

SoCal City Holds Nation's Largest Dog Parade

The annual celebration in Santa Barbara attracts hundreds of costumed dogs and dog lovers.

Posted: April 5, 2008, 5 a.m. EST

Photo courtesy Kenji Photography Looking for a fun day in the sun for you and your dog? Then head to the country's largest costumed dog parade, the Big Dog Parade and Canine Festival, in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Saturday, June 7.

"Every year the parade amazes us with the creativity of entries, the number of people that participate, and the crowds that line the street to watch," says David Wolf, senior vice president of marketing for Big Dogs, the company that founded the event, which raises money for animal and children's charities. "We're proud of the funds we raise for dogs and children in need and the support we get from Santa Barbara and communities throughout the country."

Photo courtesy Gary Lambert The event, now in its 14th year, draws tens of thousands of people and hundreds of costumed dogs. Participants compete for prizes, including Best in Parade. The Canine Festival, held after the parade at beachside Chase Palm Park, features giveaways, vendor booths, kids' activities, food, and live music.

Proceeds from the Big Dog Parade and Canine Festival benefit the Big Dog Foundation, which supports animal and children's charities, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Much Love Animal Rescue, Lili Claire Foundation, Kids with Cancer Network, Canine Companions for Independence, the Children's Burn Center, and Guide Dogs of America.

Parade registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on June 7 and the festivities begin at 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.bigdogs.com