Suggestions and advice for holding a charity dog walk

1. Find a suitable venue to meet and where you can have lunch afterwards, that is close to the route that you plan to take. We used our village hall, which leads straight out onto a public footpath.

2. Plan your route, which should take one to one and a half hours. Avoid livestock if possible and try to arrange areas where socialized dogs can have fun off lead.

3. Make/print tickets. We charged £5 for adults and £2.50 for children. For this, you have a lovely walk, a nice lunch, shopping and a good family day out with your dog.

4. Money can be raised from ticket sales, a raffle, a cake sale and from inviting people to have stands at the venue and donating a percentage of what they sell to the charity. We don’t normally make a charge for the stalls, as it is not guaranteed that they will sell anything, but if they do, it is only fair that they make a donation to the charity.

5. Approach dog food manufacturers and local pet shops/companies/vets for small goody bags for each dog. These can be sample packs of treats, or if a company donates treats, you could bag them up in little packets to give to each dog. These companies may also donate raffle prizes. Please be sure to keep a note of generous companies so that we can acknowledge their generosity and support on the website.

6. After the walk, the walkers return for a bowl of soup and crusty bread and to chat and shop if there are stalls there. Your local pub, farm shop, restaurant, may provide a pot of soup if you ask them for their help. Perhaps you could ask one of them to make a vegetarian option as well.

7. Advertise your walk in local shops, petrol stations, vets, dog training groups, riding clubs/stables. We will gladly advertise your walk on our website and Facebook page if you give us due warning.

8. Enlist the help of your friends, to sell tickets, bake cakes, provide raffle prizes and to steward on the walk.

9. Don’t forget public liability insurance (Event Insurance Services Ltd. £55), first aid kit (for humans and dogs) raffle tickets

10. Have fun and Good Luck! Please send funds raised to the address below. Any cheques should be made out to The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust. If you would like to write an account of your day for the website/newsletter with photographs, we would love to hear from you. Don’t hesitate to contact us if you have further questions:

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5TH  Tel: 01306 627568
Email: gambiahorseanddonkeytrust@hotmail.com
http://www.Gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk