

Dogs Take Over Maine Baseball Diamond

Bark in the Park let dogs attend baseball game to support animal adoption.

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Despite frigid June temperatures and threatening rain clouds, several dozen people and their dogs turned out for Bark in the Park at the Portland, Maine, Sea Dogs stadium on June 3, 2007.

Planet Dog's charity arm, Planet Dog Foundation, hosted the event and all proceeds went to the Animal Refuge League, an animal adoption and shelter center in Westbrook, Maine.

Led by the Sea Dogs' mascot, Slugger, the dogs took a pre-game lap around the field with those up for adoption leading the pack and then settled into a section of the bleachers reserved just for them.

Most of the dogs in attendance, all of varying breeds and sizes, were quite well-behaved, albeit one Beagle that woofed his way through the first few innings and a mixed-breed dog with a penchant for dive-bombing flashy shoes that passed his way.

Behind the Planet Dog reserved section was a wading pool for the dogs to splash in, doggie snacks and treats, and plenty of space where the dogs could relieve themselves or just sniff around.

Planet Dog's retail location on Marginal Way in Portland sold approximately 60 dog tickets, although only about half showed up, likely because of the weather, said Kristen Smith, executive director for Planet Dog's foundation. She hopes to plan similar events later in the season – maybe when the sun comes out.