

LOCAL

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Rewarding romp: Cancer event raises \$5,000

Participants – human and canine – in the Romp for Research make their way to the trails in Wompatuck State Park on Sunday. It was the first dog-focused fundraiser to be recognized by the Jimmy Fund.



Photo courtesy of Scott Leaver

HINGHAM – Dogs and their owners filled Wompatuck State Park on Sunday for the Romp for Research, a dog-friendly cancer fundraiser.

“It was a great day,” said brain cancer survivor Scott Leaver, the event’s organizer. “The first time around was a learning experience, but a fun one.”

The event raised more than \$5,000 for the Jimmy Fund and was the first dog-focused fundraiser the organization has recognized.

“We made history,” he said. “It was pretty memorable.”

The event featured dog walks, a scavenger hunt-style raffle, face painting, vendors, music and prizes for the top money raisers.

Leaver’s inspiration for the fundraiser

came from watching his Swiss mountain dog, LuLu, help him recover from cancer.

“Animals have this wonderfully mysterious ability to sense when you’re not well,” he said. “Since they love you unconditionally, they’re really a part of your healing.”

Leaver said he plans to make the event an annual tradition.

His company, Heal! Good Dog, sells original artwork, prints and T-shirts depicting LuLu. Leaver donates 10 percent of the revenue to cancer research organizations.

He began painting the cartoon-like images while recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor.