

## **Pets to get their day in the sun**

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**By Peter Townson**

Residents of Doha are looking forward to a festival with a difference this weekend, as Qatar Animal Welfare Society (QAWS) is set to host “Woofstock” tomorrow afternoon.

Dog owners and animal enthusiasts will be visiting the football pitch next to the QAWS farm to take part in a range of activities including a dog show,

The show will consist of some 15 classes which will see participants declared ‘prettiest female’ and ‘most handsome male’ as well as ‘best puppy,’ ‘best groomed,’ and even the ‘scruffiest mutt.’

The show will also name the ‘best rescue,’ ‘best pedigree,’ the ‘dog most like its owner,’ and ‘best trick,’ among other awards.

The dog show will then culminate in the ‘best in show’ prize which will pit the winners of the previous classes against each other.

QAWS secretary, Kelly Allen explained that around 70 dogs have already registered for the classes, which are almost all fully booked.

“Woofstock is open to everyone and dogs not entered into the show are more than welcome to come and spectate,” she added.

The event will have stalls selling refreshments and items such as pet accessories and jewellery, and will feature live music and offer owners the opportunity to have pets micro-chipped on the day.

Other activities such as face-painting, a bouncy castle and a fun agility course for dogs will also be part of the day’s festivities.

Allen expressed her thanks to SDI marketing for the new QAWS branding and logo, thanked Byrne for rental equipment, and mentioned the other companies who have sponsored Woofstock.

The festival will be held from 3-7pm, with the dog show taking place from 4-6pm, explained Allen, who added that there is no entrance fee for the event, but donations will be gratefully accepted and will go directly towards helping the animals at QAWS.

“We wanted an event where the dogs could be involved too,” she said, adding “we’re always looking to put on new, different events that aren’t seen much in Qatar and this was a great opportunity for dog owners to bring along their four-legged family too!”

“We’ve had hundreds of requests over the years for a ‘dog-friendly’ event and this seemed like the perfect opportunity,” she explained.

“What started as a simple dog show has grown in magnitude and has now become more of a festival,” added Allen, looking ahead to tomorrow’s events.

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