

Off Leash

A Truly Re-Pug-Nant Affair

Curly-tailed wigglybutts turn out in droves for Pugstock

BY CARRIE ALLAN

If you tend to go into a state of meltdown over a single pug, then it's probably best to stay away from Portland, Ore., in May. That's when the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) holds its annual "Pug Crawl," and the sight of more than 500 little pudgeballs gathered in one place could easily cause a cute overload from which you might never recover.

Some might call the event a pug-licity stunt, but the locals love it—2008 was the eighth year the shelter held the crawl. This year, Portlanders gathered around MacTarnahan's Taproom to eat, drink, and be furry. The event included a kissing booth where willing humans could pugger up for Jack, a local pug whose kissing tendencies have made him the shelter's go-to pug for the extended makeout sessions. Jack's kind owner allows him to volunteer for OHS by spreading the love to scores of humans unafraid of drool.

Many dogs posed for pug shots as they paraded in their costumes, which this year included a giraffe, a scuba diver, a superhero, and—most suited to the Pugstock theme—a hippie and a Volkswagen bus. The scuba diver, a dog named Lilly, was crowned Queen of the Pugs, though a snail-pug also got high marks. Some of the pictures, we're sure you agree, deserve to be puglished.

"Pug owners are just passionate about their dogs," says David Lytle, the shelter's pug-lic—excuse us, public information officer. And their passion for the event helped OHS raise almost \$10,000 at this year's pugnacious revelries. AS



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