

## **Bark For A Cure – Rein In Cancer Strut Your Mutt Contest Held at 2009 NRBC**

In the short span that Rein In Cancer has been raising money for the fight against cancer, the equine industry-based program has raised thousands of dollars that go directly to the cause. The fund-raising events are known for being innovative, and at the 2009 National Reining Breeders Classic – the highest added money reining event in the world – Rein In Cancer debuted the First Annual NRBC Rein In Cancer Strut Your Mutt contest.

It was a dog show for the record books – center stage at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. Instead of elite reining horses, dogs and their owners entered the ring. There were two parts to the competition. First was the halter/conformation, or as some referred to it as the beauty pageant. Then the performance division allowed the cunning canines to each exhibit one trick.

The crowd picked out favorites and there was an assortment of sizes and breeds of dogs represented. From beagles to Rhodesian Ridgebacks to some dogs with more character than pedigree, there was a dog for every taste. Clothing was optional for the dogs, and the sunglasses worn by Poco Scott (shown by Viola Scott), and the leg boots worn by Gravy Schmidt (shown by Joe Schmidt) were a crowd favorite.

The talent portion of the competition consisted of each owner summarizing what his or her dog would do, followed by the individual performance. Gravy Schmidt topped the field, but Rhea Kobsar's Abby stole the show doing reining maneuvers with her "rider," Hannah Montana.

Bribes to the three judges, Dr. Alan Donnell, Barb Waltenberry, and Marshall Kyle, were not only accepted, but highly encouraged, as all bribes went directly to benefit Rein In Cancer.

In the end it was a tie between two sisters. Mackenzie Rivers and Magic, and Morgan Rivers and Coconut, took top honors in the overall division. When the money was counted, well over \$1,000 was raised.

Every entrant received a special pink NRBC Rein In Cancer Strut Your Mutt dog tag, and an NRBC Strut Your Mutt bandana. The sixteen entries competed for top places in the halter/beauty pageant and the performance competition. The top two in each of the divisions received specially monogrammed dog blankets, and the top two winners overall also received the custom blankets.

"We're always very impressed with the generosity of people in the horse industry. Cancer is a horrible disease that hits everyone close to home," noted Cheryl Magoteaux, Rein In Cancer founder. She continued, "We appreciate the Board of Directors of the National Reining Breeders Classic for hosting this event, and allowing us to be here."

For more information on Rein In Cancer, please visit [www.reinincancer.com](http://www.reinincancer.com).