

Calling all mutts!

2nd annual Muttzanita celebration Aug. 14

By **DAVE FISHER**
The Citizen

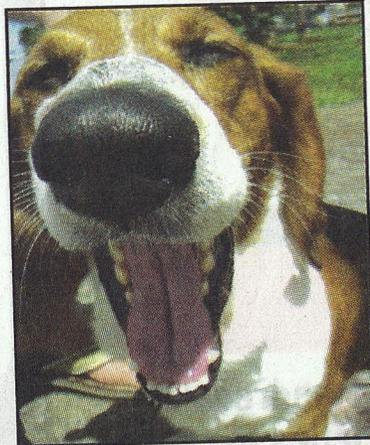
Building on last year's success, Muttzanita organizer Dan Nichols is hoping to attract twice as many dogs this year for the second annual fundraiser scheduled Saturday, Aug. 14.

"We're going to be prepared for

200 dogs this year," Nichols said. "Last year, we had about 100."

There's a few new wrinkles to the program this year that runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration get underway at 9 a.m. at Four Paws on the Beach, owned by Nichols and his wife, Barbara. Hoping to simplify things this year, one fee gets

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the pet owner's dog into any, and all, events.

At 10:30, the pet parade to the beach happens. A portion of Laneda Ave. will be closed to accommodate the parade. Beach events immediately following the parade include the chuck-it toss and doggie musical chairs.

Following lunch, the pet talent and fashion shows will commence in the courtyard adjacent to Four Paws.

Booths include a doggie spa and doggie carnival, along with informational booths featuring pet emergency kits and a chip clinic. For \$25,

veterinarian Diane Brown from the Seaside Pet Clinic will place an identification chip in your pet should it ever get lost.

Shy Jazz will be on hand providing live entertainment in the afternoon and Road Grill will be serving up the eats on site with a fundraising barbecue. If patrons wish to have a photographic record of the event, they can even order a CD. Also new this year is a dog carting demonstration orchestrated by local dog lover Terri Michelsen.

In an effort to encourage people to explore the town and visit other businesses, Nichols points to a couple of events that should do the trick: a poker walk and a treasure hunt. By

showing a Muttzanita card, available at the registration table, to participating businesses, "poker players" will receive a playing card. The idea is to gather cards, with the best hands at the end of the day winning prizes. The treasure hunt involves participants deciphering clues spread about town to discover the treasure.

Nichols is especially appreciative of the businesses that stepped forward to help sponsor this year's event and, as a result, Muttzanita is fully sponsored, he said. Sponsors include Manzanita Fresh Foods, Manzanita Grocery and Deli, Dennis' 7 Dees Garden Center, The Rinehart Clinic, Manzanita Golf Course, Manzanita Bikes and Boards, U.S. Bank, Bank

of Astoria, Howell's Floor Coverings, and Ocean Edge Vacation Rentals.

Muttzanita is a fundraiser for the North Tillamook Rotary Club in its support of the Rinehart Clinic's Child Wellness Program and United Paws of Tillamook.

As with any successful event, volunteers are critical.

"We're looking for upwards of 50 volunteers," said Nichols. You can volunteer beforehand for as little or as much time as you like by emailing Four Paws at muttzanita@yahoo.com, or just show up at 8 a.m. the day of the event.

For their efforts, volunteers will receive a free Road Grill lunch.