

Dog Daze

I couldn't wait for my human to take me to Dog Days at the Lititz Farmers Market last Saturday. I thought for sure it would be a Chuck E. Cheese for dogs thing and for my human, Michele, just seeing that rat on the sign upsets her. Whenever she has to go, she says, "Chuck, in the trash, Cheese," while pre medicating.

I'm, Digory, an English setter rescue dog who got bad grades in hunting from my first owner 'cause I'm hyper. I tried to comfort Michele saying we would use a harness. For me, not her, but I don't know why (birdy!) she goes flailing around in every direction like she does.

I had a great time and I couldn't believe I finally met my other-worldly friend, Mister Tumnus! Since Narnia, he lives with his best friend, Aaron Dickinson, 11, and helps out in Aaron's Books in Lititz. He's now a retired Greyhound racer but you'd never know it. If a squirrel came before us, Tumnus wouldn't stand a chance, but he was the crowd favorite.

And then there was Cricket, a Boston terrier. I was seriously ascaresed of this dog. I couldn't even get the chance to check if it was a boy or girl and even though it was in the smallest dog contest, I was staying away. Donata Kline, its owner apologized for its squealy cricket voice. Kline comes to the market almost every Saturday and this was the first time she got to enter her dogs. Her other was Jackson, a Sheltie mix.

The contests motivate humans to work on tricks with us and come back to try to win the next year.

"We've been practicing every chance we get," said Piper Hepler of Lititz, who won third place in the dog trick category when her Neapolitan mastiff mix, Nahla, "jumped" through her hoola hoop, although it was more of a supermodel runway walk through.

Aili, the Labra doodle—I love her, but she totally snubbed me and I will be forever pining. Pine—also a tree, there's a tree!

"Aili is so trained, her focus is on me and not other dogs," said Bonnie Daisy.

Aili and Daisy have been a certified KPETS (Keystone Pet Enhancement Therapy Services) team for a few years. They go into nursing homes, schools, rehabs, and also partner with the Lititz Library where kids read to the dogs.

A celebrity entered the contest and won first place in the best trick category. Charlie the Service Dog who's been in the news recently about raising money for her paw dysplasia was with Angelina Piazza from Lititz. Charlie personally delivered her business card to the judges and impressed the other dogs.

Charlie has raised money for her August surgery and many fans are following her progress. Piazza is pretty popular herself. She's been in a wheelchair for 15 years due to Morquio Syndrome.

"I can walk," said Piazza." "I have my own house that I bought in Lititz last year where I walk around. I'll be 30 in September. I make my life normal."

Michele is my main food hook-up, but I'm used to bread crust scrap treats, meat fat trimmings and a bowls of milk, besides my regular food on the farm. I had no idea they make these gourmet dog treats just for me! I pulled Michele up to see them.

"I bake all natural, organic, gluten and grain-free treats," said Courtney Helm, a regular vendor of Beckham's Bones. "My dog, Beckham, was my inspiration to it all! I enjoy providing dogs a delicious but also very healthy treat while using all organic herbs, fruits and vegetables. They are also packed with other benefits."

Courtney, 22, loves what she does and became an entrepreneur to pay off student loans. She also sells homemade dog toys and frozen treats.

2014 Lititz Farmers Market Dog Days contest winners

Smallest dog—Pixel

Biggest dog—Rocky

Most unusual coloring or spots—Nahla

Longest tail—Mister Tumnus

Shortest tail—Flint

Longest ears—Wilbur

Dog that most looks like its owner—Bella

Best dog trick—Charlie the Service Dog

Most unusual name—Professor Digory

Professor Digory can be reached by female dogs with gourmet treat baking skills at michelewalterfry@gmail.com.