



## Smith Village to host annual 'Dog Days' march



Biscuit, who resides at Smith Village with his owner, Pat Conway, charms the audience at the 2017 Smith Village Dog Days of Summer pet parade. The 7-year-old Shih Tzu Pomeranian will perform tricks again this year. (photo by Gary Middendorf)

Smith Village, a life-plan community at 2320 W. 113th Pl., invites friends and neighbors to join in a celebration of animals during its 11th annual Dog Days of Summer Pet Parade from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, July 20.

Breaking from the tradition of featuring pets of Smith Village residents and neighbors only, this year's event also will include Alpacas, Tina and Mikey, a potbelly pig named Happy, and Heritage chickens from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences.

"Smith Village is home to several dogs and cats, and we encourage our residents to own pets, but we also think it's important to appreciate the roles other animals play in our lives," said Marti Jatis, Smith Village executive director. "So, this year, in addition to showcasing the personalities of so many wonderful pets, we're also hosting animals from a great school in our neighborhood."

Stars in this year's event also will include Smitty, the Smith Village therapy rabbit, several registered therapy dogs, as well as dogs, cats and other small animals owned by Smith Village staff and residents' family members.

Since 2007, Smith Village has welcomed a variety of animals, including snakes, birds, guinea pigs and ponies to strut their stuff on the Smith Village Green, weather permitting. All competitors in this year's parade will receive doggy bags for participating. Special prizes will be awarded to the top three contestants. Dog biscuits and water bowls will be provided for canines. People refreshments will include water, ice-cold punch and pet-themed cookies.

Pet owners residing in the Beverly-Morgan Park area are welcome to enter well-behaved dogs on leashes. Other smaller animals must be kept in carrying cases. Entry forms can be obtained at the Smith Village reception desks and must be turned in by Monday, July 16.

For more information about this free event, call Bridget Murphy at (773) 474-7300.