

# Pets strut stuff during parade

Kitties and doggies and birds, oh my! It's almost time for the annual pet parade and everyone is invited to bring their favorite animal to show off at the Good Samaritan Center at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, during the Decatur County Fair.

All pets should be leashed or have appropriate restraint – cages, cartons or bowls – and be people friendly.

Each animal will be checked out by a judge and the exhibitor asked a few questions. The animals get to meet and greet the Good Samaritan residents and ribbons and prizes will be given out.

Ribbons will be given for the smallest pet, largest pet, most unique pet, prettiest pet, most obedient and best groomed.

While the pet parade is a 4-H council project, anyone can exhibit an animal or bird.

Decatur County Extension Agent Byron Hale said that the parade has been going on for at least 20 years and probably a bit longer. The

most interesting pet he remembers, he said, was a jumping goldfish.

When a small wire hoop was held over its bowl, the fish would just through it.

Mr. Hale also remembers the invisible dog and the stuffed animal dog as unusual "pets." He didn't remember if either won any prizes.

While most of the entrants bring dogs and cats, he said, there are the occasional bird, turtle, lizard, hamster and fish. One year there was a bucket calf in the parade and another time, a miniature horse was an entry.

Mr. Hale said that the pet parade was started by the 4-H Council so that the residents of the Good Samaritan Center, could participate in the fair. Some of the residents are able to get out to the fairground, he said, but others just can't. So the council decided to take a little bit of the fair to the county's oldest residents.

Everyone is invited to come watch the parade and enjoy the show as the pets are admired and the smiles break out all around.

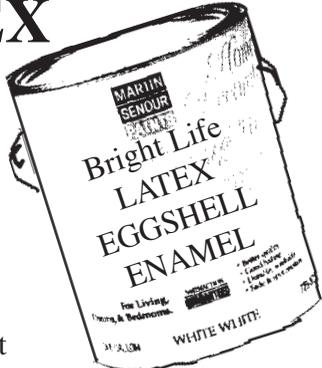


**DOING THEIR DOGGIEST** to entertain the residents of the Good Samaritan Center, Jamie Soderlund and her dog Chance (above) were ready to go. Cassidy Gillespie (left) held up her dog Marley for Amy Rehm to pet while Timber (below) wore a pink ribbon to the parade. She belongs to Dr. Shannon Addleman and her children.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



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