

Thousands of Dogs Bark in the Park

Annual event in San Jose, Calif., featured a dog costume contest, pet-owner look-alikes, and more.

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About 14,500 pet lovers and 3,600 dogs attended San Jose's Bark in the Park on Sept. 19 in downtown San Jose, Calif. The attendance, both people and dogs, was up by a couple of hundred compared to last year.

The family-oriented event, presented by Canidae All Natural Pet Foods, has been ongoing for more than 10 years. This year's theme was Dogs Take the Lead. Events and activities included a dog costume contest, herding demonstrations, dancing dogs, flyball, a dog agility course, silly dog tricks, a dog water park, pet-owner look-alike contest, rabies vaccinations, low-cost microchipping and dog-related vendors and services.

Although the dog costume contest featured many creative outfits, it was Sadie who won first place. Sadie, owned by Sherry Konig of San Leandro, rocked out the day as singer Pink. Her outfit included false eyelashes, a scarf, leggings and other accessories — all pink, of course. Konig will receive a one-year supply of Canidae dog food from Sam's Downtown Feed & Pet Supply.

The event showcased 90 vendors, most local, including All Hounds Apparel, An-Jan Feed & Pet Supply, Breeder's Choice Pet Foods, Canidae, Critter Couch Co., Earthbath, Gussied Up Dog Boutique, Happy Go Lucky Dog Boutique & Barkery, Morris Animal Foundation, Nancy's Dog Paws Boutique, Pet DRx Veterinary Group Inc., Pooch Hotel and Wags-N-Wear.

Since 1996, Bark in the Park has invested more than \$85,000 in its greater community. This year, the event benefits the Humane Society Silicon Valley, the San Jose Animal Care Center and the Campus Community Association.

Bark in the Park sponsors included Canidae, Sam's Downtown Feed & Pet Supply, Pet DRx Veterinary Group, Bow Wowzer, Canine Corral Dog Daycare, Pooch Hotel, Paws Crossing Pet Resort, SPOTS, the Humane Society Silicon Valley and San Jose Animal Care Center, among others.

Next year's event will take place Sept. 18.