

Forget Crufts get ready for Scruffs

Enter your pooch into annual dog show

**TRAFFORD
LIVE!**

BY BETHAN DORSETT

DOG owners can take their pet to a fun packed competition tomorrow – and they don't even have to be a pampered pedigree to compete.

Unlike some dog shows, Scruffs is as much a celebration of those cute and cuddly mixed breed mutts as much pricier and fancier species.

They don't even need special tricks or a glossy coat to win a prize – a waggly tail

will do. Held at Victoria Park, the annual show is organised by the dog lovers among the park's Friends group.

Cath Johnston is one of those and she steps down from her usual duties with the organisation to enter her own mutt, Poppy, in the show.

She said: "This is the fourth year we have held Scruffs and the main reason we do it is to recognise our dog walkers."

"They are regular visitors and therefore are a big part of our park."

Anyone attending the event will be able to enter their beloved hounds in categories such as 'waggiest tail', 'smiliest dog' and 'saddest eyes,' while there is also a tricks category for those enthusiastic show-offs. You don't even have to bring a pet as there

will be other attractions including a refreshment stall and a raffle, as well as the chance to cheer on the dogs and their owners on some of the agility tests.

Cath added: "There will be small charges for some of the categories, like the agility test, which costs £1."

"But even if they entered many categories the most they would have to pay is £2."

"We do this really for the community, not for money, and all of what we raise goes to the park."

"We want to encourage anyone and everyone to take part. Any pooch can come along to it, too."

Scruffs runs from 1.30pm to 3pm on Victoria's Lane at the park, near its School Road entrance. To find out more about the Friends log on to www.fofvps.org.uk.



CHAMPION Ales Marks, eight, with her champion dog, Saluki cross Max, at Scruffs 2008