



AT THE PET PARADE Friday at the Good Samaritan Center, Megan Lohofener (above), age 7, daughter of Deb Lohofener, held her dog, while she waited for her turn to be interviewed. A wagon full of escapee lawn ornaments (below) sat while Carolyn Burtis explained how the ducks, geese and foxes showed up at her office.



Pets parade Good Sam for the fair

Cute and cuddly pets paraded through the Good Samaritan Center on Friday afternoon in the annual Pet Parade, part of the Decatur County Fair.

There were dogs, puppies, cats, kittens, a duck, a ferret, a puppet and even some lawn ornaments that had strayed from home.

Each year, kids and adults from the county bring their pets to the center on the Friday during the fair to take part in the parade.

Residents sat on the patio in the courtyard waiting for a chance to pet the furry animals. Sarah Marcuson, with the Sappa Valley 4-H Club, emceed the event, asking each owner for a name and if their pets did any kinds of tricks.

Some of the animals danced, especially a little white puppet held by Caleb Smith.

Miss Marcuson asked if any of the animals could sing or whistle, but she was unable to find one.

After all the animals had gone through the line, it was Carolyn Burtis' turn to introduce her pets, which she pulled in on a black wagon. The pets weren't actually hers, nor were they pets at all, but lawn ornaments that showed up at her office and across the street one day recently. She said she found ducks, geese and foxes were lined up on her curb. Although she asked around, Mrs. Burtis said, she hasn't found a home for the figures.

Anyone who might be missing lawn ornaments from their homes can see her at Metcalf Real Estate, she said, or call 475-2111.



WITH HIS CAT Peter, Sean Jordan, 16, son of Judy Jordan, was interviewed at the pet parade. The cat was known as Talon when he lived at the center, Sean said.

Before the parade was over, all the contestants received gift certificates for participating, with awards for most obedient, plumpest, youngest and others. Everyone also got a blue ribbon for their entry.



WITH HIS DUCK in a box, Tim Larson, 13, son of David and Belinda Larson, talked with Sarah Marcuson about any tricks the duck could do. Tim said the duck could swim.

Herald photos and story by Kimberly Davis