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Mutt Strut Raises Over \$54,000 to Support Hand in Paw's Animal-Assisted Therapy Programs

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (April 16, 2025)— Hand in Paw is thrilled to announce the success of its 15th Annual Mutt Strut, presented by Creative Dog Training, which raised more than \$54,000 in support of its mission to improve human health and well-being through Animal-Assisted Therapy.

Held at Homewood Central Park on Saturday, April 5, the 5K and fun run brought together hundreds of runners, walkers, dog lovers, and community supporters for a day full of tail wags, high-fives, and heartwarming moments. The event featured an 80s fitness-inspired theme, making it one of the most colorful and energetic Mutt Struts to date.

"Our community truly showed up — in leg warmers, sweatbands, and all — to help Hand in Paw continue our life-changing work," said Assistant Director Amanda Summers. "We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated, donated, volunteered, and supported this event."

The event was made possible thanks to the support of dozens of generous vendors and sponsors, who helped turn the park into a festival of fitness, fur, and fun. In addition to the race, attendees enjoyed a vibrant vendor village, dog-friendly activities, a costume contest, and photo ops with Hand in Paw's mascot, Spot.

Mutt Strut 2025 sponsors included: Creative Dog Training (Title Sponsor), VP Funds, 23Design, ABC 33/40, Birmingham Mountain Radio, Deborah Michelle Photography, Good Shepherd Media, UAB Medicine, Birmingham Animal Hospital, and Dr. Susan and Rick Nelms in memory of Christopher.

Proceeds from Mutt Strut support Hand in Paw's Therapy Teams, which bring comfort and joy to children and adults in hospitals, schools, and other facilities across Central Alabama and Tuscaloosa. To learn more about Hand in Paw's programs or to get involved, visit www.handinpaw.org.

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Hand in Paw is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to improve human health and well-being. Hand in Paw's professionally trained volunteer handler and animal therapy teams help improve people's day-to-day lives in several medical centers, schools, and human service organizations throughout North Central Alabama and Tuscaloosa. At no time has Hand in Paw charged for its services. handinpaw.org