

Dogs pull growlers, kegs and cans

By **MELINA BOURDEAU**
Staff writer

GREENFIELD — There was paws-itive energy and a big turnout at the seventh annual K-9 Keg Pull at the Winter Carnival this year.

Whether it was their first or fifth year competing, dog owners said they enjoyed getting together with each other Sunday and running with their pets.

“*He really likes the attention and the bandanas, too.*”

LINDSEY BILLIEL, ON WINNER RILEY

Kegs are matched to the dogs based on size – with empty beer cans for small dogs like Chihuahuas, full-sized kegs for larger dogs like St. Bernards and varied sizes in between.



STAFF PHOTO/DAN LITTLE

Orion, an 8-year-old Puggle, competes in the K-9 Keg Pull event during the 97th annual Winter Carnival at Beacon Field in Greenfield.

Dogs, attached to an appropriately sized beer container with a rope, started at one end of the course and run to the other. Dog owners were tasked with calling, bribing or

running with the dogs to motivate them to get the fastest time.

Sean Mason and his black

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Keg pull

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Labrador named Legend participated for the second year, in a field of 63 dogs.

"We come to the Winter Carnival every year, and we haven't done the keg pull for a couple years," Mason said. "It's a great event and we're glad Lefty's supports it," he added, referring to a local microbrewery.

Mason said his tactic for getting Legend to run to him was using his treats.

"I'll give him his favorite treat at the end," Mason said.

"He even responds to the word 'treat.'"

Rose Sullivan of Haydenville said she is using a cheese stick in her pocket to motivate Dovey, a Lab mix.

"This is really fun," Sullivan said. "I saw it on the website and decided to have Dovey compete. She just turned 1. I think she's either going to run to the finish line or run and try to play with people."

For a third year, Lizbeth Deltoro and Carlos Peña of Greenfield competed with their Rhodesian ridgeback, Dusty.

"It's fun to have the dogs come together," Deltoro said. "It's a nice competition. Dusty

has done this every year. She likes to run. All we have to do is call her, and her favorite person is Carlos."

Peña said he trains with her throughout the year.

"She follows me when I go hiking up mountains and when I go biking," Peña said.

Dusty's training paid off last year when she came in second place overall, but she didn't succeed in placing again this year.

Lindsey Billiel of Greenfield and her 7-year-old pit-bull-husky mix, Riley, were also returning champions from last year, placing in first place for a quarter keg last year.

The two placed first once again this year, when Riley pulled a quarter-keg in 6.4 seconds.

"I just stand at the end of the course and call him," Billiel said. "We decided to give it a shot one year, and we keep trying every year. He really likes the attention and the bandanas, too."

An entry fee for the competition benefited the city's dog park.

The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Paws Park, Lefty's Brewing Co. and the Greenfield Recreation Department.

There was also a donation box for the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter on site as well.



STAFF PHOTO/DAN LITTLE

Cathie Llewelyn coaxes on her Chihuahua, Macho Chewbacca, while competing in the K-9 Keg Pull event during the 97th annual Winter Carnival at Beacon Field.