

Mammies to blame for STDs

By NAOMI McELROY

WHY did the Kerryman catch the sexually transmitted disease? Because he was too afraid of his MAMMY.

It sounds like a bad joke, but shocking new reports prove Kerry men are at serious risk of STDs because they won't wear condoms and are too embarrassed to get help for sexually transmitted infections.

Now health workers say their MAMMIES are to blame.

An HSE report claims: ● One in five Kerry men NEVER use a condom for casual sex

● Almost 40 per cent of Kerry men have had unsafe sex in the past six months - but only one in 10 said they felt at risk of catching an STI, and

● One in four said their sex education wasn't up to the job and added that the most negative effect on their sex education was their MOTHER.

Many men surveyed said they would feel too embarrassed to go to a sexual health clinic, others did not even know they EXIST.

Embarrassment, drink and drugs were the top three reasons given for not using condoms.

Now HSE workers must promote safe sex and sex education - or watch Kerry turn into the Kingdom of STDs.

MS hope from new Irish drug

By ROBERT LOVE

MILLIONS of multiple sclerosis sufferers worldwide have been given fresh hope by new research involving the Irish wonderdrug Tysabri.

Two-year-long trials on patients in Ireland and abroad have shown that the treatment can actually REVERSE the disease's crippling symptoms.

Medicines could previously only slow down the decline caused by the condition.

Irish MS expert Prof Michael Hutchinson, from St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin, said: "Patients reported improvements in their sense of well-being."

"There was relief of typical MS symptoms such as fatigue, imbalance, muscle tremor, sensory difficulties and memory lapse."

More than 6,000 people in Ireland are thought to have MS, a genetically-inherited condition which destroys the ability of the body's nerve cells to work properly.

Tysabri, which is produced by pharma company Elan, is available in Ireland but not all hospitals offer it to patients with the condition.

TURNING THE SOD

KILKENNY is to host the 2008 National Ploughing Championships. The National Ploughing Association event will be staged at Farmley in Cuffesgrange.

IRISH SUNDAY MIRROR TOP DOG COMPETITION

THE Final FURLong IRISH SUNDAY

THESE fetch-ing photos of your pets deserve a round of a-paws.

We're whelp-leashed with the quality of entries in our competition - and so will the lucky dog who walkies away with our amazing prizes.

The winner will collar a year's supply of Pedigree petfood, a pair of shades from Doggies, a designer outfit from Pet Stop, a fang-tastic makeover by Dogsbody and a year's pet insurance from Allianz.

These are the 60 finalists in all their poochful perfection. TV3's Alan Hughes and Irish Sunday Mirror Editor Christian McCashin will have the task of chew-sing 15 of them to go live on Ireland AM next Friday.

Viewers can text in their favourites in our three categories: Amazing Tails, I'll B There Fur You and Ireland's Best-Looking Dog.

But there can only be one Top Dog. Will yours be the one? This week's

TOP 50 DOGS BATTLE IT OUT TO BE NAMED YOUR PERFECT POOCH



By GERALDINE COMISKEY

entries include Buster, a Yorkshire terrier from Tralee, Co Kerry, who is a bit of a David Beckham. Owner Jade McGrath (9) says Buster loves playing football and getting dressed up.

Another Yorkie, Darcy, is a bit of a health-food nut, says owner Teresa Reel from Kilbarrack in Dublin - who sent us a picture of him eating a Yogette.

He is also very clever. She adds, "He knows if I put flat shoes on he is going for a walk. He knows when I put my lipstick on I am going out." Cute Clara

from Ennis, Co Clare, was an impulse-buy for owner Veronica O'Connell. She says: "I went to town one Saturday to buy a pair of shoes and came home with her instead."

"There were hippies selling puppies in the market as I passed through it. I looked at Clara and she looked at me - it was love at first sight."

Sheepdog Lady writes to tell us she loves sitting on her own chair watching TV. She also likes playing with her toys, running around her big garden and bossing her owner, Amanda Napier from Fethard, Co Tipperary.

Another Lady follows her owner everywhere - even to the loo! But she has a good excuse - she's

going deaf. Owner Catherine Arnott from Youghal says Lady is also great with children. Her hobbies are going for walks and basking in the sun.

Paddy the Scottie has wuff words with his owner Sean Daly, who says: "He tries to talk to me." Paddy also likes getting his lovely white coat trimmed and going for walks.

Little Mindy weighs only two kilos - but she's got "a very big heart", says her owner, Sara Daly from Turloughmore, Co Galway.

Mindy also bosses her two housemates, cats Thomas and Suzi - even though they are bigger than her.

Mindy's previous owner treated her badly but she is a very loyal friend to Sara.

Michael Danagher, 11, from Errill, Co Laois, says his dog Ben deserves a gong for being charming. He adds: "He has his paw out for a handshake to anyone he meets."

Ben has also become best friends with the family's two cats - and their cow has been spotted "washing and petting him as if he was her calf".

This diplomatic dog is also dog-matically opposed to ruff behaviour. Michael says: "If Ben hears or sees a fight he stays barking until it stops."

"In my opinion Ben is a God-like figure on this earth and is definitely Ireland's Top Dog."

Golden Labrador Spencer likes to nick owner Alanna Hanniffin's socks out of her wash basket.

Naughty Spencer doesn't like doing what he's told, she adds. "He knows how to sit but it is hard teaching him anything else because he's so hyper. But I still love him."

Rex from Tralee is a real action-dog. He writes: "My happiest time is camping with my master. I have my very own tent. I just love sea-swimming, windsurfing, playing on the beach. I always have a huge smile on windsurfing days."

He is also a great guard dog for his owner, Mrs Elizabeth O'Connell from Tralee, Co Kerry.

AMAZING TAILS

