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Doggone good time had at puppy parade | video

Event part of exhibition at art museum

*BY LINDA JUMP
FLORIDA TODAY*

Dozens of dogs "bee-decked" in their best lapped water from oversized champagne flutes and toilet bowls festooned with flowers, bobbed in kiddie pools for hot dogs, created paw drawings and strutted in a parade Saturday.

Some donned tutus and tiaras; others sported glistening wings or dressed to match their owners.

The Doggedly Bee-Yond Dog Parade & Fun Day for dogs -- and their owners -- highlighted a whimsical exhibition at the Brevard Museum of Art and Science. Rose-Lynn Fisher of Los Angeles debuted her collection of electron microscope photographs of bees combined with manipulated photographs of her terrier-mix Douglas, dressed as a bee.

"It's bee-yond my expectations," Fisher quipped after she judged about 70 dogs that paraded to win baskets of canine-related goodies and bone squeaky toy medallions.

"They found a way to make it a fun community activity," she said.

Dane Pollei, executive director of the museum, said the Olde Eau Gallie Riverfront Merchants Association thought the exhibit was the perfect match for a dog parade.

"I think everyone had fun," he said.

Some turf disagreements led to barks and sometimes growls, and there was plenty of scratching, panting and drooling in the heat.

Lisa Julich of Palm Bay firmly held four German shepherd puppies as they strained against their leashes, trying to smell every dog within 10 feet.

"This socializes them," she said.

Hubert Normile of Indialantic said after wearing a red collar around his neck and donning a thick black robe, he understands how Fletcher, his black standard poodle, feels in the heat with his thick fur.

"Now, I know how bad it is," he said, as he accepted a basket for best owner-dog look-alike.

Sassy, a 3-year-old Welsh Corgi, wouldn't put her face into a pool to retrieve half a hot dog from the bottom. But she snuck one from volunteer Shirley Kunde.

"About half will go in," Kunde said, watching as Dutchess, a black lab, stuck her entire face in to wolf the wiener in a single bite.

Patrick and Sarah McRae of Viera gave Jack, their basset lab, a change of pace from chasing their two cats and eating the carpet and linoleum at home.

"He shared an ice cream with a Corgi he just met," Sarah McRae said. Jack also won a prize for having the longest tail.

Dave Palan of Melbourne stopped every few feet so people could take photos of his English bulldogs Baxter, 3, and

Capone, 2.

"They love all the people and the water," he said.

He said Baxter does "high 10s" as a trick, but the heat of the day left him too pooped to perform.

Pollei said the merchants' association is planning another dog parade.

Next time, Shannon Tomarchio of Satellite Beach said, her two chocolate labs will dress up and parade.

"Today we just came to watch," she said.

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