

'Bark, Wiggle, & Splash' benefits Pet Aid League



Dogs at the Splash Adventure

More than 1,300 dogs and their owners visited Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach on Nov. 6 and 7 for the first annual "Bark, Wiggle, & Splash." The event included a Bed & Biscuit camping experience, PetLover Central's leash-free zone, Bark Avenue exhibitors, rescue groups, and the Splash Adventure.

A portion of the event's proceeds benefited Pet Aid League who unveiled the "Real Men Neuter Their Dogs" Broward county transit campaign at the event.

There was a human blood drive along with a canine blood drive. "We experienced the most successful blood drive to date, with 28 canine donors. This will help up to 112 dogs in need," stated Rick Johnson of Sun States Animal Blood Bank.

Broward County Humane Society education representative Marni Bellavia said, "I can not stress the value of the exposure we received at Bark, Wiggle, & Splash. Not only did we sell over \$350 of merchandise, with pet therapy dogs and owners staffing our booth, we promoted their valuable volunteerism."

A large tent was filled with local rescue groups sharing information about adoptees and success stories, while promoting responsible pet ownership.

Pure Mutt proprietor and rescue volunteer April Stickel was hoping to gain exposure and possible homes for 62 dogs and over 200 cats at Abandoned Pet Rescue. One of the recently adopted puppies, 'Chloe' attended the event with her owner. "She came in with 10 puppies, and since then, eight of her littermates have been adopted. We also netted some new volunteers," Stickel said.

Bark, Wiggle, & Splash's sister event, PetFest, will be held Jan. 15 and 16 at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach. The event will feature the K9 Sports Challenge (flyball and Frisbee tournaments), along with South Florida's largest adoption effort.

These events are produced by EventTrust, in conjunction with Pet Aid League and Broward County Parks.

For more information, or to become a vendor or sponsor, call 561-945-6363 or visit www.havedog.com. ■