

# 75 dogs on display at Woofstock fest

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ABOUT 75 dogs of different sizes, shapes and breeds were registered at the first Woofstock Dog Show and Festival organised by the Qatar Animal Welfare Society (QAWS) near its animal rescue shelter on Friday.

A wide variety of dogs such as the terriers, the hounds and the cuties were on show at the festival.

The festival showcased dogs with the baggiest tail, the prettiest and most handsome in the flock, as well as those with the most unusual names, while their owners coming from different nationalities proudly posed with their loyal pets.

The fun afternoon was a grand gathering of animal lovers and supporters of QAWS, a group which started the animal rescue society in the country in 2004.

Talking to Qatar Tribune, QAWS Chairwoman Janet Berry said Woofstock, which took about three months to put together, was an opportunity for animal lovers in Qatar to meet and enjoy an afternoon together.

“This event is an opportunity for dog lovers to gather and show off their pets since there are very few places in Qatar where they can take their

dogs to. At the same time, this festival demonstrates the concept of ‘people pet respect’ and intends to raise awareness about proper way of treating animals as well as showcasing dogs from the shelter waiting for adoption. We plan to hold this event every year as well as come out with more such events,” she said.

Berry also talked about QAWS’ continuous effort to get the charity status.

“We really need to become a registered charity so that we can do more for the community, such as an education programme for schools across the country. Once we get charity status, QAWS

sponsors can extend their financial support. Right now they can only help us through donations and assistance in the form of goods. With charity status, we will be able to get a land and build a state-of-the-art shelter that Qatar can be proud of,” she added.

The dogs competed in different categories, including Best Puppy, Best Groomed, Scruffiest Mutt, Best Purebred and the Best in Show.

Dr Paul Hensen, owner of Qatar Veterinary Centre headed Woofstock’s panel of judges.

Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Jassim al Thani, a supporter of QAWS and one of the

attendees at Woofstock, praised the festival.

He said: “I am an animal lover, particularly dogs. I am supporting QAWS and this event because this is a good way of demonstrating to the public how animals should be treated.”

A representative from Purina, Woofstock 2010 main sponsor, said they are looking forward to being a part of the next edition of the Dog Show and Festival.

Besides the dog show, barbecue, burgers, ice-cream and a mini bazaar of products both for pets and human, as well as the toy corner for children added to the festival ambience of the event.



Border Collie Bob (centre) along with his owner Kim Robson at the QAWS Woofstock Dog Show, in Doha, on Friday. Bob was adjudged the ‘Most Handsome Dog’ and the ‘Best’. **(MANEESH BAKSHI)**