

## Naples Bark in the Park shines spotlight on pooches

By Andrea Stetson • Special to The News-Press • April 25, 2010

[Check out our pets page.](#)

More than 800 guests had a barking good time at a special festival in Naples on Saturday even though there was very little actual barking.

The sixth annual Bark in the Park event, at Fleischmann Park in Naples, featured dozens of vendors showing off their latest doggie goodies along with informational booths on animal adoption, rescue and more. This year for the first time there was also a live band.

Dogs of all sizes and breeds competed in several competitions, got to maneuver around an obstacle course and most of all enjoyed sniffing their new furry friends as they walked by.

"It's amazing all these dogs and no dog fighting," said Steve Wright, public relations director for the Humane Society of Naples, which put on the event.

Wright said the festival is a fundraiser for the Humane Society, but it's also a way to get people to bond with their pets.

"What we want is for people to just enjoy the day with their animals," Wright said.

That's what they were doing all over Fleischmann Park.

"We love it," said Melissa White, who came with her

dog Gabby, a Yorkie poo. "It's a wonderful day and a wonderful event. It's nice to just get out with the dog."

"This is great," added her friend Dennis Zuck. "They should have a lot more of these."

Lindsay Addison brought her Golden Retriever/Great Pyrenees mix to the festival, where he got to rub noses with a Wolf dog named Phoenix.

"It's a lot of fun to be able to take your dog out and socialize with other dogs," Addison said. "And it's fun to meet other dog people too."

The variety of dogs spanned from purebreds to mixed breeds and from teacup poodles to Great Danes.

China Rose, a hairless Chinese crested, wore gobs of suntan lotion on her pink skin since she has little fur. Another tiny dog wore a pink dress and moved about in a stroller.

"I like that there's a variety of booths and products," said China Rose's owner, Donna Costi. "It's nice to see the dogs all get together and socialize."

The vendors were as varied and sometimes as unusual as the dogs. The Grey Muzzle featured information about adopting senior dogs, while the Golden Retriever Rescue and Gulf Coast Poodle Club and Rescue touted their special breeds.

Shy Wolf Sanctuary brought along two wolf dogs that got lots of attention, while the Humane Society of Naples touted a pen of cute puppies that were for adoption.

There were free dental checkups for canines at the

Advertisement

**Kodak**

IF YOU'RE NOT PRINTING ON A KODAK ESP ALL-IN-ONE PRINTER, CHANCES ARE  
**YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH FOR INK.**

FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU'RE OVERPAYING FOR INK AT [PRINTANDPROSPER.COM](http://PRINTANDPROSPER.COM)

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

Gulfshore Animal Hospital tent and gourmet dog treats next door at Pawsotively Purrfect. At 4 Footed Friends people could buy an assortment of dog toys and goodies all made from recycled materials, while nearby others learned about doggie day care and boarding at Camp Bow Wow.

The festival also featured contests including best costume, best voice, best owner/pet look-alike, best trick/talent, smallest dog and largest dog.

"It's a fun day and it's a way to cement that bond between dog and owner," Wright concluded.

**Photo Galleries**

Bark in the Park



Linda Van Bibber of Bonita Springs with her Shih Tzu Zoe at the Humane Society of Naples' sixth annual Bark in the Park on Saturday at Fleischmann Park in Naples. (Gary Jung/news-press.com)

[Purchase this Photo](#)



Alan Law has Roscoe's teeth checked by Dr. Sterling Sigmond of Gulfshore Animal Hospital, which offered free dental checkups at the event. (photos by Gary Jung/Special to The News-Press)

Advertisement

**USA TODAY**  
**AutoPilot**

The new travel app for iPhone® and iPod touch®

Presented by:

**SEE HOW IT WORKS »**

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™