable golden cocker spaniel, Oscar, won the Best Puppy class. The Golden Oldie class indisputably belonged to a 15-year old Jack Russell. The decision on the winner in the Waggiest Tail class was made by the crowd as children encouraged their dogs to wag their tails furiously. With the weekend that was in it, a matching Gathering outfit for dog and owner won the Best Dressed class. Other classes included Prettiest Princess, Most Handsome Dog, Best Rescue, Best Trick, Dog Most Like Its Owner, Child's Best Friend and Dog Judge Would Most Like To Take Home. The Best In Show class was won by Jacob, a magnificent Red Setter, who brought along his owner, Andy!

The 6-Legged Race proved particularly great fun as children and their dogs raced wildly towards the finishing line. Then mothers took up the cudgel, racing each other with their dogs. Finally, there was serious competition as the dads took the dog leads.

John Clifford, lecturer in St. John's College, Cork, was judge for the day. John has countless years of experience in training all sizes and types of dogs and at the end of the Dog Show, offered training advice for all those who requested it. There was great interest from the crowd in the work of the Cork Dog Action Welfare Group (DAWG) who were demonstrating the incredible and tireless work they do in rescuing, fostering and rehoming dogs in need of a better life.

The raffle was a tremendous success. Lots of wonderful prizes were generously donated by Pet Essentials (Carrigaline), Maxi Zoo (Douglas), Shaggy to Chic (dog grooming, Passage West), Fotaview Boarding Kennels (Passage West), the Village Pet Show (Douglas Village Shopping Centre), the Pet Stand (Douglas Court Shopping Centre), Carol and Jerry Stuart and Eurospar (Passage West). A big thank you to all; it could not have been done without you.

The Tidy Towns volunteers spent the show distributing lollipops, dog treats and dipping marshmallows in delicious melted chocolate. Crepes and dog balloons were also on offer, whilst pretty butterflies and scary tigers were wandering around Toureen Park thanks to the face-painting talent of Margo X

All in all, Passage West Dog Show was a super day in the community. Organised by Carol Hartnett and Marcia D'Alton and hosted by Passage West Tidy Towns, it was run as a not-for-profit event to encourage use of the two pet waste bins now available to dog walkers on the popular Passage West – Hope Island railway line walk. Any money made in excess of the cost of running the show has been donated to the Tidy Towns group.

Thanks to everyone who came on the day and made it the success it was. Looking forward to meeting all those wonderful mutts and owners again next year!