

Valentine walkies for doggies

Your dogs won't appreciate roses and chocolates on Valentine's Day, but they'll love you even more if you take them to the *Purina SPCA Woefie-Wandel*, on Saturday 13 February at 08h30, from Hoërskool Tygerberg in De Tijger, Parow.

This new Northern suburbs cousin of the popular SPCA Wiggle Waggle Walkathon, which in November attracted 2400 walkers and 1600 dogs, promises to be lots of fun for both two and four-legged walkers.

But owning a dog is not a prerequisite to take part in the 3,5km charity walk around the tranquil streets of De Tijger – just bring your children, family and friends along for a great morning out in support of the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) SPCA.

Popular children's character Lolloos (South Africa's answer to Barney) will start the walk and perform for the children once the walk finishes and prizes will be presented for the best dressed dogs and walkers.

Sponsors Purina will have lots of great give-aways and lucky entrant prizes on offer and there'll be a wide selection of food and pet product stalls as well as a dog agility display.

The walk costs just R25 per person and R25 per dog and children three and under are free. All funds from entry fees and donations will be used to help the CoGH SPCA prevent animal cruelty and support its efforts to establish a satellite centre to serve the North-West suburbs of Cape Town. Each month the SPCA investigates an average of 800 cases of animal cruelty and neglect across Cape Town, yet receives no government funding and relies entirely on public donations to carry out this important community work.

"The Woefie-Wandel" is a great way to support the SPCA and help you and your dogs stay in shape", said CoGH SPCA Communications Manager, Sarah Scarth. "Purina are passionate about making pet's lives better and their staff will be at this family, fun event to offer advice and help you keep your pets in tip-top condition", she said.

Walkers are encouraged to pre-register online at www.spca-ct.co.za or at Tygervalley Centre (outside the Pick 'n Pay) or Parow Shopping Centre (Click's court), on Saturday 6 February from 10am to 2pm. Entry forms will be available from local veterinary practices or by contacting the SPCA on 021 700 4141 or e-mail comms@spca-ct.co.za.

Registration will also take place on the day of the walk (Saturday 13 February) from 06h00 until 08h15 and the walk starts at 08h30.

Plenty of parking is available on the field directly opposite the school and all the roads along the route will be managed by traffic officials, with regular water points available to keep canine walkers and their owners refreshed. The organization will also have volunteer veterinarians stationed along the route to attend to any emergencies and human first aid service will also be available.

"It's a typically hot time of the year, so we encourage all entrants to apply plenty of sun block and ensure their dogs are given time to cool off in the water baths provided at the start and finish and along the route", said Sarah. The CoGH SPCA, which has staged 16 big dog walks to date, is experienced in dealing with large numbers of dogs walking together on a designated route. 'At last year's SPCA Wiggle Waggle Walkathon we didn't have one incident of dogs fighting – it's as if they know this is their special day out and they make the most of it", she said.

So don't delay – get your soul mates, your play mates and your best mates together for the best Valentine's event Cape Town has to offer!

Issued by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. For further information and visuals please contact Lamees Cornelius on 021 700 4141 or email comms@spca-ct.co.za

Route description

The 3,5km walk around De Tijger in Parow is suitable for all ages and there is only one hill. The route is as follows:-

- Exit Hoërskool Tygerberg main field onto Java St.
- Cross over Fairfield Noord.
- At T Junction turn right into McGuinness St.
- At stop street turn left into Hannes Louw.
- Pass the NG Kerk De Tyger; turn right into Jan Celliers St.
- Turn right into van Bruggen Street and walk up the road and onto the pedestrian pathway to connect to Jaqueline St (main uphill section of the route and halfway point).
- Turn right into Michelle St.
- Turn left into Hannes Louw.
- Turn right into Glaudia St and then right into Spes Bona St.
- Turn left into Tierberg St and just before reaching Frans Conradie, turn right into Java Street East.
- Walk through the gate onto the field and through the finish.