

Barkaholics Hosts Bark-Mitzvah Celebration For Graduates of the Smokehill's Training Program.



Chevanon Photography, Pexels

On August 26, 2020, Barkaholic partnered with local businesses to celebrate animal lovers in the Smoke Hills community with a party open to the public.

It's no coincidence that this celebration is right on schedule for National Dog Day, which commemorates pet appreciation.

In honor of both, pet adoption agencies in the surrounding three regions sponsored rescue initiatives at the event to encourage local adoption.

But, you may be wondering, “why a bark-mitzvah instead of a graduation?”

CEO Matt Boright explains, *“these puppies aren’t just graduating from a program, they’re becoming accountable to the lifestyle of their pet parents, so this seems like the perfect opportunity to showcase their new skills and have fun with the community.”*

The program helps pets claim their family lifestyle as their own to foster an obedient, stress-free environment for parents.

Once a dog understands its purpose, it’s already closer to better behavior, since we know that disobedience comes from a lack of understanding due to common communication breakdowns.

So, what even is a “Bark-Mitzvah?”

It’s a fun spin-off celebration for dog lovers, inspired by the coming of age traditions in Jewish cultures. The puppy version of the celebration includes introducing pet families, showing off newly trained skills, giving gifts, and enjoying food with the local community.

By the time puppies (or adult graduates) finish training, they’ve reached the appropriate age and standard to accept the responsibility of being an active member of your family.

It symbolizes the determination of pet parents, dedicating their time to raise their puppy with higher standards as much as it symbolizes your dog's new chapter in life.

Local dog groomers support the cause by primping, clipping, and blow drying pets for their big day, each given a different colored bow tie and sash to match their perfected skill.

Purple highlights listening ability and loyalty with owners, while yellow measures proficiency in potty training.

But if you’re rewarded with a red bow, you’re likely the kind of dog that helps its owners, especially by not destroying the house.

While blue represents confidence, orange symbolizes emotional intelligence. And lastly, white is a call to peace and means your dog is raising the white flag, leaving behind aggressive behaviors.

These colors are proudly worn by every graduate at the celebration.

At the event, pet’s are introduced alongside their whole family as they enter the guided obstacle course to showcase their agility and listening skills in front of an audience. This provides a glimpse into the show life for ambitious families who go on to further training.

After a speech by each group leader, refreshments are served and dogs are finally eligible for off leash activities with the community, symbolizing their new start as responsible pets.

The celebration falls during open enrollment for the winter training program, allowing community-members the chance to enroll with early-bird pricing.

No matter what season, the 12-week program turns addressing bad behaviors into achievable goals by helping your canine understand what is expected in changing environments.

Puppies are broken up into assigned groups according to behavioral needs after meeting the first four weeks of general education requirements. Each group is led by a certified trainer, specializing in one area of expertise.

This includes; countering hyperactivity and barking, potty training, listening, timidity and social anxiety, and destructive behaviors.

Throughout their training, each puppy develops positive traits opposite to the problem they started with, showing progress in each category; For example, destructive puppies become helpful, hyper dogs become lovable, poor listeners become loyal companions, and passive dogs become confident to take on the world ahead.

Families of program graduates are gifted with vouchers for extended training programs of their choice including dog show training, disability training, or advanced house skills.

At Barkaholics, we've created a system that works because we've tried it ourselves for over 20 years. The goal is to give owners and pets the confidence to handle every situation whether it's the general rule or the exception.

We want pet owners to be able to focus on the joy animals bring daily, rather than the headaches they cause.

This is only the beginning of community events with other celebrations and programs rolling out as early as next summer.

Overall, the celebration was a success for dog lovers and local businesses, including the Smoke Hills Humane Society landing a record high of 45 adoptions during the event.

For more, please visit [additional resources](#).