

RONAN LINES OUT TO HELP AUTISM ASSISTANCE DOGS IRELAND



Rugby Star Ronan O'Gara at Cork Racecourse to launch the Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland calendar for 2012. Earl & Jill proved more than a handful for the dogged rugby star but he managed to persuade them to sit quietly with the help of Breda Clancy of AADI, as he perused the charity calendar.

Picture: Don MacMonagle



Rugby star Ronan O'Gara had a lead of a different kind at Cork Racecourse on Sunday when he launched the 'Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland' calendar for 2012. Earl and Jill proved more than a handful for the dogged 'number 10' but he managed to persuade them to sit quietly for a few seconds as he posed with Breeda Clancy and Nuala Geraghty of AADI for photographs. The charity based in Mallow provides assistance dogs for children with autism free to families, although it costs €15,000 to train one dog. The calendar can be purchased from AADi at www.aadi.ie or telephone 02243851 or email info@aadi.ie

DOGS for ROG!

MUNSTER and Irish fly-half, Ronan O'Gara, joined Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland (AADI) last week at the Cork Racecourse Mallow to launch their 2012 events calendar.

Based in Quarters Mills in Mallow, AADI is a national charity, and their primary service is to provide highly trained assistance dogs for children with autism and their families.

AADI provides the assistance dogs to the families free of charge, although it costs €15,000 to train each dog. It relies exclusively on voluntary contributions, as it does not receive any government funding.

The dogs must be fostered for a year and potential families with



autistic children must undergo a minimum of five days training before receiving their assistance dog, as well as further training when the dog is in the home.

Funds raised from the sale of the calendars will go towards training the dogs.

The calendars are €5 and can be purchased from AADI at www.aadi.ie or via email to info@aadi.ie. AADI wrist bands are also available on their website, along with details on volunteering, the animals and training process, as well as news and events.

Ronan O'Gara was joined at the calendar launch by Breeda Clancy, Director of Fundraising, AADI and Nuala Geraghty, Training Services Manager, AADI as well as two of their fostered dogs Earl and Jill. **(Photo: Don MacMonagle)**



Bonan O'Sara with pups Karl and Jill and Breeda Clancy and Nuala Geraghty from Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland at the launch yesterday of the charity's new calendar. The Mallow-based organisation provides assistance dogs for children with autism. You can buy the calendar at www.aadl.ie, telephone 022-43853, or email info@aadl.ie